

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 April 16, 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 meeting of the  
13 Alaska State Medical Board was held on Thursday, April 16, 2026.  
14

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

16 The meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor at 4:07 p.m.  
17

18 **Roll Call**

19 Board members present:

20 Brent Taylor, MD, Chair

21 David Barnes, DO

22 Dave Paulson, MD

23 Lee Walker, PA

24 David Wilson, Public Member

25 Absent: Michael McNamara, MD (Excused)  
26

27 State employees present: Sylvan Robb, CBPL Director; Glenn Saviers, CBPL Deputy Director; Natalie  
28 Norberg, Executive Administrator, State Medical Board; Jason Kaeser, CBPL Licensing Supervisor;  
29 Kendra Wardlaw, CBPL Senior Investigator; Rebecca Hatton, AAG  
30

31 **2. Review / Approval of Agenda**  
32

33 **On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Alaska State Medical**  
34 **Board approved the agenda as presented.**  
35

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

38 **3. Ethics Disclosures**

39 Chair Taylor requested to have board members queried regarding any potential financial or personal  
40 conflicts to declare. There were no ethical disclosures made by any board members.  
41

42 **4. New Business**

43 **A) Physical Therapy Scope and Primary Care - Guest Jonathan Gates**

44 The Physical Therapy Scope Modernization Work Group, represented by Jonathan Gates, briefed the  
45 Board on proposed statutory changes to update the scope of practice for physical therapists. A key  
46 proposal would allow physical therapists to act as primary care providers for the purpose of accepting  
47 patient self-referrals, improving access—especially in rural areas—and expanding insurance billing  
48 options. Gates emphasized that modern PT education includes differential-diagnosis training, but  
49 current Alaska law prevents PTs from practicing to that level. Dr. Paulson raised concerns that the term

1 “primary care provider” may imply physician-level diagnostic authority and recommended using a more  
2 precise title, such as “Primary Care Allied Health Professional” or “Primary Care Physical Therapy  
3 Provider.” Gates clarified that the intent is not to equate PT training with that of physicians.  
4

#### 5 **B) Board member workload discussion**

6 Mr. Wilson initiated the discussion by expressing concern regarding the substantial and  
7 unsustainable workload placed on physician board members responsible for reviewing investigative  
8 cases. He suggested exploring the possibility of contracting a nurse or a retired healthcare  
9 professional to assist with case review responsibilities. Ms. Wardlaw provided an overview of  
10 investigative caseload data. She noted that although the number of medically related investigative  
11 cases has remained relatively consistent over the past seven years, the complexity of these cases, as  
12 well as the frequency with which they proceed to litigation, appears to be increasing. This trend may  
13 be contributing to higher investigative and legal expenditures. Investigators are assigning an  
14 average of 8.5 to 10 cases per month to members for review. Due to existing board vacancies and  
15 some members not accepting case assignments, the distribution of cases has resulted in a significant  
16 workload burden on the remaining members. Proposed license fee increases were presented to  
17 address the rising investigative and legal costs and to support the potential engagement of a  
18 consultant to assist the board with case reviews. Board members were invited to provide feedback  
19 and suggestions. One recommendation included delegating certain technical, non-clinical violations  
20 to reduce the volume of cases requiring physician review.  
21

#### 22 **5. Investigations**

- 23 • **Case #: 2021-000817**

24  
25 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**  
26 **Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(4),**  
27 **for the purpose of discussing case number 2021-000817. Division staff remained during the**  
28 **session and the reviewing board member was excluded from the session as he was absent**  
29 **from the meeting.**

30  
31 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
32

33 The board entered executive session at 4:56 p.m. and returned on the record at 5:01 p.m.  
34

35 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by roll call vote, the**  
36 **Alaska State Medical Board decided to adopt a voluntary surrender of license for William**  
37 **Wennen as presented in case number 2021-000817.**

38  
39 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
40

#### 41 **6. Full Board Review**

- 42 • **Dennis Simpson, PA**

43  
44 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**  
45 **Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(2), for**  
46 **the purpose of Dennis Simpson’s application for licensure.**

47  
48 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson  
49

1 The board entered executive session at 5:02 p.m. and returned on the record at 5:12 p.m.

2

3 **On a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote, the**  
4 **Alaska State Medical Board decided to grant Mr. Simpson a full physician assistant license.**

5

6 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilson

7

8 **9. Wrap up / Adjourn**

9

10 It was announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2026

11

12 The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

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DRAFT