

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 January 15, 2026
8
9

10 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a meeting of the
11 Alaska State Medical Board was held Thursday, January 15, 2026.
12

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

14 The meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor at 4:03 p.m.
15

16 **Roll Call**

17 Board members present:

18 Brent Taylor, MD, Chair
19 David Barnes, DO
20 Michael McNamara, MD
21 Dave Paulson, MD
22 David Wilson, Public Member

23 Absent: Lee Walker, PA
24

25 State employees present: Joan Wilson, Administrative Law Judge; Kendra Wardlaw, Senior Investigator;
26 Jason Kaeser, Licensing Supervisor; and Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator
27

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

30 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Dr. Barnes, the Alaska State Medical**
31 **Board approved the agenda as presented.**
32

33 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
34

35 **3. Ethics Disclosures**

36 Chair Taylor queried board members regarding any potential financial or personal conflicts to declare.
37 There were no ethical disclosures made by any board members.
38

39 **4. Deliberative Session**

- 40 • **Office of Administrative Hearing Case Number 25-0010-MED, K.L.**
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 entered a deliberative session in accordance with AS**
44 **44.62.310(d), for the purpose of making a decision in the matter of Office of Administrative**
45 **Hearing Case Number 25-0010 with Administrative Law Judge Joan Wilson joining the Board**
46 **and all others excluded from the session.**
47

48 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
49

50 The board entered the deliberative session at 4:06 p.m. and returned on the record at 4:11 p.m.

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2 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by roll call vote,**
3 **the Alaska State Medical Board adopted the decision as proposed in OAH Case Number 25-**
4 **0010.**

5
6 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

7
8 **5. Investigations**

- 9 • **Case Number: 2025-001211, B.G.**

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11 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**
12 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS**
13 **44.62.310(c)(4), for the purpose of discussing case number 2025-001211, with Division staff**
14 **remaining during the session and the reviewing board member excluded from the session.**

15
16 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

17
18 The board entered executive session at 4:15 p.m. and returned on the record at 4:19 p.m.

19
20 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Barnes and approved by roll call vote,**
21 **the Alaska State Medical Board approved a full license for Dr. Brittany Gerkin.**

22
23 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, and Mr. Wilson

24 Abstained: Dr. Taylor

25
26 **6. Interviews**

- 27 • **Christopher Melcher, PA**

28
29 Mr. Melcher opted to have his interview conducted in public. Mr. Melcher was asked about and
30 explained the circumstances that led to an abrupt termination of employment at a county hospital. He
31 described subsequent proactive steps taken and successful employment placements that demonstrate
32 he is “better” now.

33
34 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Barnes and approved by roll call vote,**
35 **the Alaska State Medical Board approved Christopher Melcher, physician assistant, for a full**
36 **license.**

37
38 Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

- 39
40 • **Gamil Makar, MD**

41
42 Dr. Makar opted to have his interview in executive session.

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 entered executive session in accordance with AS**
46 **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions for the purpose of**
47 **discussing Dr. Gamil Makar’s application for licensure with Dr. Makar remaining for part of the**
48 **session and Board staff to remain during the entire session.**

49
50 Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

1
2 The board entered executive session at 4:33 p.m. and returned on the record at 4:47 p.m.
3

4 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by roll call vote,**
5 **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to table a decision regarding whether to grant a**
6 **license to Dr. Makar until further information is obtained.**
7

8 Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
9

10 **7. Division Update**

11 Glenn Saviers, Deputy Director, Division of Corporations, Business & Professional Licensing, was invited
12 to address the Board related to the following topics:

- 13 • **Administrative Order 360.** Governor Dunleavy issued Administrative Order 360 in August 2025,
14 to address regulatory reform in Alaska. The Order charges all entities in state government,
15 including Boards, to reduce regulations by 25% by end of calendar year 2027. Reductions should
16 aim to clarify obligations, reduce costs, streamline procedures and improve transparency; the
17 Order is not intended to remove any regulations that impact public safety. It was noted that
18 while the Medical Board has done a good job of keeping its regulations updated, the Board is
19 not exempt from engaging in this reduction exercise. Comments received for the Board
20 received during the Division's AO 360 public comment period, the methodology for counting the
21 baseline requirements, and strategies for meeting the reduction targets were discussed.
22

23 Mr. Wilson addressed Ms. Saviers, pointing out that board members are volunteers. He stated
24 this Order is tasking volunteers who have already sacrificed immensely for the Board to take on
25 yet more work and duties for this administration. Mr. Wilson stated that if you were to propose
26 paying the medical board members the actual value of their time to review regulations, this
27 administration would never agree to the cost. In essence he asserted this is an unrealistic and
28 unfair burden on board members.
29

30 Ms. Saviers acknowledged her appreciation to board members for the important work they do
31 and countered that the Board's Executive Administrator has in fact already done much of the
32 work being asked of the Board to comply with a February 13 deadline, by drafting a list of
33 proposed regulatory reductions for the board's consideration to be reviewed later in the
34 agenda.
35

- 36 • **Expungement of Board Disciplinary Actions.**

37 Dr. Fisch's request for an expungement of a board action from 1998 was brought to the Board
38 by Division leadership during the August 2025 meeting. The Board voted to expunge Dr. Fisch's
39 record. The Board subsequently received two more requests for expungements, prompting
40 staff to request the Department of Law to explore this matter. The Department of Law opined
41 that State law does not permit Boards the authority to reverse a disciplinary action. The only
42 way a disciplinary decision may be overturned is on a formal motion for reconsideration or
43 appeal. The period to initiate an appeal is within 2 weeks of the original decision. That period
44 for Dr. Fisch has long expired. The Division is requesting that the Medical Board reverse its
45 decision to expunge Dr. Fisch's disciplinary action.
46

47 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**
48 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board retracted its order dated August 22, 2025, to rescind the**
49 **public reprimand and expunge the public record, in case # 2850-97-16. The**
50 **original order in that case must stand as it was entered on February 6, 1998.**

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2 Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
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4 • **FY25 4th Quarter Budget Update**

5 The revenue and expenditures for FY25 compared to previous fiscal year biennium reports,
6 show that expenditures are up significantly and revenue is not keeping up. The most
7 noteworthy increases in expenses are from investigations and legal costs. Last fiscal year there
8 were 148 complaints, this year there were 236 complaints. These were increases that could not
9 have been predicted. Bottom line is that medical license fees are going to need to increase to
10 cover these costs. The Division has submitted a request and is waiting for approval from the
11 Office of Management and Budget to implement the fee increase. It's projected to be an
12 increase of couple hundred dollars per licensee.
13

14 **8. New Business**

15 • **List of Proposed regulations changes – compliance with AO 360.**

16 Ms. Norberg presented a list of proposed regulation changes that would eliminate or modify
17 requirements aimed at improving efficiency. The list includes subject areas identified by
18 stakeholders as needing changes. It was explained that by adopting this list, the Board would be
19 committing to focus on these subjects in the future, but that much more analysis and
20 opportunities for feedback would be allocated to each area before edits are finalized.
21

22 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**
23 **vote, Alaska State Medical Board adopted the initial list of priority regulation projects as**
24 **presented to be submitted for consideration and approval by the Governor's Office in**
25 **accordance with the mandates of Administrative Order 360.**
26

27 Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
28

29 **9. Wrap up / Adjourn**

30 It was announced that the next board meeting is a quarterly meeting, scheduled for February 20th,
31 starting at 8:30 a.m.
32

33 The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.
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