

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, August 22, 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, August 22, 2025.  
11

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

13 The meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor at 8:30 a.m.  
14

15 Chair Taylor introduced Dr. McDonough as a recently appointed board member. Dr. McDonough is from  
16 the Mat-Su area and practices as a cardiologist.  
17

18 Chair Taylor announced that Dr. Heilala has declared his candidacy for the position of Governor and that  
19 Dr. Heilala's role and service on the Medical Board is a separate matter from his role as a candidate for  
20 Governor. Regarding this matter, Chair Taylor advised that the Board will be monitoring for potential  
21 conflicts of interest and adhering to the Executive Branch Ethics Act.  
22

23 **Roll Call**

24 Board members present:

25 David Barnes, DO  
26 Matt Heilala, DPM  
27 Ryan McDonough, DO  
28 David Paulson, MD  
29 Brent Taylor, MD (Chair)  
30 David Wilson, Public Member  
31

32 Staff present: Sara Chambers, Assistant to the Commissioner, Kendra Wardlaw, Senior Investigator,  
33 Jessie Aaron, Investigator, Shelley Irons, Investigator, Karina Medina, Probation Monitor, Natalie  
34 Norberg, Executive Administrator; Jason Kaeser, Licensing Supervisor, Jacob Olsen, Licensing Examiner,  
35 Alisa Perkins, Licensing Examiner  
36

37 **2. Review / Approval of Agenda**

38 Chair Taylor acknowledged the large number of members of the public participating in today's meeting  
39 including many individuals who indicated during pre-registration that they wished to provide public  
40 comments. Due to this, he recommended amending the agenda to increase the allocated time for  
41 public comment from 10 to 20 minutes.  
42

43 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**  
44 **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to adopt the agenda as presented but with additional**  
45 **time allocated for public comment as recommended.**  
46

47 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

1  
2 **3. Review/Approval of Minutes**

3 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**  
4 **the Alaska State Medical Board approved the minutes for the May 16, 2025, June 5, 2025, and**  
5 **June 26, 2025, board meetings.**

6  
7 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.  
8

9 **4. Ethics Disclosures**

10 Dr. Heilala confirmed that he has declared his candidacy for Governor. Dr. Heilala advised that while he  
11 views his work on the board as separate from his candidacy, due to time constraints and the demands of  
12 his campaign, he has submitted his letter of resignation to the Board, effective at the conclusion of this  
13 meeting. He added that he has very much appreciated and valued the opportunity to serve on the  
14 Board.

15  
16 Ms. Norberg queried the rest of the board members. There were no additional ethic disclosures made  
17 by board members.  
18

19 **5. Public Comments**

20 Members of the public who preregistered and indicated an interest in providing public comments were  
21 invited to address the board in the order in which their request was received.  
22

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nature of Comment</b>
Jennifer Fayette, PA-C	Offered the Board her expertise and perspective as a PA, related to PA-specific agenda items, if needed, since there is currently no PA representative on the Board
Tom Pittman, Dir. Identity Inc.	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.
Robert Hockema	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.
Jacob Sears	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct. And opposes the Board's statement on late-term abortion.
Dr. Lindsey Banning, Ph.D.	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.
Rhianne Christopher, NP	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.
Rev. Rebecca Bernard	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.
Kathleen Easley, RN	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct. And opposes the Board's statement on late-term abortion.
Josh Smith	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.
Starina Abrahamsen	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.
Col Lockard	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.
Ann Mayo-Kiely	Opposes the Board's draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.

Dr. Kevin Tarlow, Ph.D.	Opposes the Board’s draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.
Bryant Griffith, Medical Student	Opposes the Board’s draft regulations related to considering the treatment of gender dysphoria as professional misconduct.

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**6. Old Business**

**a. Medical Spa Services Work Group Update**

• **Frequently Asked Questions Document**

Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor in the Office of the Commissioner for the Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and facilitator of the Medical Spa Services Work Group, was invited to address the Board. Ms. Chambers introduced the *FAQs* document as a product developed through the work group to help educate the public, licensees and applicants regarding what the statutes and regulations say regarding the various services, roles and responsibilities around the Medical Spa industry in our state. The document reflects board and work group discussions and has been reviewed by the Department of Law to ensure consistent legal interpretation of statutes and regulations. The document is a first step in helping people understand, for example what is a medical director of a medical spa and when a license is needed to provide esthetic services. The Medical Board was asked to review, offer suggested edits and/or approve the document. Board members were also asked to weigh in and affirm whether a physician assistant can serve as a medical director, which the document does confirm.

Dr. Paulson, the Board’s representative on the Medical Spa Services Work Group, stated that he believes the document is self-explanatory, straightforward and that the Board should approve it. He also welcomed board members’ input on the issue of whether physician assistants may serve as medical directors.

Chair Taylor invited board members to share any additional comments on the document and the issue of physician assistants as medical directors. There were no further comments.

**On a motion duly made by Dr. Paulson, seconded by Dr. McDonough, and approved by roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to approve the Medical Spa Services Work Group’s *Frequently Asked Questions* document as presented.**

Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

• **Letter to Board of Chiropractors**

Chair Taylor invited board members to comment on the draft letter to the Board of Chiropractors presented for the Board’s review and consideration. Chair Taylor offered that he thought it was a well-written letter. There were no further comments.

**On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to approve the draft letter dated August 22, 2025, to the Board of Chiropractors as presented.**

Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

• **Proposal concerning Medical Assistants**

Ms. Norberg informed Chair Taylor that this item was no longer a topic for discussion.

**b. Board Statement/New Regulation Project**

1 • **Statement on Late Term Abortion**

2 Chair Taylor invited Dr. Heilala to introduce this topic. Dr. Heilala advised that this subject came up as a  
3 discussion among board members and as a concern regarding the lack of transparency about how our  
4 state appears to be an outlier regarding the extremely permissive nature of the practice of abortion.  
5 Abortion is something that the legislature has granted the State Medical Board the authority to regulate.  
6 Dr. Heilala clarified that the intent of this statement is not about making abortion illegal, it is a  
7 statement of transparency. Chair Taylor invited board members to share any additional comments on  
8 the proposed statement. There were no further comments.  
9

10 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**  
11 **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to approve the statement concerning late-term**  
12 **abortion as presented.**  
13

14 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.  
15

16 • **New Regulation Project - Treatment of Gender Dysphoria in Minors**

17 Chair Taylor provided background information: On August 1, the State Medical Board concluded an  
18 online vote in which the majority of members voted in favor of submitting a request to the Governor’s  
19 Office to request a waiver to Administrative Order 358 to initiate a regulation project aimed at  
20 discouraging Medical Board licensees from providing treatment for gender dysphoria in minors. The roll  
21 call for that vote was as follows: Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson voted in favor; Dr.  
22 Paulson did not cast a vote. The waiver was approved by the Governor’s Office on August 7, 2025, giving  
23 the Board approval to move forward with this project. Dr. Heilala was invited to provide some opening  
24 comments.

25 Dr. Heilala acknowledged the common goal of care and responsibility for minors and the cordial public  
26 discourse on this issue thus far in the meeting. He highlighted the Board’s strong support from the  
27 Governor on this issue and that more than half the states have outright banned or curtailed this  
28 treatment. Dr. Heilala further highlighted that regulation is an optional tool to be used at the discretion  
29 of the board, it is not an obligation to discipline or sanction.

30 Dr. Paulson stated he appreciates the comments he has received in person, by email and text. He  
31 believes protecting youth means acting with compassion and caution. Dr. Paulson stated, “Our first duty  
32 is to do no harm. While compassion requires us to care for youth in distress, we must recognize our duty  
33 to protect them from medical and surgical interventions that risk permanently altering their bodies and  
34 futures before they are fully capable of mature consent.”

35 Mr. Wilson acknowledged all the emails and correspondence to the Board, adding that “It’s really  
36 important to have public engagement.” Mr. Wilson advised that the concern regarding the treatment of  
37 gender dysphoria in minors was brought to the Board over a year ago by members of the public. He  
38 stated, “We are acting on that concern. We did a tremendous amount of research to validate that  
39 concern.” Mr. Wilson further stated, “This is not politically driven. This is not politically motivated.”  
40 Mr. Wilson concluded by encouraging the public to stay engaged and stating that the Board is interested  
41 in public input.

42 The draft language for this regulation change was reviewed.

43 A member of the public, who was not addressed by the Chair, inquired regarding whether the public  
44 would have an opportunity for public comment.  
45

46 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**  
47 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the draft language as presented to regulation**

1           **12 AAC 40.967; to initiate a regulation change project and to approve this project for public**  
2           **comment pending a legal review with no substantive changes recommended.**

3  
4           Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson

5  
6           Ms. Sara Chambers was recognized by the Chair to provide an overview of the regulation adoption  
7           process and to clarify that there will be future opportunities for the public to comment. Ms. Chambers  
8           explained that the proposed regulation change, approved by the Board today, will go to the Dept. of Law  
9           to be properly formatted and then it will go out for public comments for 30 or more days. This notice  
10          will be on the online public notice system. There is usually an opportunity through the Board’s website  
11          to sign up for alerts so you can stay abreast of this topic. During that 30-day period, the public may  
12          submit written comments to the Board. The Board may also determine if they want to hold an oral  
13          hearing. After the comments are received the Board is obliged by law to consider those comments and  
14          determine whether additional changes need to be made to the language of the regulation. If those  
15          changes are substantive, it would go out for more public comment. If there are no changes or not  
16          substantive changes, the Board can move forward with adoption, or it can abandon the project  
17          altogether. The public is encouraged to be engaged, to sign up for alerts and to check the online public  
18          notice system.

19  
20          **7. New Business**

21          •   **Definition of Written Prescriptions**

22          Chair Taylor requested Ms. Norberg introduce this topic. Ms. Norberg explained that this matter  
23          originated from a request for the Board to provide clarification and guidance regarding the  
24          requirements for physician assistants when they prescribe, and specifically for the Board to provide a  
25          definition for a “written prescription.” The proposed definition would define “written prescription” as  
26          meaning a prescription written on a paper document that has been in the control of a patient prior to  
27          being submitted to a pharmacy for the purpose of dispensing medication. A prescription written on a  
28          piece of paper by a physician assistant would be subject to the requirements outlined in regulation 12  
29          AAC 40.450 (i); whereas a prescription transmitted electronically directly to a pharmacy from a physician  
30          assistant would be exempt from these requirements. Chair Taylor observed that the request seemed  
31          straightforward and invited board members to comment on the proposed definition. There were no  
32          comments.

33  
34                 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**  
35                 **the Alaska State Medical Board approved the definition of “written prescription” as proposed, to**  
36                 **clarify the prescribing procedures for physician assistants.**

37  
38          Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson

39  
40          •   **Request for Record Expungement**

41          Chair Taylor advised that Dr. Fisch submitted a request to the Board to have a disciplinary action from  
42          1997 expunged for her licensing record. He recommended moving into executive session to discuss the  
43          matter.

44  
45                 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**  
46                 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS**  
47                 **44.62.310(c)(3), for the purpose of discussing case # 2850-97-16, with Board staff remaining**  
48                 **during the session.**

1  
2 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson

3  
4 The Board went off the record at 9:41 a.m. and returned on the record at 9:46 a.m.

5  
6 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**  
7 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board accepted the order to rescind the public reprimand and**  
8 **expunge the 1997 disciplinary action from Alaska’s licensing database in case number 2850-**  
9 **97-16.**

10  
11 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson

12  
13 Chair Taylor acknowledged Kendra Wardlaw, Senior Investigator who advised the Board that the  
14 National Practitioner Databank does not allow actions to be removed from the database once they have  
15 been entered, however a respondent does have the option to provide a rebuttal to an entry.

16  
17 **8. Break**

18 The Board went off the record for a break at 9:47 a.m. and returned on the record at 10:07 a.m.

19  
20 **9. Full Board Review**

21 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**  
22 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS**  
23 **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions for the purpose of**  
24 **discussing the following individuals’ applications for licensure with Board staff remaining**  
25 **during the entire session:**

- 26  
27
  - **Michael Fruchter, MD**
  - **Jeffrey Graham, MD**
  - **Sheryar Khan, DO**
  - **Anita Powell, PA**

30  
31  
32 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

33  
34 The Board went off the record at 10:08 a.m. and returned on the record at 10:21 a.m.

35  
36 **On a motion duly made by M4. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**  
37 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved Jeffrey Graham, MD, Sheryar Khan, DO and**  
38 **Anita Powell, PA for full licenses.**

39  
40 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

41  
42 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**  
43 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board tabled a decision regarding whether to grant a license to**  
44 **Dr. Michael Fruchter until further information is gathered.**

45  
46 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

1 **10. Malpractice Cases**  
2

3 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**  
4 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310**  
5 **(c)(3), with board staff Natalie Norberg and Jason Kaeser remaining in the session and all others**  
6 **excluded from the session for the purpose of discussing malpractice cases involving the following**  
7 **practitioners:**

8 **Alfonso Urdaneta-Moncada, MD**  
9 **Amit Sanghi, DO**  
10 **Beatrice Brooks, MD**  
11 **Timothy Peterson, MD**  
12 **David Marks, MD**  
13 **Edward Prince, MD**  
14 **Emily Lampe, MD**  
15 **John Keitz, DO**  
16 **Marius Pakalniskis, MD**  
17 **Muneer Desai, MD**

18 The Board went off the record at 10:25 a.m. and returned on the record at 10:43 a.m.  
19

20 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**  
21 **Alaska State Medical Board decided to take no further action with respect to the malpractice**  
22 **cases related to: Alfonso Urdaneta-Moncada, MD, Amit Sanghi, DO, Beatrice Brooks, MD,**  
23 **Timothy Peterson, MD, David Marks, MD, Edward Prince, MD, Emily Lampe, MD John Keitz,**  
24 **DO and Marius Pakalniskis, MD**

25  
26 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson  
27

28 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**  
29 **Alaska State Medical Board decided to request the Executive Administrator draft a non-**  
30 **disciplinary advisory letter related to the malpractice cases involving Muneer Desai, MD.**  
31

32 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

33 Chair Taylor recognized being ahead of schedule. It was decided to rearrange the order of agenda items  
34 and move up Item number 13, "Investigations Update." The board took a break while these  
35 arrangements were made.  
36

37 The Board went off the record for a break at 10:44 a.m. and returned on the record at 10:50 a.m.  
38  
39

40 **Investigations**

41 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**  
42 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310**  
43 **(c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2024-001176 with board and investigative staff**  
44 **remaining in the session and the reviewing board members abstaining from the session.**  
45

1 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

2  
3 The Board went off the record at 10:50 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:02a.m.

4  
5 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Barnes and approved by a roll call vote,**  
6 **the Alaska State Medical Board adopted the order for a license surrender in case# 2024-001176.**

7  
8 Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, and Mr. Wilson  
9 Abstained: Dr. Heilala and Dr. Taylor

10  
11 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**  
12 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310**  
13 **(c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2024-000220 with board and investigative staff**  
14 **remaining in the session and the reviewing board member abstaining from the session.**

15  
16 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

17  
18 The Board went off the record at 11:04 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:12a.m.

19  
20 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**  
21 **the Alaska State Medical Board adopted the order for a consent agreement, decision and board**  
22 **order as presented in case# 2024-000220.**

23  
24 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson  
25 Abstained, Dr. Barnes & Dr. Heilala

26  
27 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**  
28 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310**  
29 **(c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2024-000373 with board and investigative staff**  
30 **remaining in the session.**

31  
32 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

33  
34 The Board went off the record at 11:16 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:34 a.m.

35  
36 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Barnes and denied by a roll call vote, the**  
37 **Alaska State Medical Board rejected the decision and order as presented in case# 2024-00373.**

38  
39 Roll call: Nays, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson  
40 Abstained, Dr. McDonough

41  
42 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**  
43 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310**  
44 **(c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2024-000768 with board and investigative staff**  
45 **remaining in the session and the reviewing board abstaining from the session.**

46  
47 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

1 The Board went off the record at 11:38 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:47 a.m.

2  
3 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Heilala and approved by a roll call vote,**  
4 **the Alaska State Medical Board granted Dr. Dolf Ichtertz a full license.**

5  
6 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, and Mr. Wilson  
7 Abstained, Dr. Taylor

8  
9 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**  
10 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310**  
11 **(c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2022-000233-Prb with board and investigative staff**  
12 **remaining in the session.**

13  
14 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

15  
16 The Board went off the record at 11:50 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:54 a.m.

17  
18 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and denied by a roll call vote, the**  
19 **Alaska State Medical Board rejected the request to modify the Board Order and grant an early**  
20 **release in case# 2022-000233-Prb.**

21  
22 Nays, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

23  
24 Kendra Wardlaw expressed appreciation for Dr. Heilala's time and dedication to the Board and the  
25 Division, acknowledging that he reviewed many cases. Others, including Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and  
26 Shelley Irons also expressed appreciation to Dr. Heilala.

## 27 28 **11. Lunch Break**

29 The Board went off the record at 11:58 a.m. and returned on the record at 12:31 p.m.

## 30 31 **12. Interview**

32 Dr. Jacob Stephenson requested to have his interview conducted in an executive session.

33  
34 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by roll call vote,**  
35 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS**  
36 **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions for the purpose of**  
37 **discussing Dr. Jacob Stephenson's application for licensure with Dr. Stephenson remaining for**  
38 **part of the session and Board staff to remain during the entire session.**

39  
40 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

41  
42 The Board went off the record at 12:33 p.m. and returned on the record at 12:49 p.m.

43  
44 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by roll call vote,**  
45 **the Alaska State Medical Board granted Dr. Jacob Stephenson a full medical license.**

46  
47 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

1 **13. Investigations Update** (moved to earlier in the agenda)

2  
3 **14. Request for reconsideration of Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

4 Chair Taylor invited Representative Prax to address the Board. Rep. Prax stated he has an interest in  
5 multi-state licensure compacts for medical providers and would like to know whether the Medical Board  
6 is interested in endorsing a compact, if a bill is introduced. Rep. Prax asked board members for their  
7 thoughts on such a proposal.

8 Dr. Barnes expressed concerns regarding the Board giving up autonomy over licensing to outside  
9 affiliations, including the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). Rep. Prax acknowledged the  
10 concern but asserted that most states have approximately the same requirements/standards for  
11 licensure. Dr. Barnes questioned the goal of doctors whose aim is to become licensed in all 50 states to  
12 provide telemedicine, citing concerns about their commitment to Alaska, contributing to the economy  
13 and building real patient relationships. Rep. Prax advised he has a different view about telemedicine  
14 and sees it as increasing much needed access to care for Alaskans. Dr. Barnes conceded that  
15 telemedicine may be needed for residents in remote areas of the state or for specialty providers but  
16 questions the notion that there is a lack of access due to a lack of providers.

17 Dr. Paulson stated that he loves the practicality and simplicity of a compact as a concept yet is also  
18 concerned about giving up autonomy. Dr. Paulson also expressed concerns about the compact, leading  
19 to more telemedicine providers, citing concerns about the quality of telemedicine.

20 Dr. Heilala advised that two years ago, the Board spent extensive time over many months looking at  
21 whether to join the compact. "It ended with a vote to table it and decline it for now." Rep. Prax  
22 requested to receive the report and meeting minutes from these discussions.

23 Mr. Wilson reiterated that a major reason for the Board's decision to not join the Compact was because  
24 of the Compact's affiliation with the FSMB. Mr. Wilson shared his experience as a patient during the  
25 pandemic. He stated that his physician received threatening emails and a letter from the FSMB,  
26 threatening license revocation if his physician "promoted or disagreed with a particular narrative during  
27 COVID." This resulted in Mr. Wilson's physician refusing to see him as a patient because he refused to  
28 accept a particular treatment. Mr. Wilson identified another reason for not joining the compact is  
29 because the compact only allows physicians to join who have a "squeaky-clean" record. Mr. Wilson  
30 asserts that many people including physicians are not perfect, but they can still provide "fabulous  
31 services" to our communities. Finding good physicians who want to live in Alaska is always a struggle  
32 but eliminating those that are not squeaky-clean makes recruitment more difficult.

33 Dr. Talor echoed the concerns about losing autonomy by joining the Compact. He also agrees that  
34 telemedicine does not provide the same level of care as an in-person provider. Dr. Taylor stated that  
35 Alaska is unique and a one-size-fits-all selection process for providers does not work.

36 Rep. Prax stated he believes the goal is to make the licensing process work as efficiently as possible. He  
37 is open to working together on addressing any obstacles for a customized approach.

38 Dr. Barnes encouraged Rep. Prax to reach out to the Governor's office to advocate for more  
39 appointments to the Board, citing that the Board is currently understaffed.

40 Rep. Prax informed the Board that he is working on a bill to increase the scope of naturopaths and that  
41 he is particularly interested in moving forward with giving naturopaths more authority to work; and he  
42 would appreciate the Board's thoughts on that bill.

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

45  
46 It was announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

- 1 Dr. Taylor thanked everyone for the positive comments throughout the meeting and for keeping the
- 2 meeting civil despite a contentious topic addressed earlier in the day.
- 3
- 4 Dr. Taylor and other board members once again thanked Dr. Heilala for his service and time on the
- 5 Board.
- 6
- 7 The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:14 p.m.