

1 STATE OF ALASKA  
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS, AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
4

5 STATE MEDICAL BOARD  
6 MINUTES OF MEETING  
7 Thursday, February 26, 2026  
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 Thursday, February 26, 2026  
14

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

17 The meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor at 12:03 p.m.  
18

19 **Roll Call**

20 Board members present:

21 David Barnes, DO  
22 Michael McNamara, MD  
23 Brent Taylor, MD (Chair)  
24 David Wilson, Public Member  
25 Lee Walker, PA  
26

27 Absent: David Paulson, MD  
28

29 Staff present: Sylvan Robb, Director, Glenn Saviers, Deputy Director, Jessie Aaron, Investigator, Natalie  
30 Norberg, Executive Administrator; Jason Kaeser, Licensing Supervisor.  
31

32 Mr. Walker was welcomed as a new member of the Board. He noted that he resides in Wrangell and has  
33 served as a physician assistant for 27 years, practicing in several states and, most recently, in Alaska for  
34 the past 2.5 years.  
35

36 **2. Election of Officers / Delegations**  
37

38 **On a motion duly made by Dr. McNamara, seconded by Dr. Barnes, and approved by roll call**  
39 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to re-elect Dr. Taylor to be Board Chair and to**  
40 **elect David Wilson to be the Board Secretary.**  
41

42 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Walker  
43 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
44

45 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Barnes, and approved by roll call vote,**  
46 **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to delegate Chair Taylor as the legislative liaison until**  
47 **the end of May 2026, at such time Dr. McNamara will take over the role of legislative liaison.**

1  
2 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Walker  
3 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
4

5 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. McNamara, and approved by roll call**  
6 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to designate to Natalie Norberg, Executive**  
7 **Administrator, the authority to serve as the board’s designee to perform any duties that may**  
8 **be delegated under AS 08.64 and to approve applicants for full licensure so long as the**  
9 **applicant has a complete application and no “yes” answers to professional fitness questions.**

10  
11 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Walker  
12 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
13

14 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**  
15 **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to designate Jason Kaeser, Licensing Examiner 3, the**  
16 **authority, to issue temporary permits to applicants who meet the regulatory requirements for**  
17 **a temporary permit.**

18  
19 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Walker  
20 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
21

### 22 **3. Review / Approval of Agenda**

23  
24 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**  
25 **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to adopt the agenda as presented.**

26  
27 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Walker  
28 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
29

### 30 31 **4. Review/Approval of Minutes**

32 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**  
33 **the Alaska State Medical Board approved the minutes for the August 22, 2025, September 18,**  
34 **2025, December 18, 2025, and January 15, 2026, meetings as presented.**

35  
36 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Walker  
37 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
38

### 39 **5. Ethics Disclosures**

40  
41 Dr. McNamara declared a conflict regarding Elisha Powell, a physician whose malpractice settlement  
42 case is scheduled for review on today’s agenda. Dr. McNamara explained that Dr. Powell works in a  
43 competing group and they share patient referrals, though they are not personal friends. Dr. Taylor  
44 approved Dr. McNamara’s recusal from all decision-making related to Dr. Powell.  
45

46 No other ethics disclosures were made by Board members.  
47

### 48 **6. Old business**

1 • **Final approval related to the elimination of outdated language in telemedicine regulation**

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 adopted the proposed regulations for file number 2024200569**  
5 **as proposed and publicly noticed. Board members acknowledged receiving and reading the**  
6 **public comments received on the proposed changes.**

7  
8 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson

9 Absent: Dr. Paulson

10  
11 **7. Public Comments**

12 Dr. Sean Dunleavy requested to address the board. Dr. Dunleavy advised that he has submitted a  
13 proposal to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and is requesting the Medical Board’s support for  
14 a regulated, permit-based system that would allow Alaskans to possess venomous reptiles. He explained  
15 that he represents a small group of reptile enthusiasts in Alaska, with an even smaller number who have  
16 an interest in or experience with venomous species. He stated that the group is seeking a Board  
17 statement indicating that a well-regulated, permit-based system for possessing venomous reptiles  
18 would not pose a public health risk. Dr. Dunleavy noted that he has lived in both Pennsylvania and  
19 Florida, which represent some of the least and most restrictive regulatory environments for venomous  
20 reptiles, and that both states use permit systems without significant public health concerns. He also  
21 commented that Alaska’s environmental conditions would limit the risk posed by any escaped animals.  
22 Dr. Dunleavy reiterated that the group is requesting a statement from the Board affirming that, with  
23 appropriate regulations, permitting Alaskans to possess venomous reptiles would not create a public  
24 health risk.

25  
26 **8. Division Update**

27 Director Robb was invited to address the Board. Director Robb introduced the Rural Health  
28 Transformation Program and reported that the Alaska Department of Health (DOH) has received a  
29 substantial federal grant to improve health-care infrastructure and delivery in the state. As part of the  
30 grant application, the DOH committed that Alaska would join five interstate licensure compacts—  
31 covering physicians, physician assistants, nurses, psychologists, and EMTs—by the end of 2027. Failure  
32 to join these compacts would result in a portion of the grant award being clawed back.

33 Director Robb stated that the division is requesting that the Board not actively oppose the compacts,  
34 which were introduced last week as House Bill 352. She acknowledged the Board’s previous opposition  
35 to interstate medical licensure but clarified that the division is not seeking Board support for HB 352,  
36 only neutrality.

37 Mr. Wilson stated that he remains opposed to the medical licensure compact and questioned whether  
38 the public has had sufficient opportunity to provide input. It was explained by Director Robb, that  
39 online events discussing the funding and potential uses have been attended by more than 2,000  
40 participants, and efforts to gather public input are ongoing. It was further noted that the decision to join  
41 interstate licensure compacts rests with the legislature, and the public is encouraged to participate in  
42 the legislative process.

43  
44 **9. New Business**

45 **a. Students with Traumatic Brain Injuries – Return to School Accommodation Act**

46 Mr. Wilson was invited to introduce this topic to the Board. Mr. Wilson explained that he has had some  
47 conversations with Melissa McCart, (Center on Brain Injury Research and Training, University of Oregon)  
48 who has been working with students in rural Alaska who have suffered traumatic brain injury. According

1 to her data, a large majority of individuals in the justice system and many experiencing homelessness  
2 have a history of TBI. She is collaborating with local school systems to identify students with TBI,  
3 provide academic and behavioral accommodations during recovery, and reduce misdiagnosis or  
4 misunderstanding of TBI-related behavior. Without proper support, students with TBI are at higher risk  
5 of dropping out, entering the justice system, or facing long-term barriers to employment. Ms. McCart  
6 asked for support of legislation that would help schools provide appropriate accommodation for  
7 students with TBI, enabling them to stay in school, receive needed services, and successfully graduate.

8 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**  
9 **the Alaska State Medical Board directed the Executive Administrator to work with the Board**  
10 **Chair to draft a letter of support to legislators for the implementation of a Return to School**  
11 **Accommodation Act for the temporary and immediate accommodation of students with**  
12 **traumatic brain injuries.**

13  
14 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
15 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
16

17 **b. Venomous Reptiles – Request to support ADFG regulations**

18 Chair Taylor reported that the Board received a request to advocate for the Department of Fish and  
19 Game to amend its regulations to allow personal possession of venomous reptiles in Alaska. The request  
20 also asked the Board to take the position that permitting such possession would not pose a public health  
21 risk. Chair Taylor noted that it would be difficult for the Board to assess potential public health impacts  
22 without first reviewing the proposed regulatory changes and the complete list of species under  
23 consideration. Board members Dr. McNamara and Dr. Barnes expressed concerns about the request.  
24 They highlighted the potential for disease transmission from reptiles, in addition to risks associated with  
25 venomous species, and raised questions about the cost and availability of antivenom in the state.

26 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**  
27 **the Alaska State Medical Board tabled a decision with respect to taking a position on the**  
28 **potential public health risk for the personal ownership of venomous reptiles in Alaska until**  
29 **proposed regulations are drafted by the Dept. of Fish and Game and submitted for public**  
30 **comment.**

31  
32 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
33 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
34

35 **c. Discussion regarding HB294 – Board Regulation of Genetic Counseling**

36 Evan Anderson, staff to Representative Fields, was invited to provide an overview of the bill. In essence  
37 the bill provides for a licensure process for genetic counselors in Alaska, establishing a scope of practice  
38 and minimum qualifications for licensure. The bill also establishes the Medical Board as the licensing  
39 authority over genetic counselors and creates a genetic counseling advisory board under the Medical  
40 Board. Representative Fields was also present and invited to address the board. Rep. Fields highlighted  
41 genetic counselors as being valuable members of a health care team and without licensure, their  
42 services are not reimbursable. He believes this bill will improve the quality and efficiency of health care.

1 Board members expressed support for Genetic Counselors obtaining licensure in Alaska and noted that  
2 they are not opposed to this profession being licensed and regulated in the state. However, they also  
3 emphasized concerns about the significant demands already placed on board members, who devote  
4 numerous hours each week serving as expert consultants on investigative cases and carrying out other  
5 responsibilities. Board members feel they do not have the capacity to take on the responsibility of  
6 regulating a new profession.

7  
8 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by roll call vote,**  
9 **the Alaska State Medical Board directed the Executive Administrator to work with the Board**  
10 **Chair to draft a letter regarding the board's position on HB 293 and SB 248 as discussed, with**  
11 **the final draft of the letter to be reviewed and approved by board members through Onboard.**

12  
13 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
14 Absent: Dr. Paulson

## 15 16 **10. Investigations**

17  
18 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**  
19 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS**  
20 **44.62.310 (c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2025-000095 with board and investigative**  
21 **staff remaining in the session. (There was no reviewing board member assigned to this case.)**

22  
23 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
24 Absent: Dr. Paulson

25  
26 The Board went off the record at 1:22 p.m. and returned on the record at 1:26 p.m.

27  
28 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**  
29 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board adopted the order for a license surrender in case# 2025-**  
30 **000095.**

31  
32 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
33 Absent: Dr. Paulson

34  
35 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call**  
36 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS**  
37 **44.62.310 (c)(2), for the purpose of discussing case# 2025-000439 with board and investigative**  
38 **staff remaining in the session and the reviewing board member abstaining from the session.**

39  
40 The Board went off the record at 1:28 p.m. and returned on the record at 1:33 p.m.

41  
42 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. McNamara and approved by a roll call**  
43 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to grant Dr. Adam Fitzgerald a full license as**  
44 **presented in case# 2025-000439.**

45 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
46 Abstained: Dr. Taylor  
47 Absent: Dr. Paulson

1  
2 **11. Malpractice Cases**  
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 entered into executive session in accordance with AS**  
6 **44.62.310 (c)(3), with board staff remaining in the session and all others excluded from the**  
7 **session for the purpose of discussing malpractice cases involving the following practitioners:**  
8

- 9
- 10 • **Mark Eichler, MD**
  - 11 • **Patrick Eitter, MD**
  - 12 • **Sandra Ewasko, MD**
  - 13 • **Joel Lin, DO**
  - 14 • **Elisha Powell, MD**
  - 15 • **Colin Thompson, MD**
  - 16 • **Zhanna Tsukerman, MD**
  - 17 • **Evan Wolf, MD**

18 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
19 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
20

21 The Board went off the record at 1:36 p.m. and returned on the record at 1:53 a.m.  
22

23 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**  
24 **Alaska State Medical Board decided to take no further action with respect to the malpractice**  
25 **cases related to: Mark Eichler, Patrick Eitter, Sandra Ewasko, Joel Lin, and Colin Thompson.**  
26

27 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
28 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
29

30 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**  
31 **Alaska State Medical Board decided to take no further action with respect to the malpractice**  
32 **case related to Elisha Powell.**  
33

34 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
35 Abstained: Dr. McNamara  
36 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
37

38 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**  
39 **Alaska State Medical Board decided request the Executive Administrator draft a non-**  
40 **disciplinary advisory letter for the practice case related to Dr. Evan Wolf.**

41 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
42 Absent: Dr. Paulson  
43  
44

1           **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**  
2           **Alaska State Medical Board decided to refer the malpractice case involving Dr. Tsukerman to**  
3           **the Investigations unit for the purpose of gathering additional information.**  
4

5           Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
6           Absent: Dr. Paulson  
7

## 8   **12. Interview**

9   Dr. Corey Meyers requested to have his interview conducted in an executive session.  
10

11           **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by roll call vote,**  
12           **the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS**  
13           **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions for the purpose of**  
14           **discussing Dr. Corey Meyers' application for licensure with Dr. Meyer remaining for part of the**  
15           **session and the Board and Board staff to remain during the entire session.**  
16

17           Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
18           Absent: Dr. Paulson  
19

20           The Board went off the record at 2:00 p.m. and returned on the record at 2:28 p.m.  
21

22           **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by roll call vote,**  
23           **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to deny a license to Dr. Meyer in accordance with AS**  
24           **08.64.240(b); AS 08.64.326 (a) (2) (8)(A), (13) and 12 AAC 40.017. It was cited that Dr. Meyer**  
25           **had his license to practice medicine revoked in New York in 2012 on the basis of**  
26           **incompetence, negligence, and practicing fraudulently; his licenses in Alaska and**  
27           **Massachusetts were subsequently revoked.**  
28

29   Board members acknowledged Dr. Meyers' compassion and sincere dedication to patient care.  
30   However, they expressed concern regarding his absence from clinical practice over the past 12 years.  
31   This was noted as an additional issue, alongside the previously cited reasons that resulted in the  
32   revocation of his license in three states.  
33

34           Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
35           Absent: Dr. Paulson  
36

## 37   **15. Wrap up/Adjourn**

38   It was announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 4:00 p.m.  
39  
40

41   The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:34 p.m.