

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 Thursday March 20, 2025
8

9 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a special meeting of
10 the Alaska State Medical Board was held Thursday, March 20, 2025.
11

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

13 The meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor at 4:04 p.m.
14

15 New member, Samantha “Sam” Smith, PA-C was welcomed and invited to introduce herself. Ms. Smith
16 moved from Maryland to Alaska approximately 5 years ago with an educational background in
17 orthopedic and sports medicine. She currently practices in Anchorage in regenerative and biophysics
18 medicine. She is inspired by the hard-working citizens of Alaska and is committed to ensuring they have
19 good health care.
20

21 **Roll Call**

22 Board members present:

23 Brent Taylor, MD, Chair
24 David Barnes, DO
25 Samantha Smith, PA-C
26 Matt Heilala, DPM
27 Lydia Mielke, Public Member (Secretary)
28 David Wilson, Public Member
29

30 Absent: David Paulson, MD
31

32 State employees present: Kendra Wardlaw, Lead Investigator; Jason Kaeser, Licensing Supervisor; and
33 Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator
34

35 **2. Review / Approval of Agenda**
36

37 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Heilala. the Alaska State Medical**
38 **Board approved the agenda as presented.**
39

40 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson
41 Absent: Dr. Paulson
42

43 **3. Investigations Update**
44

45 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Heilala, the Alaska State Medical**
46 **Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(4, for the purpose of**
47 **discussing Case#2023-000878 and 2023-001036 with Division staff remaining during the**
48 **session.**
49

50 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson

1 Absent: Dr. Paulson

2
3 The Board entered executive session at 4:09 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 4:13 p.m.

4
5 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Barnes the Alaska State Medical**
6 **Board accepted the imposition of civil fines as presented in case numbers 2023-000878 and**
7 **2023-001036.**

8
9 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson
10 Absent: Dr. Paulson

11
12 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Alaska State Medical**
13 **Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(4, for the purpose of**
14 **discussing Case # 2024-000994 with Division staff remaining during the session and reviewing**
15 **board members excluded from the session.**

16
17 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson
18 Absent: Dr. Paulson

19
20 The Board entered executive session at 4:13 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 4:23 p.m.

21
22 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Heilala the Alaska State Medical**
23 **Board accepted the voluntary surrender of license for Michael Todd in Case # 2024-000994.**

24
25 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Mr. Wilson
26 Abstained: Dr. Barnes and Dr. Taylor
27 Absent: Dr. Paulson

28
29 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Heilala, the Alaska State Medical**
30 **Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(4, for the purpose of**
31 **discussing Case # 2023-000195 with Division staff remaining during the session and reviewing**
32 **board members excluded from the session.**

33
34 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson
35 Absent: Dr. Paulson

36
37 The Board entered executive session at 4:27 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 4:47 p.m.

38
39 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Taylor the Alaska State Medical**
40 **Board accepted the consent agreement as proposed in Case #2023-000195.**

41
42 Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Mr. Wilson and Dr. Taylor
43 Abstained: Drs. Barnes and Heilala
44 Absent: Dr. Paulson

45
46
47
48 **4. Deliberative Session**

49 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Taylor the Alaska State Medical**
50 **Board entered into a deliberative session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(d) solely to make a**

1 **decision concerning the Office of Administrative Hearing’s decision in the matter of Brent**
2 **Meredith, Office of Administrative Hearings Case Number 24-0640-MED with Administrative**
3 **Law Judge Joan Wilson to be included if invited and all others to be excluded during the**
4 **deliberative session.**

5
6 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson
7 Absent: Dr. Paulson
8

9 The Board entered the deliberative session at 4:51p.m. The Board returned on the record at 5:58
10 p.m.

11
12 It was noted that Administrative Law Judge Joan Wilson was not invited to join the deliberative
13 session.

14
15 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Taylor the Alaska State Medical**
16 **Board accepted the consent agreement as presented by the Office of Administrative Hearing**
17 **in accordance with AS 44.64.060(e)(1) in the matter of Brent Meredith, Office of**
18 **Administrative Hearings Case Number 24-0640-MED.**

19
20 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson
21 Absent: Dr. Paulson
22

23 **5. Board Statement**

24 Chair Taylor opened the floor for board members to discuss a draft statement on the treatment of
25 gender dysphoria in minors. Dr. Heilala acknowledged that a primary mission of the Board is the
26 protection of public health and safety, and as it pertains to minors, this mission is taken very
27 seriously. He asserted that after extensive deliberation and thought, which is “rooted in compassion
28 and concern for families and individuals facing this issue” the Board should formalize its position on
29 this topic. Board members including Dr. Barnes and Ms. Smith voiced their support for the
30 statement, noting that the statement is well written and emphasizes evidenced-based care.

31
32 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**
33 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board adopted the statement as presented concerning the**
34 **treatment of gender dysphoria and minors and approved to have the statement conveyed to**
35 **the legislature.**

36
37 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson
38 Absent: Dr. Paulson
39

40 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**
41 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board delegated Dr. Heilala as the board’s liaison to**
42 **communicate to the legislature regarding this statement.**

43
44 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson
45 Absent: Dr. Paulson
46

47 **6. New Physician-Pharmacy Agreement**

48 Chair Taylor invited board members to discuss the Genoa Health Physician Pharmacy Cooperative
49 Practice agreement presented for the Board’s approval. Ms. Norberg provided a brief overview of

1 the agreement, confirming that all requested edits were made, and the agreement is in compliance
2 with all regulatory requirements.

3
4 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Heilala and approved by a roll call
5 vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the Physician Pharmacy Agreement for Genoa
6 Health Care as presented.**

7
8 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson

9 Absent: Dr. Paulson

10
11 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Heilala and approved by a roll call
12 vote, the Alaska State Medical Board granted Dr. Taylor the authority and discretion to
13 approve physician pharmacy agreements on behalf of the board in the future as appropriate.**

14
15 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson

16 Absent: Dr. Paulson

17
18 **7. Reconsideration: Letter of Support for SB 89**

19 Chair Taylor explained that the Board received a letter of concern from the Alaska State Medical
20 Association (ASMA) with respect to the Medical Board's letter of conditional support sent to
21 legislators regarding SB 89. ASMA's letter requests that the Medical Board amends its letter to the
22 legislature. Chair Taylor invited board members to offer their input on this request. Ms. Smith
23 noted that one of the concerns identified in the ASMA letter was the limited clinical experience of
24 physician assistants. Ms. Smith provided examples from her training and education, stating the
25 students in her cohort averaged 3000 hours of clinical experience before entering their physician
26 assistant program, and most students have extensive work experience in a clinical health setting
27 before obtaining their physician assistant degree. Dr. Heilala shared that he spoke with several
28 legislators concerning the bill and a common theme is that they want to see physician assistants
29 work for more than 4000 hours with a collaborating physician before obtaining independent
30 practice. Dr. Heilala suggested that to assist with having the bill pass, the Board should recommend
31 increasing the number of hours that physician assistant works under a collaborative plan. Several
32 board members voiced support for an increase in supervised hours. Chair Taylor recognized
33 members of the public, Lisa Alexia and Mehan Hall, to answer board member questions regarding
34 the training and credentialing process for nurse practitioners. Chair Taylor also recognized member
35 of the public, Jenny Fayette, who reiterated that physician assistants are not trying to be recognized
36 as being on the same level as physicians and, having physician assistant training experience match a
37 physician's training level is not the purpose of this bill. Ms. Fayette stated there are three times as
38 many nurse practitioners practicing in Alaska as there are physician assistants. She further stated
39 that physician assistants deserve parity in the work force, which is why the physician assistants'
40 profession needs to be solidified in statute, which is what SB 89 does, while still allowing the
41 Medical Board the ability to regulate certain aspects of licensing. Ms. Norberg reminded meeting
42 participants that the meeting was not intended nor noticed as being open for oral public comments.
43 Chair Taylor highlighted the four specific recommendations made by ASMA, encouraging board
44 members to weigh in. Board members voiced general support for adopting all four of the
45 recommendations.

46 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call
47 vote, the Alaska State Medical Board agreed to direct the Executive Administrator and Board
48 Chair to revise and re-transmit its letter of conditional support for SB 89 to request that the
49 bill be amended to include the four points as discussed:**

- 1 ○ **Increasing the experience hours for initial independent licensing from 4000 to 10000**
- 2 ○ **Requiring a minimum number of 6000 hours (rather than a maximum) to switch**
- 3 **specialties**
- 4 ○ **Specifying that a physician assistant shall practice at a licensed health care facility,**
- 5 **facility with a credentialing and privileging system, physician-owned facility or**
- 6 **practice, or facility or practice approved by the state medical board.**
- 7 ○ **Requiring clarity and transparency about credentials when providing or advertising**
- 8 **medical services.**

9
10 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson

11 Absent: Dr. Paulson

12
13 **8. Wrap up / Adjourn**

14
15 Board members were advised that the need for a special meeting next week is anticipated for the

16 consideration of a summary suspension. Board members agreed to hold meeting at 4:00 PM on Friday,

17 March 28.

18
19 The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:44 p.m.

20