

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 *These are DRAFT minutes prepared by staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional*
10 *Licensing. They have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.*
11

12 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a quarterly meeting
13 of the Alaska State Medical Board was held Friday, August 22, 2025.
14

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

16 The meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor at 8:30 a.m.
17

18 Chair Taylor introduced Dr. McDonough as a recently appointed board member. Dr. McDonough is from
19 the Mat-Su area and practices as a cardiologist.
20

21 Chair Taylor announced that Dr. Heilala has declared his candidacy for the position of Governor and that
22 Dr. Heilala's role and service on the Medical Board is a separate matter from his role as a candidate for
23 Governor. Regarding this matter, Chair Taylor advised that the Board will be monitoring for potential
24 conflicts of interest and adhering to the Executive Branch Ethics Act.
25

26 **Roll Call**

27 Board members present:

28 David Barnes, DO
29 Matt Heilala, DPM
30 Ryan McDonough, DO
31 David Paulson, MD
32 Brent Taylor, MD (Chair)
33 David Wilson, Public Member
34

35 Staff present: Sara Chambers, Assistant to the Commissioner, Kendra Wardlaw, Senior Investigator,
36 Jessie Aaron, Investigator, Shelley Irons, Investigator, Karina Medina, Probation Monitor, Natalie
37 Norberg, Executive Administrator; Jason Kaeser, Licensing Supervisor, Jacob Olsen, Licensing Examiner,
38 Alisa Perkins, Licensing Examiner
39

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

41 Chair Taylor acknowledged the large number of members of the public participating in today's meeting
42 including many individuals who indicated during pre-registration that they wished to provide public
43 comments. Due to this, he recommended amending the agenda to increase the allocated time for
44 public comment from 10 to 20 minutes.
45

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 adopt the agenda as presented but with additional time allocated for public comment as recommended.

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

3. Review/Approval of Minutes

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

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

4. Ethics Disclosures

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

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

5. Public Comments

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

Name	Nature of Comment
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.

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.

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

2
3 • **Proposal concerning Medical Assistants**

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

5
6 **b. Board Statement/New Regulation Project**

7 • **Statement on Late Term Abortion**

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

15
16 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**
17 **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to approve the statement concerning late-term**
18 **abortion as presented.**

19
20 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

21
22 • **New Regulation Project - Treatment of Gender Dysphoria in Minors**

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

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

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

41 Mr. Wilson acknowledged all the emails and correspondence to the Board, adding that "It's really
42 important to have public engagement." Mr. Wilson advised that the concern regarding the treatment of
43 gender dysphoria in minors was brought to the Board over a year ago by members of the public. He
44 stated, "We are acting on that concern. We did a tremendous amount of research to validate that
45 concern." Mr. Wilson further stated, "This is not politically driven. This is not politically motivated."
46 Mr. Wilson concluded by encouraging the public to stay engaged and stating that the Board is interested
47 in public input.

48 The draft language for this regulation change was reviewed.

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

3
4 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**
5 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the draft language as presented to regulation**
6 **12 AAC 40.967; to initiate a regulation change project and to approve this project for public**
7 **comment pending a legal review with no substantive changes recommended.**
8

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

11 Ms. Sara Chambers was recognized by the Chair to provide an overview of the regulation adoption
12 process and to clarify that there will be future opportunities for the public to comment. Ms. Chambers
13 explained that the proposed regulation change, approved by the Board today, will go to the Dept. of Law
14 to be properly formatted and then it will go out for public comments for 30 or more days. This notice
15 will be on the online public notice system. There is usually an opportunity through the Board's website
16 to sign up for alerts so you can stay abreast of this topic. During that 30-day period, the public may
17 submit written comments to the Board. The Board may also determine if they want to hold an oral
18 hearing. After the comments are received the Board is obliged by law to consider those comments and
19 determine whether additional changes need to be made to the language of the regulation. If those
20 changes are substantive, it would go out for more public comment. If there are no changes or not
21 substantive changes, the Board can move forward with adoption, or it can abandon the project
22 altogether. The public is encouraged to be engaged, to sign up for alerts and to check the online public
23 notice system.
24

25 **7. New Business**

26 **• Definition of Written Prescriptions**

27 Chair Taylor requested Ms. Norberg introduce this topic. Ms. Norberg explained that this matter
28 originated from a request for the Board to provide clarification and guidance regarding the
29 requirements for physician assistants when they prescribe, and specifically for the Board to provide a
30 definition for a "written prescription." The proposed definition would define "written prescription" as
31 meaning a prescription written on a paper document that has been in the control of a patient prior to
32 being submitted to a pharmacy for the purpose of dispensing medication. A prescription written on a
33 piece of paper by a physician assistant would be subject to the requirements outlined in regulation 12
34 AAC 40.450 (i); whereas a prescription transmitted electronically directly to a pharmacy from a physician
35 assistant would be exempt from these requirements. Chair Taylor observed that the request seemed
36 straightforward and invited board members to comment on the proposed definition. There were no
37 comments.
38

39 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**
40 **the Alaska State Medical Board approved the definition of "written prescription" as proposed, to**
41 **clarify the prescribing procedures for physician assistants.**
42

43 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson
44

45 **• Request for Record Expungement**

46 Chair Taylor advised that Dr. Fisch submitted a request to the Board to have a disciplinary action from
47 1997 expunged for her licensing record. He recommended moving into executive session to discuss the
48 matter.

1
2 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**
3 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS**
4 **44.62.310(c)(3), for the purpose of discussing case # 2850-97-16, with Board staff remaining**
5 **during the session.**

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

9 The Board went off the record at 9:41 a.m. and returned on the record at 9:46 a.m.
10

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 accepted the order to rescind the public reprimand and**
13 **expunge the 1997 disciplinary action from Alaska's licensing database in case number 2850-**
14 **97-16.**

15
16 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson
17

18 Chair Taylor acknowledged Kendra Wardlaw, Senior Investigator who advised the Board that the
19 National Practitioner Databank does not allow actions to be removed from the database once they have
20 been entered, however a respondent does have the option to provide a rebuttal to an entry.
21

22 **8. Break**

23 The Board went off the record for a break at 9:47 a.m. and returned on the record at 10:07 a.m.
24

25 **9. Full Board Review**

26 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**
27 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS**
28 **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions for the purpose of**
29 **discussing the following individuals' applications for licensure with Board staff remaining**
30 **during the entire session:**

- 31
- 32 • **Michael Fruchter, MD**
- 33 • **Jeffrey Graham, MD**
- 34 • **Sheryar Khan, DO**
- 35 • **Anita Powell, PA**
- 36

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

39 The Board went off the record at 10:08 a.m. and returned on the record at 10:21 a.m.
40

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

44
45 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
46

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

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

6 7 **10. Malpractice Cases**

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)(3), with board staff Natalie Norberg and Jason Kaeser remaining in the session and all others**
12 **excluded from the session for the purpose of discussing malpractice cases involving the following**
13 **practitioners:**

14 Alfonso Urdaneta-Moncada, MD

15 Amit Sanghi, DO

16 Beatrice Brooks, MD

17 Timothy Peterson, MD

18 David Marks, MD

19 Edward Prince, MD

20 Emily Lampe, MD

21 John Keitz, DO

22 Marius Pakalniskis, MD

23 Muneer Desai, MD

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

25
26 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**
27 **Alaska State Medical Board decided to take no further action with respect to the malpractice**
28 **cases related to: Alfonso Urdaneta-Moncada, MD, Amit Sanghi, DO, Beatrice Brooks, MD,**
29 **Timothy Peterson, MD, David Marks, MD, Edward Prince, MD, Emily Lampe, MD John Keitz,**
30 **DO and Marius Pakalniskis, MD**

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

33
34 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**
35 **Alaska State Medical Board decided to request the Executive Administrator draft a non-**
36 **disciplinary advisory letter related to the malpractice cases involving Muneer Desai, MD.**

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

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

42
43 The Board went off the record for a break at 10:44 a.m. and returned on the record at 10:50 a.m.

1 **Investigations**

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

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

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

11 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Barnes and approved by a roll call vote,**
12 **the Alaska State Medical Board adopted the order for a license surrender in case# 2024-001176.**
13

14 Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, and Mr. Wilson
15 Abstained: Dr. Heilala and Dr. Taylor
16

17 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**
18 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310**
19 **(c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2024-000220 with board and investigative staff**
20 **remaining in the session and the reviewing board member abstaining from the session.**
21

22 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
23

24 The Board went off the record at 11:04 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:12a.m.
25

26 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**
27 **the Alaska State Medical Board adopted the order for a consent agreement, decision and board**
28 **order as presented in case# 2024-000220.**
29

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

33 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**
34 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310**
35 **(c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2024-000373 with board and investigative staff**
36 **remaining in the session.**
37

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

40 The Board went off the record at 11:16 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:34 a.m.
41

42 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Barnes and denied by a roll call vote, the**
43 **Alaska State Medical Board rejected the decision and order as presented in case# 2024-00373.**
44

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

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

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

7
8 The Board went off the record at 11:38 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:47 a.m.

9
10 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Heilala and approved by a roll call vote,**
11 **the Alaska State Medical Board granted Dr. Dolf Ichtertz a full license.**

12
13 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, and Mr. Wilson
14 Abstained, Dr. Taylor

15
16 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote,**
17 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310**
18 **(c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2022-000233-Prb with board and investigative staff**
19 **remaining in the session.**

20
21 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

22
23 The Board went off the record at 11:50 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:54 a.m.

24
25 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and denied by a roll call vote, the**
26 **Alaska State Medical Board rejected the request to modify the Board Order and grant an early**
27 **release in case# 2022-000233-Prb.**

28
29 Nays, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson

30
31 Kendra Wardlaw expressed appreciation for Dr. Heilala's time and dedication to the Board and the
32 Division, acknowledging that he reviewed many cases. Others, including Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and
33 Shelley Irons also expressed appreciation to Dr. Heilala.

34
35 **11. Lunch Break**

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

37
38 **12. Interview**

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

40
41 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by roll call vote,**
42 **the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS**
43 **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions for the purpose of**
44 **discussing Dr. Jacob Stephenson's application for licensure with Dr. Stephenson remaining for**
45 **part of the session and Board staff to remain during the entire session.**

46
47 Roll call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Dr. McDonough, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
48

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

2
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 granted Dr. Jacob Stephenson a full medical license.**

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

7
8 **13. Investigations Update** (moved to earlier in the agenda)

9
10 **14. Request for reconsideration of Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Rep. Prax informed the Board that he is working on a bill to increase the scope of naturopaths and that
2 he is particularly interested in moving forward with giving naturopaths more authority to work; and he
3 would appreciate the Board's thoughts on that bill.
4

5 **15. Wrap up/Adjourn**
6

7 It was announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.
8

9 Dr. Taylor thanked everyone for the positive comments throughout the meeting and for keeping the
10 meeting civil despite a contentious topic addressed earlier in the day.
11

12 Dr. Taylor and other board members once again thanked Dr. Heilala for his service and time on the
13 Board.
14

15 The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:14 p.m.