



# AK PT/OT Board - Regulations Committee Mtg January 9, 2026 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
1/9/2026 9:00 AM AKST  
Videoconference

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Members:  
Valerie Phelps  
Eliza Ellsworth  
Tori Daugherty

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Regulations Committee meeting was called to order on Friday, January 9, 2026 at 8:58 am by Valerie Phelps.

Roll call taken:

Committee members present: Valerie Phelps, Eliza Ellsworth, and Tori Daugherty.

Staff present: Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1 and Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner.

Guest: Kristen Neville, State Affairs Manager, AOTA

## 2. Review/Approve Agenda

There is a conflict for committee member Valerie Phelps today. She has to attend another meeting at 11:00 am. She asked if the committee could end the meeting early. All in agreement to end before 11:00 am.

**Eliza Ellsworth motioned to amend the agenda for the January 9, 2026 PHY Regulations Committee meeting to end the time to 11:00 am and approve the rest as written. Tori Daugherty seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

## 3. Approve Minutes - December 19, 2025

**Tori Daugherty motioned to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2025 PHY Regulations Committee meeting as submitted. Eliza Ellsworth seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

## 4. Public Comment

No public comment given.

## 5. AO360 Regulation Reduction Plan

11/03/2025 - The baseline number of requirements for PHY is 333. 316 of these requirements are from the regulations, and 17 requirements are from documents adopted by reference in the regulations. The 25% target is against the 333 number. **25% of 316 = Minimum 79 reductions in regulations to meet goal.**

**Current AO 360 Plan → Tentative reductions = -128 = -38.44%**

Committee continued analysis of regulations at Article 3 - 12 AAC 54.400 Physical Therapy License Renewal Requirements. Active practice requirement discussed at length. Discussed complex issue of what a minimum requirement would be if not current 60 hours to establish use of skill set or 40 hours for any extra CE as replacement to make up for no patient care to ensure competence. Members struggled with board minimum standards for continued licensure versus employer responsibility to ensure provider competence for hire and ongoing patient care. Discussion tabled for next meeting.

12 AAC 54.405(a)(D) – remove 150-hour internship option for initial licensure as internship being eliminated. Add to AO 360 Reform Plan

12 AAC 54.500(b) – hanging a license – committee members discussed validity of requiring license to be posted and relevancy in today's business environment. Pro – like requirement to post a business license; allows consumer to view without asking provider; visual reminder to renew/keep license active. Con – in a multi-disciplinary practice or hospital environment – consumer would be unlikely to view; telework or remote work, provider would be unlikely to have on hand. Discussion tabled for next meeting.

## 6. Next Steps

- Start line by line regulations evaluation at section 12 AAC 54.510 Supervision of PTA
- Tabled discussion from 01/09/2026 –
  - Active practice requirement in 12 AAC 54.405 + 12 AAC 54.705
  - Hanging a license in 12 AAC 54.500(b) + 12 AAC 54.805

## 7. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Regulations Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:59 am on Friday, January 9, 2026.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2026 at 9:00 am specific to the AO 360 Reform Plan.

**Approved by the Regulations Committee January 23, 2026 by unanimous vote.**