



BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS - May 1, 2026

MINUTES

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
5/1/2026 9:00 AMAKDT

Attendance

Present:

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Kenley Michaud, Travis Perkins, Michael Sanders, Newell Walther

Absent:

Members: Jesse Hronkin

Staff: Sydney Baranov-Kaderman, Occupational Licensing Examiner 3; Rachel Billiet, Program Coordinator 1; Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Stefanie Davis, Regulations Specialist 2
Josh Hardy, Investigator 3

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Christina Hansen. Newell Walther joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

Members: Jesse Hronkin, Travis Perkins, Newell Walther

A. Ethics Report

Chair Hansen asked board members to state any ethics disclosures and asked that those who had any conflicts of interest request recusal.

As a reviewing board member for the application for M.M., Dr. Elison requested and was granted recusal from discussion and voting.

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

B. Review/Approve Agenda

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE agenda as written.

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

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

3. Public Comment

Cory Pickens, CEO of the Academy of Dental and Medical Anesthesia (ADMA) informed the board that he was present and available for questions regarding the sedation course approval before the board for consideration.

Gail Walden addressed the board regarding the proposed board Mission Statement. She stated that there are five professional boards in Alaska which have their own mission statements and 16 boards (including the dental board) that operate under the general mission statement of the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (CBPL). She expressed her belief that operating under the CBPL mission statement is sufficient for the dental board and a separate statement would be redundant as the dental board should reference statutes and regulations when making decisions. She questioned how the board would ensure ethical standards and integrity of licensees as expressed in the proposed mission statement, especially as there are no ethical standards adopted by reference for dental assistants. She suggested editing some repetitive words in the proposed statement should the board vote to adopt it.

4. Member introductions

The board chair asked new members and current members to introduce themselves.

- Dr. Traci Elison has been a board member for one year. She works at SEARHC in Wrangell.
- Dr. Travis Perkins was recently appointed to the board but was not in attendance for an introduction.
- Dr. Michael Sanders was recently appointed to the board. He has worked in Eagle River since 2005. He is originally from Fairbanks and went to dental school in Boston.
- Dr. Jesse Hronkin was not in attendance.
- Dr. Kenley Michaud is a dental anesthesiologist who has been practicing in Alaska since 2014. He completed his dental training at the University of the Pacific in San Francisco and his dental anesthesia training at Loma Linda in Southern California. He came to Alaska after school and started Northern Lights Dental Anesthesia.
- Christina Hansen has been on the board since 2021 and is currently serving her second term. She was appointed as board chair on January 23, 2026. She has been in the dental field since starting as a dental assistant in 1996 and has been practicing as a dental hygienist since 2013.
- Megan Ferguson has been on the board for two years. She is a dental hygienist who has been practicing for 19 years, 14 years in Alaska. She obtained her education in Las Vegas and has experience in education at the school there.
- Dr. Newell Walther was not present for introductions.

5. ADEX information from Stephen Prisby

Stephen Prisby, Regulatory and Educational Affairs Director for the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) requested that documents regarding the merging of the American Dental

Association's (ADA) Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) into the ADEX dental examination be shared at this meeting for the board's information.

He also included a flyer about how to become part of the Council on Examinations. Megan Ferguson and former board member Dr. Dominic Wenzell are already members.

6. Application Reviews

A. Application for Dental License - D. R.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE entering 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 unanimous consent.

The board went off record at 9:17 a.m. Investigator Hardy joined the executive session at 9:19 a.m. The board went back on the record at 9:51 a.m. A quorum was maintained.

Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

Members: Jesse Hronkin, Travis Perkins

The board agreed that Dr. Michaud would draft questions to pose to the applicant to assist the board with deciding on the application for D.R.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE to have board staff ask D.R. for additional information regarding the 2016 case that was disclosed so that the board can review the information in OnBoard.

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

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

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

B. Application for Hygiene License - S.R.

The board reviewed the application for S. R. and determined that because the applicant had not taken the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination, or a board-approved regional examination, and did not graduate from a CODA accredited program, they did not meet regulatory requirements and therefore there was no basis for the dental board to grant a license.

Motion:

RESOLVED to DENY the application for S.R. based on 12 AAC 28.937(b)(7) and (8), and (c)(4).

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

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

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

C. Course approval - ADMA Pediatric Moderate Sedation

Dr. Cory Pickens was present for the discussion and was allowed to speak before the board considered the application.

Dr. Pickens stated that the ADMA course was structured by looking at state requirements and ensuring that the topics and focus of training meet those requirements, specifically 12 AAC 28.027. He pointed out that the course includes a board-certified physician anesthesiologist, a board-certified dental anesthesiologist and a board-certified pediatric dentist. He discussed the rigorous training of the students, in particular regarding emergency situations.

The board discussed that the Alaska pediatric sedation course requirements as they stand outline the minimum the board can accept, but the board has the right to decide if they want to accept the minimum. The board has not previously approved a pediatric sedation course.

It was pointed out that currently there are no national regulations that show teaching pediatric sedation should be done in a 30-hour course.

The board discussed that it has been working to revise the pediatric sedation regulations in accordance with the American Society of Dental Anesthesiologists and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry which are currently collaborating on national standards.

Dr. Michaud stated he does not believe that this course offers enough experience and training for a dentist who may have zero previous pediatric experience to be able to provide IV sedation.

Dr. Elison commented that she has gone through a General Practice Residency and went to a dental practice that placed IVs in three- and four-year-olds. When she

reflected on the experience, she was uncomfortable with this happening without the person providing care attending a CODA approved pediatric sedation course.

Dr. Michaud read an excerpt from his email tabling the application which stated, in part, "in the algorithm provided, over-sedation is not addressed until the patient has stopped breathing, which means the patient has progressed far beyond the level of minimal or moderate sedation. A trainee should be taught how to address oversedation prior to reaching the level of apnea." He also stated that part of the training violates 12 AAC 28.015(c) because trainees are told to use agents that are specifically prohibited and do not maintain a margin of safety wide enough to render unconsciousness unlikely. The course is not Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP) approved. Sedation training should be associated with universities, residency programs, or hospital-based GBR programs.

The board took a short recess at 10:26 a.m. to prepare a motion, and returned on the record at 10:34 a.m.

Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

Members: Jesse Hronkin, Travis Perkins

Motion:

RESOLVED to DENY the application for the ADMA sedation course as it does not meet the requirements of 12 AAC 28.015(c) and 12 AAC 28.027.

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

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

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

D. Application for Dental License - M.M.

Travis Perkins joined at 10:56 a.m. for the specific purpose of considering the application as it had received a tie vote at the March 23, 2026, meeting.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE entering 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.

The board entered executive session at 10:59 a.m. and went back on the record at 11:10 a.m. A quorum was maintained.

As a reviewing board member, Dr. Elison was recused from discussion and voting.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Traci Elison, Megan Ferguson, Christina Hansen, Kenley Michaud, Travis Perkins, Michael Sanders, Newell Walther

Absent:

Members: Jesse Hronkin

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE the application for a dental license for M.M.

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

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

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

Dr. Perkins left the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

7. Investigations Report (Guests: Josh Hardy)

This agenda item was discussed before item 6 D, as the board was waiting on Dr. Perkins for discussion.

Investigator Hardy presented the Investigations Report for the period of March 7, 2026 - April 17, 2026.

There were no questions directly related to the report, but a board member did ask for recommendations on what to do if a patient complains to them about previous treatment from another dentist, but the patient does not want to report the incident.

Investigator Hardy stated that the division does not accept anonymous complaints because they cannot be substantiated. The allegations should be able to be proved or disproved.

However, he said that it would be encouraged that the dentist receiving the complaint contact Investigations and report it. Whether the investigation would be able to move forward or not with just the secondhand information relayed to the dentist by the anonymous patient is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Investigations qualifies for certain HIPAA exemptions and it is possible to request records without patient consent if there is a concern for violation.

8. Mission Statement

On February 7, 2025, at the Board of Dental Examiners meeting, Chair Jonathan Woller introduced the idea of the board adopting a mission statement to be read at the beginning of board meetings.

The veterinary board's mission statement had been sent via email to board members for comment. Dr. Elison suggested the following language:

"The Alaska State Dental Board of Examiners' mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public in the oral health care setting. We aim to provide Alaskans access to quality oral health services by ensuring practitioners are clinically competent, abide by high ethical standards, and act with integrity when they deliver services to consumers."

The board considered Ms. Walden's earlier public comment and clarified with her that her concerns were that the mission statement was not necessary, she was unsure how the board could ensure integrity of licenses, and that there was repetitive language in the statement which should be revised.

Board staff stated that the mission statement itself would not be legally binding or change anything about the board and how it operates. The board would still operate under the mission statement of the division.

Ms. Walden asked if the statement would be put out for public comment. Board staff said that the board is not required to put a mission statement out for public comment, but that if a public member wishes to comment on the statement after its adoption, they are welcome to do so during the comment period at the next meeting.

Due to the agenda, the board decided to break for lunch and resume discussion as time allowed.

9. Lunch

The board adjourned for lunch at 11:31 a.m. and returned on the record at 12:08 p.m.

Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

Members: Jesse Hronkin, Travis Perkins

10. AO 360 Update/Discussion (Guests: Stefanie Davis)

Regulations Specialist Stefanie Davis joined the meeting to guide the board and answer questions about the process of starting a regulations process.

The division has approved boards to start working on priority one items from the approved AO360 regulatory reform plan from the Governor's office. The dental board's priority one items are all repeals of regulations.

The board was informed they would need to discuss language and categorize the reasons for each regulation change and fill out a project opening questionnaire (POQ) for each category. Board staff have separate questionnaires they must also complete.

The questionnaires, along with the meeting minutes for today, will then be submitted to Stefanie to craft language which will be sent to the Department of Law. If there are substantial changes made by Law, those changes would be returned to the board for approval. Once any changes are approved, there will be a public notice sent and the process for regulation changes will be followed as usual.

The board discussed priority one items and sorted the reasons for changes into three categories: outdated regulations, ease of government interaction, and clarity/redundancy. The board identified three members to assign the POQs to, Dr. Michaud, Dr. Walther, and Dr. Elison.

Assignments were as follows:

Dr. Michaud – Outdated regulations

12 AAC 28.015 (e)(2)(A)

12 AAC 28.015 (e)(2)(B)

12 AAC 28.015 (j) (entire subsection j)

Dr. Walther – Ease of government interaction

12 AAC 28.025

12 AAC 28.027

12 AAC 28.060 (e)(8)(B)

12 AAC 28.060 (e)(8)(C)

Dr. Elison – Clarity/redundancy

12 AAC 28.010 (d)(2)

12 AAC28.010(d)(3)

12 AAC 28.080 (a)(1)

12 AAC 28.080 (a)(2)

12 AAC 28.080 (a)(3)

12 AAC 28.080 (a)(4)

12 AAC 28.080 (a)(5)

12 AAC 28.080 (a)(6)

The board had previously decided to combine 12 AAC 28.080(a) and 12 AAC 28.080(a)(7) into one but this was not included in the regulatory reform plan. Board staff asked Stefanie if that could still be included in the POQ and she stated that the guidance is not yet clear but that the board may be able to argue that it is directly related to the approved changes. If it were something unrelated to the approved plan, the board would need to start a regulations waiver request.

Board staff also stated that a member of the public made a comment at the March 23, 2026, meeting that she thought the February 10, 2026, meeting minutes were incorrect because they didn't specifically reference discussion of regulation 12 AAC 28.330 APPROVAL OF COURSE OF INSTRUCTION being repealed. The board voted on and approved those meeting minutes, which are not intended to be an exact transcript, but staff did want to make the board aware that the referenced regulation did not make it on the approved AO 360 plan.

Because 12 AAC 28.330 was not counted as a discretionary requirement in the count received by the board from the division, it would not have counted towards a regulatory reduction. It was included in the plan submitted by board staff to the division but was ultimately not included in the plan approved by the Governor's office. Board staff will investigate options to see if this repeal can be added to the plan or if a waiver request is needed.

The board took a brief recess for board staff to create a motion to present for a vote. The board went off the record at 1:01 p.m. and returned at 1:09 p.m.

Attendance

Present:

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

Absent:

Members: Jesse Hronkin, Travis Perkins

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE initiating a regulations project regarding Administrative Order 360 priority one projects by approving the following regulations for public comment unless substantive changes are made by the regulations specialist or the Department of Law.

12 AAC 28.010

12 AAC 28.015

12 AAC 28.025

12 AAC 28.027

12 AAC 28.030

12 AAC 28.080

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

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

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

11. Break

12. Continuing Education Requirements for Sedation Permit Renewals

Dr. Sanders had emailed board staff regarding a continuing education (CE) course on sedation that he had taken and asked if it would be accepted by the board even though it was not PACE approved. Board staff did research on whether a licensee could apply for course approval when the application for course approval is for course providers and it does not appear that a pathway for an individual to apply for course approval currently exists. Board staff found that regulations do not specifically state that sedation CE must be approved by the ADA, PACE, or other organization therefore the question was brought before the board.

Board members interpreted the regulations as implying that all CE would fall under the same stipulations as CE for dentists and hygienists as outlined in 12 AAC 28.400-420.

Board staff suggested that the board could consult with the Department of Law for a legal opinion if they wished. The board agreed that this consultation would cost money and in the interest of being good stewards of funding, did not wish to pursue this option.

The board ultimately agreed that they will address sedation CE matters individually for the time being.

13. Annual Report

The board completed their Annual Report during this meeting for the period of July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. It will be turned into the division by June 30, 2026 and available on the division website.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE the 2026 Annual Report as written.

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

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

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

Mission statement (agenda item 8) resumed.

The board returned to the topic of a mission statement and drafted the following:

It is the mission of the Alaska State Dental Board of Examiners to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Alaskans by ensuring that dental practitioners possess and maintain a level of skill and knowledge necessary to provide safe, competent, professional services to patients, and to protect the public from dental practitioners who pose a risk to the public's health, safety and welfare.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE the Board of Dental Examiners Mission statement as written.

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

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

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

14. HB 197

Board staff informed members that House Bill 197, which was introduced by Rep. Tomaszewski in April of 2025, has not been heard by any committees since. If it does not pass during the current legislative session, it will die and need to be reintroduced during the 2027/2028 session.

HB197 was a bill that included the creation of an Executive Administrator position for the Dental Board, allowed the authority for the board to impose civil fines for dental practice owners, and changed the language in AS 08.32.014(a) to omit the phrase "of at least two years duration."

Following feedback during the public comment period, at a meeting on September 26, 2025, the board voted to change the deletion of the language in AS 08.32.014(a) as previously approved and proposed the language "curriculum that includes two academic years of fulltime instruction or its equivalent." The board authorized legislative liaisons Drs. Greg Johnson and Dominic Wenzell to communicate this change to Rep. Tomaszewski's office. To board staff's knowledge, the change was not relayed to the representative's office by the liaisons.

If the board wishes to continue to pursue this change, due to recent guidance from the Governor's Legislative Office (GLO), the board cannot seek a sponsor themselves to reintroduce this bill next session. They will need to submit the original request for legislative sponsorship along with a new request to the GLO to seek a sponsor for next session. Board staff received guidance that if the board wants to do this, they will need to do it this summer.

The board discussed continuing pursuit of this bill but ultimately decided that they would hold a special meeting to confirm the board's wishes going forward.

Board staff will work on scheduling a meeting as soon as possible while still allowing for public notice. Previous public comments will be included in the board packet for the upcoming meeting.

Continuing Education Requirements for Sedation Permit Renewals (agenda item 12) discussion resumed.

Board staff suggested that an official position regarding continuing education be proposed for a vote.

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE it is the boards position the continuing education requirements under 12 AAC 28.400-420 apply to all continuing education, including continuing education for sedation permits, until updated language is created in regulation.

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

Motion PASSED via roll call vote.

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

15. Meeting Dates - Select first 2027 date.

The board selected a tentative meeting date of March 8, 2027, for the first meeting of 2027.

Application for D.R. (agenda item 6 A.) resumed.

Dr. Michaud presented the following questions for board staff to pose to applicant D.R.

1. Please provide an anesthesia record from the disclosed case.
2. Please include your office notes, ICU notes, and notes from the cardiologist would be helpful as we review this case.
3. Please provide a more in-depth explanation of symptoms and treatment for the disclosed case.
4. What have you done to learn from this case?
5. What additional education have you undergone to make sure an outcome like this does not occur again?

16. Adjourn

Motion:

RESOLVED to APPROVE adjourning the May 1, 2026 Board of Dental Examiners meeting.

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

Motion PASSED via unanimous consent.

The board went off the record at 2:43 p.m.

DRAFT