



# BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS - Regular Meeting Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
3/23/2026 9:00 AMAKDT

## **Attendance**

### **Present:**

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Michael Sanders, Newell Walther

### **Absent:**

Members: Travis Perkins

**Staff:** Sydney Baranov-Kaderman, Occupational Licensing Examiner 3; Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor; Josh Hardy, Investigator 3; Billy Homestead, Investigator 4; Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager 2; Lisa Sherrell, Program Coordinator 2.

## **Guests**

Sean Seigel, Alaska Dental Society Executive Director

1. Zoom Information
2. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Christina Hansen. Dr. Hronkin joined online at 9:10 a.m. Dr. Newell Walther arrived at 9:11 a.m.

## **Attendance**

### **Present:**

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Kenley Michaud, Michael Sanders,

### **Absent:**

Members: Travis Perkins, Jesse Hronkin, Newell Walther

## **A. Ethics Report**

Chair Hansen asked board members to state if they have any disclosures and that those who have conflicts as reviewing board members with cases being considered today request recusal.

The following members requested and received recusal from discussion and voting as reviewing board members:

- Dr. Michaud – Consent agreement for J.M. and imposition of civil fine for M.T.
- Dr. Hronkin – Consent agreement for J.M.
- Dr. Elison – Application for license by M.M.
- Dr. Walther – Voluntary surrender of license for J.H.

There were no other ethics disclosures by any board members to report.

B. Review/Approve Agenda

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the agenda as it is written.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Megan Ferguson.

Motion PASSED via unanimous consent.

3. Public comment

Ms. Gail Walden addressed the board.

- She requested the board to confirm whether all proposed regulation changes under Administrative Order 360 (AO360) are included in the February 9th and 10th meeting minutes on the board website. She believes that discussion of removing course approval for local anesthesia occurred on 2/10/26 but was not included in the minutes.
- She stated that if the board had success repealing AS 08.36.342, dental assistants would not be authorized to do coronal polishing or be trained to do so. Coronal polishing is specifically listed under the dental hygiene scope of practice, in AS 08.32.110(a)(1)(b). Dental assistants are not permitted to polish under AS 08.36.346(a)(3)(a). So, the statement by the board that dental assistants could be trained by dentists to perform coronal polishing is inaccurate.
- She commented that there seemed to be a lack of participation, discussion, and debate by board members during the AO360 meetings and very few members brought suggestions to the table. From her perspective when board business is delayed and subsequently rushed, errors are inevitable and objectives are not met.
- She requested that ample notice is provided for future discussions regarding AO360 so that the public can submit written comments for the board to review prior to the meeting

4. Election of Board Secretary

The board asked for a description of duties for a secretary. Board staff stated that although the position is largely ceremonial, a secretary would act as an alternate contact if the Chair was unavailable for board business. The board was referred to the Guide to Excellence for more information on what the board chair duties are, which would in turn fall to the Secretary if the Chair was unable to perform them for some reason.

Dr. Walther asked what the time commitment is typically. Chair Hansen stated she has met for about 1 hour once a week with staff in preparation for the meeting.

Dr. Michaud volunteered to serve as secretary.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE electing Dr. Michaud as Board Secretary.

Motion moved by Christina Hansen and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

5. Application Reviews

A. Application for Sedation Permit for T.H.

Dr. Holley's application for general anesthesia and deep sedation was before the board because there are different requirements if training has been within the last 1-3 years, 3-5 years, or more than 5 years from date of application.

Dr. Michaud explained that applicants having trained 3-5 years ago must show that they have recently been performing sedations and technically have taken a refresher course. But Dr. Holley had not done any cases recently when his application was first shown to the board, so that is why it was tabled.

Dr. Michaud said that because of the timeline, it meant that if Dr. Holley had a permit in another state and was current with his training and current with sedation cases he could apply by credentials.

After his application was tabled, staff asked if Dr. Holley had a sedation permit in another state and 25 sedation cases in the 12 months preceding his application in order to meet 12 AAC 28.010(d)(3). He was only able to provide a permit in another state, so his only pathway to licensure was 12 AAC 28.010(d)(5), which is demonstrating current competency to the board. However, before today's meeting, Dr. Holley was able to obtain the 25 cases and submitted them to meet the requirements of 12 AAC 28.010(d)(3) instead. The cases were completed in Florida, and Dr. Michaud requested staff ensure there is a sedation permit on file.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the sedation application ages 13 and up for T. H. pending confirmation by staff that the applicant is licensed in another state to perform sedation.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Michael Sanders.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

B. Renewal application for lapsed license - T. M.

The application for reinstatement of a lapsed license for T.M. was originally tabled by Dr. Michaud because he wished to have a fine assessed for failing to complete all required continuing education credits during the previous licensing period, but he was informed by staff at that time that the board could only vote to approve, deny, or table for discussion to possibly send to investigations, so he opted to have it tabled.

The board voiced several concerns, including the large number of deficient hours, the fact that the missing hours were not completed prior to applying for reinstatement, and inconsistent answers regarding whether the applicant held a DEA registration number. It was also pointed out that the applicant is going to be reviewing other dentist's work for an insurance company and should be paying attention to numbers. The applicant did submit a letter to the board outlining personal hardships that affected their ability to obtain the needed CE during the required time frame.

The board was confused about what their options were at this point and whether they had to first deny the reinstatement to send it to investigations. Program Coordinator II Reid Bowman clarified if the board sends the application to investigations there may be options for the applicant to remedy the deficiencies. Investigations might then determine a fine or other discipline, and then the application would come back before the board, and they can decide whether they accept the discipline and vote to approve or deny the reinstatement then.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE sending the application to the investigations department to decide on an appropriate fine if needed.

Motion moved by Newell Walther and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

6. Audit Reviews

A. Audit for D.S.

The audit for D.S. was unable to be cleared by board staff because a significant number of the credit hours submitted were obtained from the Canadian Association of Pediatric Dentists which is not ADA/CERP/PACE approved as required by regulation. This, along with some AMA category CEs which are calculated at a ratio of 4:1 to dental CE, caused the licensee to be short 5.57 hours.

Dr. Walther stated that the board has the discretion to accept relevant courses, and he felt that these clinical courses were relevant to dentistry. He also pointed out that the Canadian courses were in association with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the Canadian courses submitted by the D.S. and approve the audit.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

B. Audit for L.O.

The audit for L.O. was unable to be cleared by board staff because the licensee submitted 30 hours of continuing education which was obtained through a non-ADHA/ADA/CERP/PACE approved course but through Old Dominion University. The board felt that because the course was provided by a university and presented by hygienists who travel the United States teaching courses (some of which have been attended by board members), there was significant credibility to the course.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the audit for L.O.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

A board member realized that the previously approved sedation permit for T.H. should have been for patients 13 years of age and older or younger, not just 13 years and older and brought this to the attention of the board so that it could be corrected.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to AMEND the previous motion to APPROVE the sedation application for T. H. to be for patients 13 years of age and older or younger, pending confirmation by staff that the applicant is licensed in another state to perform sedation.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

7. Break

The board went off record at 9:48 and returned on record at 9:56 a.m.

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Michael Sanders, Newell Walther

**Absent:**

Members: Travis Perkins

8. Delegation of SCRA Application approval (Presenters: Glenn Saviers)

Deputy Director Glenn Saviers presented the idea of delegation of Federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) application approval to the board. She stated that some boards are not very comfortable with approving SCRA applications because the requirements are not state requirements, they are federal and there is no choice about issuing the license if the requirements are met. As a result, the Department of Law was consulted and it was decided that because the licenses are not issued under Alaska Statutes, this is something boards may delegate to the department. She reminded the board that once a license is issued, it is a regular license that falls fully under the dental board jurisdiction.

The board asked how many applications the division typically sees, to determine how much of a burden the review is on the board members. Director Saviers stated that in 2025 the division saw two dental license and three dental hygienist license applications by SCRA. But she also pointed out that federal law requires the license be issued within 30 days so that can put pressure on the board especially if there is an issue with obtaining quorum.

A member asked if the SCRA applications have the same professional fitness questions as regular applications, specifically the ones that ask if the applicant has any previous license actions. Deputy Director Saviers stated that the federal law does not allow those questions to be asked but that the same National Practitioners Databank and American Association of Dental Boards reports are pulled just as they would be for a traditional application.

Members voiced some concern about ensuring that applications are complete if they are not reviewed by the board. Deputy Director Saviers stated that she processes the applications herself and that there are mechanisms that prevent the applicant from completing the application if they do not meet certain criteria. The state system has a built-in checklist and there is a second, separate checklist to ensure accuracy.

Considering Deputy Director Saviers points, the board decided to delegate the task.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE that licenses applied for under the Federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act's (or "SCRA") licensure portability laws be reviewed, approved, and issued by the division, rather than by the board, in order to comply with federal law requiring expediency and due to the fact that the board's authority and requirement to approve and issue licenses is under Alaska Statute Title 8, rather than federal law. Once licensed is issued pursuant to the SCRA, these licensees will be subject to the requirements of Title 8 of Alaska Statutes and subject to the board's authority, same as all other Alaska professional licensees under the board's jurisdiction.

Motion moved by Christina Hansen and seconded by Kenley Michaud.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

9. Investigations

A. Investigative Report

Investigator Hardy presented the Dental Board Investigative Report for March 2026. The board did not have any questions and noted that most of the cases appeared current.

 [DEN Board Report MARCH 2026.pdf](#)

B. Annual Investigative Training

Division Investigator Josh Hardy delivered a routine presentation to the board on the division's investigative process.

The first part of the presentation regarding public process was delivered on record, and the second portion was off the record to protect confidential information on investigative processes not available to the public.

Investigations fall under the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing which is part of the Division of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. Its Mission is to ensure that competent, professional and regulated commercial services are available to Alaska consumers.

There are three types of licenses that investigations cover:

- Professional
- Business
- Corporate Entities

There are three investigation case types:

- Application matters - initiated by the division of licensing
- Consumer complaints - initiated by a complaint packet
- Inspections - initiated by an onsite inspection

### **Investigative Process**

- The Respondent is sent a notification of investigation
- Information is collected by the investigator
- A Licensed board member reviews the matter to determine if a violation occurred.
- If there is no violation, the complaint is closed.
- If a board member determines there is a violation, the complaint is upgraded to an investigation
- License action is taken by the board.

### **Intake - Preliminary information stage**

This is typically generated upon receipt of an Investigations Request for Contact form available at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/Investigations.aspx> or a referral email sent to [investigations@alaska.gov](mailto:investigations@alaska.gov).

Investigations determine if the complaint falls under their jurisdiction, which is outlined in Alaska Statute 08. If investigations is unsure, a board member helps determine if the complaint is jurisdictional.

Complaints that are not typically jurisdictional include:

- Criminal complaints
- Money or civil matters
- "Bedside manner"
- Quality of work complaints
- Unfair or deceptive business practices
- Landlord Tenant Laws

### **Complaint fact gathering stage**

Complainant is asked to complete a packet within 30 days containing:

- Summary of the incident
- Supporting documentation
- Signed release of information
- Signed affidavit attesting that the information they are providing is true and correct to the best of their knowledge

If the complaint packet is not received within 30 days, the case is administratively closed. If a complaint packet is received after 30 days, the case can be reopened. The Division does not generally accept anonymous complaints, except in unusual circumstances. Consumers are required to be accountable for their allegations to avoid the process being manipulated by unscrupulous parties seeking to pursue personal or professional vendettas.

A Notice of Complaint is sent to the Respondent notifying them that a complaint has been received against them and providing them with an opportunity to respond and give their side of the story.

Once enough information has been gathered to either prove or disprove an allegation, the case is presented to a board member for review.

The board member will review the case to determine if a violation is present and recommends an appropriate disposition.

### **Investigation**

Once a violation has been determined, a "Notice of Investigation" letter is sent to the Respondent notifying them that there was a violation.

A board member makes a recommendation for either a Non-disciplinary Letter of Advisement (which would close the case) or a License Action which could be a Consent Agreement, Fine, Suspension, etc.

Investigations review the recommendation for case precedence and then offer the license action to the respondent. If the respondent agrees, the license action is presented to the board for adoption. If adopted, the case is closed. If the respondent disagrees and refuses the action, the division moves forward with the litigation process and files and accusation.

The division prepares the case for an Administrative Hearing and presents it to an Administrative Law Judge. The decision of the judge is presented to the board for final consideration.

Investigations are required by statute to be kept confidential. This often prevents the complainant, licensee, and the Board from obtaining progress reports or information that may disclose the current status of an open investigation. It also protects the reputation of licensees who may be accused of wrongdoing when allegations are yet unproven.

Investigator Hardy asked if there were any questions.

The board asked if the process they had discussed at prior meetings of presenting a consent agreement to the board before presenting to a licensee had been considered by Investigations.

Investigator Hardy explained that it was discussed with staff and it would present difficulties. He stated that there is a disciplinary matrix the board adopted which is used by the member reviewing the agreement as a guideline. Respondents are made aware that the agreements they sign will then go before the board and may or may not be accepted. If the board as a whole reviewed each case it would at least double the workload.

The board discussed that in the past it felt like there was pushback and they were not allowed to revise agreements after they were presented to licensees but then realized the instance actually happened with an administrative law judge and did not involve investigations.

Senior Investigator Homestead stressed that investigations does not persuade or make decisions for the board. They make sure that the board has the information that is needed and are aware they have the power to make the decision. If the board wishes to change the consent agreement, it just needs to be justified appropriately.

The board agreed to move on to the next portion of the training.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE to enter into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Board staff to remain.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Michael Sanders.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson – Yes.

The board went off record at 11:09 a.m. and returned at 12:02 p.m.

### **Attendance**

#### **Present:**

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Michael Sanders, Newell Walther

#### **Absent:**

Members: Travis Perkins

- C. Request for end of probation - J.D.

#### **Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE going into Executive Session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Board staff to remain.

Motion moved by Christina Hansen and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Abstain, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

Dr. Hronkin was excused from discussion and voting as the reviewing board member of the original case.

The board went off record at 12:06 p.m and returned on the record at 12:20 p.m.

### **Attendance**

#### **Present:**

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Michael Sanders, Newell Walther

#### **Absent:**

Members: Travis Perkins

#### **Motion:**

RESOLVED to DENY the request for the end of probation for J.D.

Motion moved by Christina Hansen and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Abstain, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

D. Voluntary Surrender - J.E.

Investigator Homestead advised that unless there was discussion of the matter that would reveal the subjects there was no need for entering executive session. Board members reviewed the case documentation and voted.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to ACCEPT the voluntary surrender of license for J. E.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Michael Sanders.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

E. Voluntary Surrender - J.H.

Investigations advised that unless there was discussion of the matter that would reveal the subjects there was no need for entering executive session. Board members reviewed the case documentation and voted.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to ACCEPT the voluntary surrender of license for J.H.

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Michael Sanders.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Abstain, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson – Yes.

Dr. Walther was recused from discussion and voting as the reviewing board member.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to AMEND the previous motions for J.E. to include the case numbers 2018-000011, 2022-00543, 2022-00832 and the motion for J.H. to include the case numbers 2017-001252, 2020-00474, 2020-000953, 2021-000451, 2022-001168

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Michael Sanders.

Motion PASSED via unanimous consent

F. Consent Agreement - J.M.

Investigator Homestead advised that unless there was discussion of the matter that would reveal the subjects there was no need for entering executive session. Board members reviewed the case documentation and voted.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the consent agreement for case 2023-001107

Motion moved by Christina Hansen and motion seconded by Michael Sanders.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Abstain, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Abstain, Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson – Yes

Drs. Michaud and Hronkin were recused from discussion and voting as reviewing board members.

G. Imposition of Civil Fine for M. T.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE to enter into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Board staff to remain.

Motion moved by Christina Hansen and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via unanimous consent

Dr. Michaud was recused from discussion and voting as the reviewing board member.

The board went off the record at 12:34 p.m and returned on the record at 12:53 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Michael Sanders, Newell Walther

**Absent:**

Members: Travis Perkins

The board decided to return to the matter of imposition of civil fine for M.T. after lunch to allow staff to help draft the motion.

10. Lunch

The board adjourned for lunch at 12:55 p.m. and returned on the record at 1:30 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Newell Walther, Michael Sanders

**Absent:**

Members: Travis Perkins

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to REJECT the imposition of civil fine for case 2025-000170 and refer the case back to investigations for the recommendation of a \$2,500 fine due to this being a second offense for the respondent's consideration.

Motion moved by Newell Walther and motion seconded by Michael Sanders.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Abstain, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

11. Application for Dental License - M.M. (previously agenda item 9. C)

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE to enter into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Board staff to remain.

Motion moved by Christina Hansen.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison - Abstain, Megan Ferguson - Yes.

Dr. Elison was recused from discussion and voting as the reviewing board member.

The board went off record at 2:33 p.m. and came back on record at 3:08 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Michael Sanders, Newell Walther

**Absent:**

Members: Travis Perkins

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE dental license for M.M.

Motion moved by Christina Hansen and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud.

Motion TIED - Christina Hansen - No, Kenley Michaud - No, Michael Sanders - Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Newell Walther - No, Traci Elison – Abstain

No action was able to be taken on the license application matter for M.M. The matter will be brought before the board again to be resolved.

12. Division Report (Presenters: Melissa Dumas)

Melissa Dumas presented the fiscal year 2026 (July 1, 2025-December 31, 2025) 1st quarter division report.

The board questioned the \$1,266.51 spent to destroy documents.

Ms. Dumas explained that the division was paying monthly fees to store the documents and that the retention schedule allowed them to be destroyed so there will not be any fee to store them going forward.

Ms. Dumas stated that the Department of Law still has the previously board approved fee changes and the division is still awaiting approval, hopefully before the next renewal cycle.

 [DEN FY26 QTR1.pdf](#)

13. PDMP Report (Presenters: Lisa Sherrell)

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Manager Lisa Sherrell presented the PDMP report for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2025.

Ms. Sherrell provided an overview. There are currently around 10,500 registered PDMP users, but that number does not reflect IHS, VA or Military users as they are tracked separately for administrative purposes so if that is taken into consideration the number is closer to 12,000. The PDMP partners with 23 states, including the military health system. There are a couple of states that data can't be shared with because their systems are not compatible.

There has been a large increase in the number of registered users and the number of patient searches in PDMP. Searches through integrated electronic health records (EHR) are up 85%. If a provider is using EHR and it is not integrated with PDMP, they can go to the PDMP website to find out more about how to do that.

Providers are required to review a patient's chart before prescribing schedule 2 or 3 controlled substances. Providers are not required to report unless they are prescribing more than a 24-hour supply, which most dentists do not.

Overall, there have not been a lot of changes from previous reports except a slight uptick in prescribing schedule 2 and 3 substances, more testosterone being prescribed and a slight increase in out of state pharmacies dispensing to Alaska. The prescription count by age and gender shows that most reported overdoses are males in the 35–55 year-old range.

The board asked about a report they had previously discussed requesting regarding whether dental PDMP registration and usage was making a difference in lowering the number of overdoses and deaths. It seemed there was a struggle with registration and compliance.

Ms. Sherrell said that national data shows drug related overdoses and deaths down 17% but there has been an increase in some western states. It is difficult to isolate data from dental practices because it is typically not defined in reports by user roles. Currently the PDMP is funded by the Statewide Opioid Response grant, and through the CDC's State Overdose to Action grant and those require different types of reporting. There is no longer a \$25 PDMP fee and once that was removed, dental registration went up. The dental board is one of the first to get into the 95% plus compliance ranges, so she believes the effort was worth it. She said that she would work on gathering some data for the dental board.

 [PDMP Q4 2025 - REVISED.pdf](#)

14. ADEX Council Appointment

Megan Ferguson stated that she received additional information from board staff regarding what an appointment to the ADEX Council entails and she would be willing to accept a nomination.

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE appointing Megan Ferguson to the ADEX Council of Examiners

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Newell Walther.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison – Yes, Megan Ferguson – Abstain.

15. Med Spa FAQ (Presenters: Sara Chambers)

Boards and Regulations Advisor Sara Chambers presented the draft of Medical Spa Frequently Asked Questions which the Medical Spa workgroup created. The Med Spa workgroup consists of members from the board of barbers and hairdressers, board of dental examiners (Dr. Michaud), board of nursing, board of pharmacy, board of chiropractic examiners and the state medical board. So far, the FAQ has been presented to each board represented except for the dental board. The workgroup paused meetings this fall due to Administrative Order 360 taking precedence, but they will likely resume meetings soon.

"Medical spa" is not a term specifically recognized in Alaska law but is popularly used to describe a clinic where medical procedures and services may be delivered in a more casual setting. "Medical director" is also a term not specifically found in Alaska law but is considered anyone who has the legal authority to supervise or delegate medical or nursing activities, a physician or physician assist licensed by the Alaska State Medical Board or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed by the Alaska Board of nursing. Dentists would not be considered medical directors because of their scope of practice.

Ms. Chambers reviewed each section of the attached Med Spa FAQs.

Dr. Michaud suggested that the language regarding administering IV hydration, "a dentist may only order and administer prescription substances for use within the practice of dentistry," also be used for the portion of the document addressing Botox usage instead of the existing

language. He stated that there are some dental-related uses for Botox that might be considered aesthetic but that could be related to treating dental issues.

Ms. Chambers made note of the suggestion and thanked him.

A board member asked if the board's position on hygienists administering Botox was in regulation as he believes other states are much more lenient.

Ms. Chambers said that the dental board spent a lot of time in 2024 addressing the topic of Botox and that the department of law was consulted extensively while drafting these FAQ. It is a statement and it does not limit anything further than what the scope of practice for dentistry already contains. If the board wishes to pursue regulation or statute change regarding their scope of practice, they could do so, but they would need to work in conjunction with the Governor's office per new guidance issued.

Ms. Chambers added that the point of the document is to clarify the spider web of existing statutes and regulations among the six boards included and that the department of law has reviewed it to ensure that the language was not misleading before it was sent to any board for review. The purpose is just to explain to the public what the current law says and is being framed in a way that reflects the types of questions the state has been receiving. This is not a proposal to change anything.

The board decided to accept the FAQ with the change in language proposed by Dr. Michaud. Ms. Chambers said that she will revise and have Dr. Michaud review and then once the department is able to publish the FAQ under Administrative Order 360, it will be posted.

 [MedSpa FAQ DRAFT 10-10-25.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to APPROVE the MED SPA FAQ document with the language change recommended by Dr. Michaud

Motion moved by Kenley Michaud and motion seconded by Michael Sanders.

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

Christina Hansen - Yes, Kenley Michaud - Yes, Michael Sanders - Yes, Newell Walther - Yes, Jesse Hronkin - Yes, Traci Elison – Yes, Megan Ferguson - Yes

16. Alaska Dental Society - Radiological workgroup update and request for support for HB273 (Guests: Sean Seigel)

The Alaska Dental Society Director, Sean Siegel addressed the board with an update on the Radiological Health Workgroup which was formed with the Department of Health. The workgroup was formed in response to a letter that the Radiological Health Program put out on July 21, 2025, which seemed to be a call for the dental community to cease and desist using handheld x-ray devices.

There was a collaboration and ultimately a mutual agreement within the workgroup that the FDA approves handheld radiological devices and they are safe to use in Alaska. The health

department has proposed replacing units when primary shields are broken and making sure that equipment is up to the manufacturer's standards and meets the regulatory guidelines of the FDA.

It was clarified that many ADS members believed the annual registration fees funded x-ray inspections but in fact the fees ensure the state maintains an accurate registry of radiation-producing devices and equipment and prevent unnecessary stockpiling that could present safety risks. The fees also support travel and administrative costs for 3 state employees.

Looking ahead, many members of the workgroup plan to work with the state to create training materials for safe usage of handheld x-ray devices. The state will also seek some regulatory changes which would not limit the use of handheld x-ray devices.

He also requested that the board consider supporting the idea of moving regulation of dental x-ray devices back to the board of dental examiners.

Dr. Michaud pointed out that the board had previously discussed doing this during one of their meetings about Administrative Order 360 and agreed to consider changes. Following recent guidance from the Governor's office, this is not a project the board can currently pursue.

17. Break

The board went off record for a break at 3:18 p.m. and returned on record at 3:24 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Members: Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Jesse Hronkin, Kenley Michaud, Michael Sanders, Newell Walther, Traci Elison

**Absent:**

Members: Travis Perkins

18. Correspondence

Reid Bowman addressed the board and specifically new board members to inform them that if they receive correspondence or questions through their personal email or phone it's not their responsibility to respond directly. As part of a professional organization, board members can ask that the matter be routed through the board. If it is a board matter, the public should contact the [boardofdentalexaminers@alaska.gov](mailto:boardofdentalexaminers@alaska.gov).

He then asked if all members had received a recent email from the Governor's office. Not all members had, so he explained that the basic message was that all boards are under the purview of the Governor's office and that they want the boards to remain neutral on statutory items. It points out that those matters should be left more to associations, which is a change from how boards have operated historically. He offered to forward the email to those who did not receive it and asked if there are any questions to ask him.

The board received a request from the Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure to remove the references to "patient-based" clinical licensure examinations from regulations as these are no longer required. Hearing the previous guidance from the governor's office and under

Administrative Order 360, the board cannot currently act but agreed that the language should be removed in the future as manikin examinations are now accepted.

The board received a request for clarification on minimal sedation, specifically what dosage of diazepam is allowed without a sedation permit and if it can be used in conjunction with nitrous oxide.

Dr. Michaud stated that by definition, the dosage of diazepam should be at or below the dosage for unmonitored home usage which can be determined by reading the package insert that comes with the drug. He also said that you can use nitrous oxide with minimal sedation without a permit if the patient is above the age of 13. Should the patient slip into a deeper level of sedation using nitrous and an oral sedative, then guidelines for moderate sedation apply and the procedure would need to be stopped, the patient taken off nitrous and returned to a state of minimal sedation.

Incyte Pathology inquired as to whether an Oral Maxillofacial Pathologist outside Alaska would need an Alaskan license in order to remotely sign out cases. The email states that the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology have a policy that dental specialists do not need to have a license in the state where the patient's specimen has originated but some states do require a license.

The board discussed that a radiologist in another state does not need an Alaska license to read a cone-beam. It was pointed out that in this case, there is an interface between a general dentist or an oral surgeon in Alaska and the oral pathologist. Staff pointed out that board might first want to consider whether they believe the specialist would be practicing within the scope of dentistry. The board agreed that yes, they would be. They discussed telehealth and how you need a license to practice remotely but that those providers are seeing patients themselves.

Dr. Michaud said the board could recommend that doctors sending out samples to obtain pathology reports be judicious in who they send samples to and treat their patients to the best of their ability and leave it in the purview of that dentist. Ultimately, because there are no clear statutes or regulations that the board is aware of, the advice would be for the inquirer to seek legal counsel to help them determine an answer.

The next correspondence was inquiring about cosmetic teeth whitening services in Alaska. Board staff researched this question and there was a statement written by the board about tooth whitening in 2022 but after review, it was advised by the department of law not to issue the statement.

Dr. Walther recalls that the question came up in the past because there were tooth whitening kiosks in the Dimond Mall and there was a question about whether the person could administer the product or have the purchaser administer it themselves at the kiosk. He recalls that the board determined that if you are selling the product, whether you are administering it directly or not, you are a provider in a sense if the product is being used on site but that it could be sold for later use.

Dr. Michaud pointed out that different states were allowing it to be administered but there was a case in North Carolina where board members were individually liable for obstructing trade by saying that it was not allowed.

Mr. Bowman suggested that more research be done into the previous ruling by the law department before the board makes a statement. Board staff will provide information from previous discussions before responding to this question.

A question was submitted as to whether a nurse operating under a plastic surgeon is allowed to administer a dental block injection. The board discussed that it is under the scope of practice of the surgeon to administer the block but whether he can delegate to a nurse is something that would be decided by the medical and nursing boards. The question will be referred to the relevant boards.

19. Select future meeting dates

Dr. Elison noted that some of the correspondence on the agenda is from August or September of 2025, and the board is just now getting to it which she believes makes the board inaccessible. She suggested that to make the board meetings more accessible to the public, the board could adopt a general rule or guidelines to follow such as meetings during every odd month. This would give 5 predictable meeting dates a year.

Some members said that having a set date each odd month would be difficult for them, but they agreed that having at least 3 meetings scheduled is a good idea.

The board already had a meeting scheduled for May 1 and decided on October 5th and December 14th of 2026 for the next meetings.

20. Adjourn

**Motion:**

RESOLVED to ADJOURN the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Board of Dental Examiners meeting.

Motion moved by Christina Hansen and motion seconded by Kenley Michaud.

Motion PASSED via unanimous consent.

The board went off the record at 4:01 pm.