

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS, AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
4

5 STATE MEDICAL BOARD
6 MINUTES OF MEETING
7 Friday, February 21, 2025
8

9 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a quarterly meeting
10 of the Alaska State Medical Board was held Friday, February 21, 2025.
11

12 **1. Call to Order/ Roll Call**

13 The meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor at 8:31 a.m.
14

15 **Roll Call**

16 Board members present:

17 David Barnes, DO
18 Matt Heilala, DPM
19 Sarah Bigelow Hood, PA-C (Vice-Chair)
20 Lydia Mielke, Public Member (Secretary)
21 David Paulson, MD
22 Brent Taylor, MD (Chair)
23 David Wilson, Public Member
24

25 Board staff present: Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator; Jason Kaeser, Licensing Supervisor;
26 Kendra Senior Investigator; Shelley Irons, Investigator
27

28 **2. Review / Approval of Agenda**
29

30 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
31 **call vote the Alaska State Medical Board approved the agenda as presented.**
32

33 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor,
34 and Mr. Wilson.
35

36 **3. Review/Approval of Minutes**

37 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
38 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the minutes for the November 15, 2024;**
39 **December 19, 2024; and January 16, 2025, meetings with corrections as noted for the**
40 **November 15, 2024 minutes.**
41

42 It was noted that Dr. Heilala's name was missing from some of the roll call votes during the
43 November 14, 2024, meeting minutes, although he was present for the entire meeting. It was
44 agreed that the EA would correct any errors concerning Dr. Heilala's voting record during the
45 November 14 meeting before finalizing the minutes.
46

1 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor,
2 and Mr. Wilson.
3

4 **4. Ethics Disclosures**

5 Ethics reporting by board members is done on a quarterly basis and is a standing item on the quarterly
6 meeting agenda. The Chair requested Ms. Norberg query each board member.
7

8 There were no ethical disclosures made by board members.
9

10 **5. Pharmacy Agreement Presentations**

11 Chair Taylor invited Ashley Schaber, Chair, Board of Pharmacy and Brandy Seignemartin, Executive
12 Direction, Alaska Pharmacy Association to address the board. Both presenters shared slides. Dr. Schaber
13 provided an overview of the history and purpose of Cooperative Practice Agreements, emphasizing that
14 practice agreements help to increase access to patient care. Dr. Seignemartin explained how the
15 education, training and experience obtained by pharmacists prepares them to participate in direct
16 patient care through a standard of care model. The presenters responded to questions and concerns
17 from board members.
18

19 **6. Public Comments**

20 **Chair Taylor opened the floor for members of the public to address the board.**

- 21 • **Sarah Spencer** introduced herself as a physician, board certified in family and addiction
22 medicine. Dr. Spencer explained that Cooperative Practice Agreements are a critical tool to
23 addressing the opioid abuse pandemic in Alaska. One of the most effective treatments to opioid
24 use disorder is long-acting injective buprenorphine, a medication that lasts for 30 days. Using
25 cooperative practice agreements, patients can be administered the medication by a
26 pharmacist at a location much more convenient and accessible to the patient. Dr. Spencer
27 urged the Board to approve cooperative practice agreements for the treatment of opioid use
28 disorders.
- 29 • **Donna Galbreath** introduced herself as a family practice doctor at Southcentral Foundation and
30 ANMC. Dr. Galbreath shared how pharmacists are embedded in their practice and part of their
31 clinical team. Physicians rely on pharmacists to help monitor patients on their medications and
32 make adjustments as needed based on protocols. Dr. Galbreath urged the Board to approve the
33 ANMC agreement.
34

35 **7. Old Business**

- 36 • **Pending Physician Pharmacy Agreements**

37 Chair Taylor facilitated a discussion regarding the three pending Physician-Pharmacy Cooperative
38 Practice agreements presented for the Board's consideration for approval. Board members expressed
39 concerns regarding the breadth of clinical activities to be delegated to pharmacists as detailed in some
40 of the agreements. However, it was also noted that there are approximately 27 agreements already in
41 use in Alaska, that were previously approved by the Board, in which the clinical activities attributed to
42 pharmacists mirrors or exceeds the duties outlined in the agreements before the Board today.
43

44 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood the Alaska State**
45 **Medical Board approved the Physician-Pharmacy Cooperative Practice agreements as**
46 **presented for ANMC & the Southcentral Foundation; ANMC and their Diabetes Clinic and**
47 **Foundation Health.**
48

1 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor,
2 and Mr. Wilson.

3
4 • **Telehealth Regulations**

5 Dr. Taylor reminded the board that a decision regarding whether to adopt the 2022 FSMB guidelines,
6 *Appropriate Use of Telemedicine Technologies in the Practice of Medicine*, by reference into regulation
7 to replace the 2014 FSMB guidelines was tabled during a previous meeting. As requested, Ms. Norberg
8 presented a side-by-side comparison of the 2014 and the 2022 guidelines.

9
10 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
11 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to adopt the 2022 FSMB Telemedicine**
12 **guidelines by reference to replace the 2014 guidelines referenced in regulation 12 AAC 40.943**
13 **(a) and initiate a regulation project to reflect this change.**

14
15 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor,
16 and Mr. Wilson.

17
18 **Break** - the Board went off the record for a break at 10:14 a.m. and returned on the record at 10:30
19 a.m.

20
21 • **Legal Consultation**

22 Chair Taylor recommended the Board enter into executive session.

23 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, the board entered**
24 **executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(3), for the purpose of discussing a**
25 **matter related to attorney-client privilege with AAG Liz Leduc and Board staff remaining**
26 **during the session.**

27
28 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
29 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

30
31 The Board entered executive session at 10:32 a.m. The Board returned on the record at 11:12 a.m.

32
33 **8. New Business and Board Correspondence**

34 • **Legislative Priorities & Board Liaison**

35 Chair Taylor invited Jenny Fayette, with the Alaska Physician Assistant Association to introduce and
36 explain the newly introduced SB 89, pertaining to Physician Assistant scope of practice. Ms. Fayette
37 responded to questions and concerns from board members regarding language in the bill concerning
38 insurance parity, surgery, criteria for determining a practice specialty, assessment, and rural practice.
39 Members of the board voiced concerns about physician assistants being given parity of practice with
40 family physician practitioners; concerns about a lack of transparency regarding the motivation for
41 seeking independent practice and concerns about the rigidity of having scope of practice detailed in
42 statute rather than regulation, which allows less flexibility to fix problems when they arise.

43
44 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, the Alaska State**
45 **Medical Board directed the Executive Administrator to work with the Board Chair to draft a**
46 **letter to be addressed to members of the legislature in favor of SB 89 but with**
47 **recommendations.**

1
2 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Taylor, and Mr.
3 Wilson.

4 Nays: Dr. Paulson
5

6 Chair Taylor opened the floor for a discussion regarding whether to elect a legislative liaison. Several
7 members of the board voiced their support for a liaison. Dr. Heilala volunteered for this role.
8

9 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, the Alaska State**
10 **Medical Board delegated Dr. Heilala to represent the Board in legislative matters.**
11

12 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
13 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
14

15 **9. Lunch Break** - The Board recessed for lunch at 12:02 p.m. and returned on the record at 12:40
16 p.m.
17

18 • **Legislative Priorities continued – HB 95 pertaining to Midwife scope of practice.**

19 Chair Taylor opened the floor for a discussion regarding HB 95. It was noted that this bill appears to
20 expand the scope of practice for midwives and prohibits midwives from being required to be under the
21 supervision of a physician. Questions were raised regarding the meaning and depth of “preconception
22 care.” Board members generally agreed to postpone making a statement regarding the bill.
23

24 **10. Board Interview**

25 Dr. Taylor queried Mr. Bossert who requested to have his interview conducted in executive session.
26

27 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
28 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS**
29 **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of**
30 **discussing Gerald Bossert’s application for licensure with Mr. Bossert to remain for part of the**
31 **session and Board staff to remain during the entire session.**
32

33 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
34 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
35

36 The Board entered executive session 12:58 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 1:17 p.m.
37

38 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
39 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved Gerald Bossert a license to practice as a**
40 **physician assistant in the state of Alaska.**
41

42 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
43 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
44

45 **11. Deliberative Session**
46

1 On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll
2 call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered a deliberative session under AS 44.62.310(d)
3 solely concerning a partial reconsideration in the Office of Administrative Hearing's findings
4

5 In the Matter of Timothy Carey,
6 Office of Administrative Hearings Case Number 24-0001-MED
7 Board Case Numbers: 2022-000262/276/436 & 20223-000119
8

9 with ALJ Cheryl Mandala and special counsel to the Board, AAJ Robert Bacaj included if invited
10 and all others to be excluded during the deliberative session.
11

12 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
13 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
14

15 The Board entered executive session 1:21 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 1:31p.m.
16

17 On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll
18 call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to take no further action in the Timothy
19 Carey matter as referenced.
20

21 It was noted that no counsel was invited to join the Board during the deliberative session.
22

23 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
24 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
25

26 12. Investigations

- 27 • Case#: 2022-001090

28 On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll
29 call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS
30 44.62.310(c)(4), for the purpose of discussing Case# 2023--000070, with Board and
31 Investigative staff remaining during the session and the reviewing board member excluded
32 from the session.
33

34 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
35 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
36

37 The Board entered executive session at 1:33 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 1:55 p.m.
38

39 On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and decided by roll
40 call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board tabled a decision in Case# 2023—000070 until
41 further information is gathered.
42

43 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr.
44 Wilson.
45

46 Abstained: Dr. Heilala
47

- **DUI Policy and Flowchart**

1 Chair Taylor invited Investigator Wardlaw to address the Board. First, Ms. Wardlaw introduced herself,
 2 noting that she was recently promoted as the Senior Investigator for the Medical Board and PDMP
 3 program, replacing Sonia Lipker and Billy Homestead in these roles. Ms. Wardlaw also introduced newly
 4 assigned investigators to the Medical Board, Aaron Poland and Jesse Massey. Next, Ms. Lipker explained
 5 that a procedural concern has been raised related to referrals to the Physician Health Committee (PHC)
 6 when the referral is not “ordered” by the Board. The problem is when the PHC recommends follow up
 7 treatment for a self-referred licensee and the licensee refuses to follow those recommendations; there
 8 is no recourse or mechanism to enforce the recommendations. A potential solution would be to draft
 9 regulation making it an offense considered unprofessional conduct for failure to comply PHC
 10 recommendations. It was clarified that such an offense would trigger an investigation, followed by
 11 review and action to be taken by the board; the PHC would not be given independent authority to
 12 discipline a licensee.

13
 14 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
 15 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to direct Senior Investigator Wardlaw to**
 16 **work with the department of law to recommend a regulatory change to be presented to the**
 17 **board for consideration concerning the referral process for licensees who refuse to comply**
 18 **with PHC recommendations.**

19
 20 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
 21 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

22
 23 **13. Applicant Review**

24 Board members were queried about their individual applicant reviews, no concerns were identified.

25
 26 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by**
 27 **roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the following list of applicants for**
 28 **full licenses:**

29

	Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
1.	DO	Lance	Robbins
2.	MD	Iram	Ahmad
3.	MD	Paul	Beck
4.	MD	Mark	Byard
5.	MD	John	Diveris
6.	MD	Steven	Foley
7.	MD	Timo	Hakkarainen
8.	MD	Patrick	Healey
9.	MD	Angela	Jackson-Lopez
10.	MD	Gregory	Myrick
11.	MD	William	Seeds
12.	MD	James	Sibbet
13.	MD	George	Wu
14.	PA	John	Milstead
15.	PA	Cheryl	McGovern

1 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
2 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

3
4 **14. Break** the Board went off the record for a break at 2:27 p.m. and returned on the record at 2:39
5 p.m.

6
7 **15. Malpractice Case Reviews**

8 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by**
9 **roll call vote, the Board entered executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310 (c)(3), and**
10 **Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, with board staff to remain in the session, for**
11 **the purpose of discussing malpractice cases involving the following practitioners:**

- 12
13 1) John Adan, MD
14 2) Peter Buetow, MD
15 3) Priscilla Codiga, MD
16 4) Peggy Downing, MD
17 5) Taichi Imamura, MD
18 6) Debra Kontny, DO
19 7) Samantha Lancaster, MD
20 8) Marc Slonimski, MD
21 9) Eric Wallace, MD
22 10) David Wrigley, MD
23

24 The Board entered executive session at 2:40 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 3:07 p.m.

25
26 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by**
27 **roll call vote, the Board decided to take no further action with respect to the malpractice**
28 **cases related to the following physicians:**

- 29
30 1) John Adan, MD
31 2) Peter Buetow, MD
32 3) Priscilla Codiga, MD
33 4) Peggy Downing, MD
34 5) Taichi Imamura, MD
35 6) Debra Kontny, DO
36 7) Samantha Lancaster, MD
37 8) Marc Slonimski, MD
38 9) Eric Wallace, MD
39 10) David Wrigley, MD
40

41 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
42 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

43
44 **16. Wrap up/Adjourn**

45 Dr. Taylor and members of the Board acknowledged and thanked Ms. Bigelow Hood and Ms. Mielke for
46 their many years of service to the Board, whose terms will end on March 1, 2025. Both Ms. Bigelow

- 1 Hood and Ms. Mielke have graciously agreed to remain on the Board as is allowed by regulation until
- 2 their replacements have been appointed.
- 3
- 4 The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.
- 5
- 6 The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:12 p.m.