



BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS - Special Meeting Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
1/23/2026 4:00 PMAKST

Attendance

Present:

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Travis Perkins, Newell Walther, Dominic Wenzell

Staff: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2, Rachel Billiet, Program Coordinator 1, Sydney Baranov, Occupational Licensing Examiner 3, Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor, Josh Hardy, Investigator 3

1. Zoom Information
2. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:59 p.m. by acting Chair Christina Hansen.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Board Secretary Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Travis Perkins, Newell Walther, Dominic Wenzell

A. Ethics Report

As interim designated ethics supervisor for the State of Alaska Board of Dental Examiners, Secretary Christina Hansen received no notifications of potential violations or requests for ethics determinations under the Ethics Act (AS 39.52) and have made no written determinations for this quarter.

As the reviewing board member, Dr. Walther requested and was granted recusal by the acting chair from discussion and voting on the voluntary license surrender for J.H.

As the reviewing board members, Drs. Michaud and Hronkin requested and were granted recusal by the acting chair from discussion and voting on the consent agreement for J.M.

As the reviewing board member, Dr. Wenzell requested and was granted recusal by the acting chair from discussion and voting on voluntary license surrender for J.E.

As the reviewing board member, Dr. Hronkin requested and was granted recusal by the acting chair from discussion and voting on ending the probationary period for J.D.

As a matter of personal conflict, Dr. Wenzell requested and was granted recusal by the acting chair from discussion and voting on ending the probationary period J.D.

As the reviewing board member, Dr. Alison requested and was granted recusal by the acting chair for discussion and voting on the application review for M.M. and it was stated on record that she was also the board member who conducted the applicant interview.

B. Review/Approve Agenda

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE agenda as written.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via unanimous consent.

C. Select Meeting Dates

The next meeting dates selected were March 23, 2026, and May 1, 2026.

3. Board Chair Election

The board discussed that Christina Hansen was doing well as acting chair and Dr. Michaud nominated her as the Board Chair. Ms. Hansen accepted the nomination.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE electing Christina Hansen as the Board Chair.

Motion moved by Dominic Wenzell and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Dominic Wenzell - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Travis Perkins - Yes, Traci Alison - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes

4. Public comment

Gail Walden addressed the board. She stated that she has been in contact with the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) and was informed that Alaska has not appointed anyone as a representative to the Council on Examinations. She believes a dentist and a hygienist who are currently on the board or who have previously served within the last 5 years are to be appointed as representatives.

Dr. Wenzell responded that he would be willing to serve as a representative. Megan Ferguson stated that she might be willing to serve pending information on what the position entailed. Staff member Reid Bowman stated that if the appointee needs to be from the dental board, then it should be officially delegated to that member. Dr. Michaud suggested the topic be researched by staff and added to the next meeting agenda.

5. Application Review

A. N.L. - Local Anesthetic

Applicant N.L. is a dental hygienist that has been practicing for 17 years. She has been working as a dental hygienist in Texas since June of 2023 but was not granted a license to administer local anesthetic in Texas until October of 2024. Dr. Michaud explained that this is because Texas only recently changed their laws to allow hygienists to perform local anesthetic, therefore the applicant is unable to meet the requirement of having administered local anesthetic on an average of once per week in the 2 years preceding the date of her application.

The board discussed having the applicant take an anesthetic review course, having them wait until they have 2 years of experience administering local anesthetic, or seeing what options there might be for making an exception via LAW.

Dr. Walther pointed out if the requirement is administering anesthetic an average of at least once a week for two years, that equates to administering 104 times. If the applicant can confirm they have done this, it may meet the requirements.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE tabling application for N.L. pending information from the applicant and their employer indicating the applicant has administered local anesthetic 104 times within the past year and once that information is received, voting is to be conducted on the application via OnBoard.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Dominic Wenzell - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Travis Perkins - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Newell Walther – Yes

B. M.M. - Dentist by Credentials (Executive Session)

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE that the Alaska State Board of Dental Examiners enter into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.

Board staff to remain during the session.

Motion moved by Christina Hansen and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud. Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Dominic Wenzell - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Travis Perkins - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes. As the reviewing board member Dr. Elison was not present for discussion.

The board went off the record at 4:40 p.m. The board returned on record at 5:24 pm. A quorum was maintained. Dr. Wenzell left the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen , Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Travis Perkins, Dr. Newell Walther

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE Investigator Hardy to work with reviewing board member Dr. Elison to review precedent for non-disclosure on applications and to create a consent agreement for applicant M.M. and after consent agreement is obtained, grant licensure to applicant.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Jesse Hronkin.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Dominic Wenzell - Absent, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Travis Perkins - Yes, Traci Elison - Abstain, Newell Walther - Yes

C. A.M. - Collaborative agreement

The board discussed that a collaborative agreement is between a licensed hygienist and a dentist affiliated with a dental practice. This applicant and the dentist are employed by a tribal entity.

Board members pointed out that there is no "practice" involved, it is a federal institution, which the board does not have jurisdiction over and therefore does not fall under 12 AAC 28.956(a).

Staff suggested consulting Law for clarification on dealing with licensed individuals within a tribal entity. The board did not wish to engage legal counsel and proceeded to a vote.

Motion:

RESOLVED to DENY application for a collaborative agreement per 12 AAC 28.956(a). Although the hygienist and dentist are licensed under AS 08.32 and 08.36, the individuals are not within an affiliated dental practice. As such the collaborative agreement does not meet the requirements of AS 08.32.115

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Dominic Wenzell - Absent, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Travis Perkins - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes

6. Investigations

Motion:

RESOLVED to TABLE the Investigative portion of the agenda in favor of discussing Administrative Order 360 due to the approaching deadline.

Motion moved by Newell Walther and motion seconded by Jesse Hronkin.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Absent, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Dominic Wenzell - Absent, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Travis Perkins - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes

7. Administrative Order 360

Sara Chambers, the Boards and Regulations Advisor presented to the board regarding Administrative Order (AO)360.

AO360 was issued August 4, 2025, by Governor Dunleavy to improve the quality, transparency, and efficiency of the State's regulatory environment. It relates to boards by aiming to reduce administrative and economic burden with entry to practice and removing barriers, finding solutions, and identifying alternative pathways. It's also intended to help find more modern ways to achieve the same goals by streamlining permitting processes and improving coordination and efficiency within permitting departments.

Ms. Chambers emphasized that the order is not asking boards to lower standards to the point of being unsafe but rather to do a deep dive into regulations and ensure they are modern, reflect wise use of technology, and do not duplicate efforts which reliable third parties may be able to perform.

There were publicly noticed meetings for stakeholders to voice their opinions on the matter. Only one public comment was received for the board to consider. Dr. Michaud stated the only comments received were regarding wording and adding hyperlinks to the statutes. While helpful and the board can consider these, they would not count as regulatory reductions.

Ms. Chambers suggested the board schedule a meeting, or meetings, to work on a regulatory reduction plan which will then be sent to the Governor. If the board does not do this by February 13, 2026, she stated she is not sure what would happen.

Dr. Walther stated that he believes the administrative order 358 which instituted a travel ban was a mitigating factor in not having a plan completed yet, but Ms. Chambers pointed out that nearly all other boards have been able to successfully work on this without meeting in person.

Dr. Michaud asked if staff had gone through and counted the discretionary requirements in regulation line by line and was informed that this was done and emailed to the board in November 2025. By his calculations, if there are over 700 discretionary requirements, the board will need to remove about 105.

Staff added all relevant documents that had previously been emailed to OnBoard for board member access during the meeting. Staff will create a spreadsheet with regulations listed line by line and upload that as well.

One suggestion Dr. Michaud brought up was perhaps removing the requirement for Coronal Polishing Certificates for Dental Assistants. The training and oversight of dental assistants performing polishing would then be the responsibility of the dentist as their employer. Some members had previously suggested removing the requirement for a Local Anesthesia endorsement and allowing hygienists to perform administration of local anesthetic without an endorsement, but that was not deemed an acceptable option as the board believes additional training is needed to safely administer local anesthetic..

Dr. Walther asked if the board is committed to whatever plan they come up with and was wondering if after interfacing with the public and the dental society the board decides not to pursue changes what would happen.

Ms. Chambers said that when a regulation project is put out for public comment, if there are comments the board considers that might change specifics, that is part of the process and so the board is not “married” to the changes they identify.

Dr. Michaud suggested putting in the plan the meetings that the board plans to have and that they would like public comments. Ms. Chambers said that if the board wants to do that, it would be advisable to state the board cannot meet the deadline, and to put together details with dates of future AO360 meetings and when the final plan will be complete to send to the Governor. This would show that the board is willing to participate in the spirit of the administrative order.

The board asked for clarification about having conversations amongst themselves. No more than 3 board members are allowed to discuss business without a public meeting. Ms. Chambers stated that the board should take care not to have serial conversations between members. She suggested staff be copied on emails for quality control.

The board decided on two upcoming meetings to discuss AO360. February 9th, 2026, and February 10th, 2026, both at 5:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE adjourning meeting

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Date Final Meeting Minutes Approved by Board: Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> OnBoard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board Ballot PASS 2/24/2026
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