



Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Meeting April 18, 2025 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
4/18/2025 12:00 PM AKDT
@ Zoom

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting was called to order on Friday, April 18, 2025 by Chair Valerie Phelps at 12:00 pm.

A. Roll Call

Alaska State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Mission Statement

The mission of the Alaska State Physical and Occupational Therapy Board is to promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans. The board strives to do this by:

1. Adopting regulations necessary for the safe and efficient practice of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy in the State of Alaska.
2. Reviewing and approving the qualification of applicants to ensure a competent and effective work force of therapists and assistants.
3. Issuing temporary permits and licenses to qualified persons.
4. Monitoring compliance with continuing education requirements.
5. Reviewing and acting on any report or documentation of any unsafe, unethical or unlawful actions of a licensee.

Roll call taken.

Board members present: Valerie Phelps, Chair; Tori Daugherty, Secretary; Rebecca Dean, and Michelle Scott-Weber. Johnathan Gates, absent - excused.

Staff present: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1, Glenn Saviers, Deputy Director; Keri Mell, Licensing Examiner 3; and Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner 3.

Guests present: Birgit Lenger, ND and President, Alaska Association of Naturopathic Doctors; Sarah Trent-McCarroll.

Quorum established. 4 board members present of 7 member board. There are currently 2 vacant seats on the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board - one PT or PTA seat and one OT or OTA seat. Both seats have been vacant since March, 2025.

B. Ethics Reporting

No conflicts of interest were reported by the four board members present.

C. Review/Approval Agenda

Rebecca Dean moved to accept the agenda for the April 18, 2025 Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Tori Daugherty. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Birgit Lenger, ND in Anchorage and President of the Alaska Association of Naturopathic Doctors gave a brief overview of HB 147 and her education and training as a Naturopathic Doctor. She providing clarification to board members for their questions related to prescriptive rights, primary care, and current ND scope of practice for ordering labs, imaging and referrals and bill language changes from last legislative session to current language.

Sarah Trent-McCarroll, PTA applicant, provided the board with background on her situation related to barriers she is facing with her licensure application in Alaska. She thought she was applying by endorsement/reciprocity in Alaska. She is a PTA with 20 years experience. Graduated in 2004 in Michigan when licensure was not a requirement for PTAs in Michigan. In 2011, she received a PTA license in Michigan but was not required to take the NPTE due to a grandfather clause because she graduated prior to 2008. Applied for and received a license in both Illinois and Washington. Her WA license expired on her birthday but she has since applied for renewal of the WA license.

3. PT Compact - Jurisprudence Requirement (Presenters: Glenn Saviers, Sylvan Robb)

The board discussed how to proceed with implementation of PT Compact Privileges in Alaska. This is one of the last pieces needed for the Division to implement the ability for the PT Compact Commission to begin issuing Alaska compact privileges.

Options:

- Do not require JP questionnaire for compact privilege holders

- Do not require JP questionnaire at this time but implement requirement once regulation project is passed that requires scoring of Jurisprudence Questionnaire with a passage rate of 80% or higher
- Require JP questionnaire 30 days after PT Compact privilege purchase - AK staff to follow up on JP after privilege issued.
- Require JP questionnaire before PT Compact privilege purchase - PT/PTA would have to attest at time of purchases and AK staff would have to follow up after privilege issued to verify.

The board discussed their concerns about how current JP questionnaire is not scored and applicants are receiving no feedback on the answers provided. Concern we are reinforcing a misunderstanding of the statutes/regulations by not providing feedback when the intent is to ensure that applicants are well-versed on Alaska's requirements. Also discussed that almost half the questions on the current version of the JP questionnaire relate to continuing education and renewal requirements which would not be applicable to compact privilege holders. Board consensus that compact privilege holders should be required to complete/pass a Jurisprudence Questionnaire requirement like all other initial license applicants but feel it should be tailored for the compact privilege holder's specific situation and they (the compact privilege holder) should not utilize the same JP questionnaire that contains questions that are not applicable to their situation (CE and renewal requirements).

Deputy Director suggested to use regulatory language such as "80% or higher" for passage rate and "exam specific to compact privilege holders" when drafting.

Rebecca Dean motioned to move forward for the implementation of the PT Compact in an expeditious way by recommending that we hold off requiring the Jurisprudence Questionnaire for PT compact privilege holders until the regulations project is finalized with the requirement of a 80% passing rate score on the Jurisprudence Questionnaire and that we can add the requirement in the future. I also would recommend that we consider two different Jurisprudence Questionnaires, one for in-state license applicants and one for compact privilege holders, when implemented. Seconded by Tori Daugherty. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item:

Division to proceed with implementation of PT Compact Privileges without requirement of Jurisprudence Questionnaire for PT/PTA compact privilege holders for Alaska.

Regulation Committee will need to draft language for requirement of specific JP questionnaire for compact privilege holders with passage rate of 80% or higher – SB74 Regulations Project Update. (One questionnaire for in-state license applicants and one questionnaire for compact privilege holders.)

4. Universal Temporary Licensure - HB158/SB145 (Presenters: Sylvan Robb, Glenn Saviers)
SB145--><https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/34?Root=sb145>

Draft Letter of Support included.

Deputy Director Glenn Saviers gave an overview of the Governor's HB158/SB145 Universal Temporary Licensing bill that would standardize/streamline temporary licensing across all boards. Temporary licenses would be issued as a pathway to permanent licensure with background checks required for PT/OT program but not all other normal requirements currently. Applicants would need active, non-encumbered substantially equivalent license to qualify. Also codifies SCRA federal law into state law. Basically expands what is currently done under military courtesy licenses to a larger population. Division will issue these temporary licenses unless there are questions that need board approval. Permanent license application will still come to the board for review/approval.

Rebecca Dean motioned for the board to support HB158/SB145 - Universal Temporary Licensure and move forward with the Letter of Support as drafted. Tori Daugherty seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item:

Staff to submit Letter of Support for HB158/SB145- Universal Temporary Licensure through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.

5. Nurse Compact Licensure SB124/HB131 (Presenters: Sylvan Robb, Glenn Saviers)
SB124 --><https://www.akleg.gov/PDF/34/Bills/SB0124A.PDF>

Draft Letter of Support included.

Deputy Director Glenn Saviers gave an overview on SB124/HB131 - Nurse Compact Licensure. Bill first introduced 2020. Alaska already at 22% vacancy rate which was the worst shortage rate anticipated for 2030. Pushback by Nursing Union on compact licensure in AK because they feel it will impact strike power. Surveys done indicate 92% of AK nurses have said they would join the compact if passed.

Tori Daugherty motioned to accept and send forth the letter of support for SB124/HB 131 - Nurse Compact Licensure. Rebecca Dean seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item:

Staff to submit Letter of Support for SB124/HB131 - Nurse Compact Licensure through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.

6. Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact - HB173/SB172 (Presenters: Glenn Saviers)

HB173 introduced 4/7/2025--><https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/34?Root=HB173>

SB172 introduced 4/14/2025--><https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/34?Root=SB172>

Deputy Director Glenn Saviers provided an overview of HB173/SB172 - Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. OT Compact will operate same as PT compact except that Alaskan OT/OTAs wanting to purchase a compact privilege who have not undergone background checks will not be grandfathered in like PT/PTAs were under SB74. OT/OTAs will need to contact the Division to have background checks in order to qualify to purchase a compact privilege. There is also the requirement to establish an expedited home state pathway to licensure by virtue of a compact privilege (OT/OTA has compact privilege, moves to AK, established residency and changes home state from another state to AK and now needs permanent licensure in AK). OT Compact Commission is not active yet, anticipate to begin issuing compact privilege summer 2025 (June-August). Adopted nationwide by over 30 states (32) with pending legislation in nine (9) including Alaska.

Tori Daugherty motioned the board appoint any board member to testify on behalf of the board related to SB172/HB173 - Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. Motion seconded by Michelle Scott-Weber. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Rebecca Dean motioned the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board submit a Letter of Support for SB 172/HB173 utilizing the letter of support previously submitted for SB74 as a template with applicable changes as necessary. Michelle Scott-Weber seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item:

Staff to forward letter of support utilized for SB4 to Valerie Phelps to draft letter of support for SB172/HB173 - Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. Once received, staff to submit through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.

7. Health Insurance Allowable Charges SB121 (Presenters: Victoria Daugherty)

SB121 --><https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/34?Root=SB121>

Sponsor Statement -->https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=34&docid=2885

Draft Letter of Support included.

Tori Daugherty gave an overview of SB121 - Health Insurance Allowable Charges and brief background on 80% Rule. All members in agreement for supporting this bill.

Rebecca Dean motioned for the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board to support SB121 - Health Insurance Allowable Charges utilizing the letter developed and submit. Michelle Scott-Weber seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item:

Staff to submit Letter of Support for SB121 - Health Insurance Allowable Charges through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.

8. HB147 - Practice of Naturopathy (Presenters: Valerie Phelps)

HB 147 --><https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/34?Root=HB147>

Draft Letter of Support included

Valerie Phelps gave an overview on HB 147 - Practice of Naturopathy. Deputy Director Glenn Saviers went over specifics of new version this bill. Concern expressed by Tori Daugherty regarding expansion of scope to pharmaceutical and NDs serving as primary care on more complex cases but Ms. Daugherty also expressed she is not an expert on this matter. Discussion by board members on measures currently in place re: licensure requirements to ensure public protection.

Michelle Scott-Weber motioned to accept and send forth the letter of support for HB 147 - Practice of Naturopathy. Rebecca Dean seconded. Roll call vote:

Michelle Scott-Weber = Yes

Rebecca Dean = Yes

Tori Daugherty = No

Valerie Phelps = Yes

Motion passes by majority vote.

Action Item:

Staff to submit Letter of Support for HB147 – Practice of Naturopathy through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.

9. Administrative Business

A. Tabled Items =Tabled Application - Sarah McCarroll

Board discussed AS **08.84.060. Licensure by acceptance of credentials. The board may license without examination an applicant who is a physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, occupational therapist, or occupational therapy assistant licensed under the laws of another state, if the requirements for licensure in that state were, at the date of the applicant's licensure, substantially equal to the requirements in this state.**

and 12 AAC 54.100 Application by Licensure by Credentials **(4) other evidence considered necessary by the board to determine if the requirements of the other jurisdiction were, at the date of issuance, substantially equal to the requirements of this state;**

Current Applicant with Application by credentials:

- Graduated 2004, began working in the profession
- 2008: received BSc in Rehabilitation studies
- 2011: received Michigan PTA license without NPTE, following R 338.7142(2).

Per Michigan Executive Director - the application for Sara Trent-McCarroll was an examination applicant. She applied by exam and her jurisprudence exam was taken and passed 12/14/2011. This is a PTA license so the NPTE was waived because the applicant graduated from an accredited educational program prior to 2008 as stated in the rules below.

These were the rules at the time the license was issued:

R 338.7142 Licensure by examination; physical therapist assistant; requirements.

Rule 42. (1) An applicant for a physical therapist assistant license by examination shall submit a completed application on a form provided by the department, together with the requisite fee. In addition to meeting the requirements of the code and these administrative rules, an applicant shall meet all of the following requirements:

(a) Graduate from an accredited physical therapist assistant educational program that meets the standards adopted by the board under R 338.7141.

(b) Pass a physical therapist assistant licensure examination that is approved by the board.

(c) Pass the examination on laws and rules related to the practice of physical therapy in Michigan which is administered by the department.

(2) If an applicant graduated on or before January 1, 2008, from an accredited educational program that meets the standards adopted by the board in R 338.7141, then the applicant presumably meets the requirements of this rule.

- 2023: Received Illinois license ...*due to reciprocity*?
- 2024: short term license Washington – see email from WA Executive Director re: how WA license issued; expired 1/5/2025 on applicant's birthdate; eligible to be renewed.
 - License was issued on 7/30/2024 and expired on 1/5/2025. The license can be renewed up to one year after expiration date with a late fee. This license was issued using a newer law in WA and based on Michigan License. The law is RCW 18.130.077, passed in WA legislature in 2023.

RCW 18.130.077: Licensure requirements waiver for out-of-state and nationally certified applicants.

(1) Disciplining authorities shall waive education, training, experience, and exam requirements for applicants who have been credentialed in another state or states with substantially equivalent standards for at least two years immediately preceding their application with no interruption in licensure last longer than 90 days.

- April 2025 Applying for Alaska license *without* NPTE
- Alaska required scores from FSBPT for NPTE in 2004 for PTAs per records search in CBP Portal

The board discussed factors they believe would provide for substantial equivalency:

1. 20+ years of practice in the profession as PTA
2. Holding a license in good standing in one state for over 10 years
3. Having an additional license in another state in good standing

4. Having an additional education in rehabilitation sciences, a BSc during which testing would cover materials in the PTA NPTE

The board would be most confident in the decision that these factors meet the legal qualifications for “substantially equivalent” in AS 08.84.060 or 12 AAC 54.100(4) and seek confirmation from the Division through the Department of Law before making a final determination of approval on the application.

Rebecca Dean moved to table the PTA application #236485 for licensure for Sarah Trent-McCarroll based on thorough discussion at this meeting pending additional information required to move forward to make a determination:

1. **Confirmation that the four items discussed by the board can be used to meet the qualification of "substantially equivalent"**
2. **Research if/when grandfathering of PTAs without passing the NPTE was allowed in Alaska**

Motion seconded by Tori Daugherty. All in favor; none opposed. Motion to table pending additional information passes unanimously.

Action Item:

Staff to work with Chair on request for additional information from the Division for pending application for Sarah Trent-McCarroll – PTA # 236485.

Michelle Scott-Weber left the meeting at 2:42 pm.

10. Meeting Summary - Action Items

- A. Division to proceed with implementation of PT Compact Privileges without requirement of Jurisprudence Questionnaire for PT/PTA compact privilege holders for Alaska.
- B. Regulation Committee will need to draft language for requirement of specific JP questionnaire for compact privilege holders with passage rate of 80% or higher – SB74 Regulations Project Update. (One questionnaire for in-state license applicants and one questionnaire for compact privilege holders.)
- C. Staff to submit Letter of Support for HB158/SB145- Universal Temporary Licensure through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.
- D. Staff to submit Letter of Support for SB124/HB131 - Nurse Compact Licensure through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.
- E. Staff to forward letter of support utilized for SB4 to Valerie Phelps to draft letter of support for SB172/HB173 - Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. Once

received, staff to submit through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.

- F. Staff to submit Letter of Support for SB121 - Health Insurance Allowable Charges through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.
- G. Staff to submit Letter of Support for HB147 – Practice of Naturopathy through appropriate Division channels to the Alaska Legislature.
- H. Staff to work with Chair on request for additional information from the Division for pended application for Sarah Trent-McCarroll – PTA # 236485.

11. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board meeting was adjourned at 2:42 pm on Friday, April 18, 2025 when member Michelle Scott-Weber left the meeting as quorum was lost. Only 3 of 7 board members were present.

Next board meeting scheduled for October 2-3, 2025 at 9:00 am to be held at the Atwood Building, 550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1535, Anchorage, AK.