



# Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Meeting February 26, 2026 - Day 1 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
2/26/2026 9:00 AM AKST  
Virtual Meeting – Zoom

**These minutes were approved by the board 04/23/2026 in accordance with PL-12/online voting.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 26, 2026 by Chair Valerie Phelps at 9:01 am.

A. Roll Call

Roll call taken by Chair Phelps.

Board members present: Valerie Phelps, Chair; Tori Daugherty, Secretary; Jonathan Gates, Michelle Scott-Weber, and Eliza Ellsworth.

Staff present: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1, Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager 2, and Sheri Ryan, License Examiner 3.

Guests: Alexander Tate and Kyle Jones, Assistant Director, External & Regulatory Affairs, NBCOT

Quorum established; 5 of 7 board members present. Two board positions open. Public member seat vacant since 09/23/2025. OT/OTA seat vacant since 03/2025.

B. Ethics Reporting

No conflicts of interest for today's agenda items reported by any of the five board members present.

C. Review/Approval Agenda

**Jonathan Gates moved to approve the agenda for the February 26, 2026 Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting as written. Eliza Ellsworth seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

D. Approve Minutes - 10-2+3, 2025 + 2-06-2026

**Tori Daugherty moved to approve the minutes for the October 2-3, 2025 Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting as written. Eliza Ellsworth seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Tori Daugherty moved to approve the minutes for the February 6, 2026 Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting as written. Eliza Ellsworth seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

E. Statistics

**As of 02/19/2026:**

- 125 PT Compact Privileges
  - 14 PTA privileges
  - 111 PT privileges
- 771 Active Occupational therapy licenses
  - 702 OT licenses
  - 68 OTA licenses
  - 1 OTA Temporary permit
- 1776 Active Physical therapy licenses
  - 1540 PT licenses
  - 4 PT Temporary permits
  - 232 PTA licenses

**Since October 2025 board meeting:**

- 73 licenses issued 10/01/2025 - 02/18/2026
  - 30 occupational therapy licenses
    - 26 OT
    - 4 OTA
  - 43 physical therapy licenses
    - 37 PT
    - 6 PTA
- 2 Limited permits issued 10/01/2025 - 02/18/2026
  - 2 OT
  - 0 PT

01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025 = #427 licenses issued

- 109 OT
  - 98 OT
  - 11 OTA
- 217 PT
  - 188 PT

- 29 PTA
- 101 PT Compact Privileges = 23.6%

2. Public Comment

Kyle Jones, Assistant Director, External & Regulatory Affairs with NBCOT introduced himself and let the board know he was listening in for M. Celeste Tydingco, Alaska NBCOT Ambassador. Board requested input from NBCOT regarding HB347 and conversion of PDUs to contact hours. Discussion to modify Friday agenda to accommodate as Kyle Jones is in Central time zone. Board decision to move OT Scope Modernization up to 9:15 am after Regulations Committee update. Regulations Committee to include PDU discussion.

**Action Item:**

Staff to adjust board agenda for Friday meeting for NBCOT to attend and comment on HB347 to 9:15 am.

3. Meeting Reports

A. FSBPT - Annual Education Meeting - November, 2025 (Presenter: Eliza Ellsworth)  
Eliza Ellsworth was unable to attend virtual education meeting in Nov. 2025 due to conflict. She did place delegate votes for candidates.

B. PT Compact Commission Meeting - Dec 10, 2025  
See written report submitted by Rebecca Dean and minutes from meeting provided by FSBPT in board and public packet.

C. FSBPT Delegate Selection 2026  
Board discussed requirements for 2026 FSBPT delegates.

**Tori Daugherty moved to appoint Eliza Ellsworth, voting delegate; Valerie Phelps, alternate delegate; and Sheri Ryan, funded administrator; with Eliza Ellsworth to remain PT Compact Commission delegate. Michelle Scott-Weber seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 2026 NPTE Policies will become effective in 60 days on March 15, 2026.  
Any comments to be submitted to FSBPT Board of Directors.

**Action Item:**

Staff to send FSBPT Regulatory April 2026 workshop registration information to board members Tori Daugherty and Eliza Ellsworth.

4. Administrative Business

A. Strategic Plan Review

Board reviewed Strategic planning worksheet from 10-03-2025 and updated accordingly. Reviewed PUB team handout. Updated plan to be distributed to all board members.

**Action Item:**

1. Staff to send email to current work group members regarding board member and public member position openings – recruitment.
2. Staff to distribute updated Strategic Plan to all board members at end of board meeting.

**B. Tabled Correspondence – Non-Compete Contracts – 11-17-2025**

Board discussed correspondence received 11-17-2025 from Mr. Phil White regarding non-compete contracts and options available to the board under AS 08.84 and 12 AAC 54. The board agrees non-compete clauses may negatively impact a patient’s ability to access physical therapy and occupational therapy services in communities, especially small communities but the PHY board does not have jurisdiction to create regulations surrounding non-compete clauses under existing statutes in AS 08.84 and questions whether they would be able to write statutes to govern employer-employee business relationships under AS 08.84. Board requested staff to add additional public comment period to Friday, February 27 board meeting and invite Dr. White to attend to have a conversation regarding possible pathways to accomplish changes. Board member Tori Daugherty to draft correspondence response to be voted on at Friday’s board meeting.

**Action Item:**

1. Staff to add public comment period to Friday, February 27, 2026 board meeting and contact Mr. Phil White to attend.
2. Board member Tori Daugherty to draft correspondence response to be voted on at Friday’s board meeting.

**B. Tabled Correspondence – PTA UltraMist Scope Question – 12-22-2025**

Board reviewed question from Thomas Eash asking if PTAs were able to perform UltraMist® wound care. Question was submitted to the Scope of Practices Committee who was requesting additional board member input. Draft response submitted for review. Board discussion regarding education and skill requirements and the board determined UltraMist® wound care is within a PTA’s scope of practice as long as the correct competency and supervisory circumstances are met. The supervising physical therapist and physical therapist assistant must both be competent in UltraMist® therapy and wound care. PTA needs to have service competency to treat wound care patients; supervising PT

needs the skills and knowledge to appropriately evaluate the patient, develop a plan of care including UltraMist®, assess the patient's progress, and serve as a supervisory resource to the PTA.

**Action Item:**

Staff to send board edited response as discussed.

C. Foreign Educated - PT to PTA

Does the Alaska board accept the [FCCPT PTA Educational Equivalency Review \(PTA-EER\)](#) for foreign-educated applicants for PTAs = Yes. Board affirmed this from their October 2025 board meeting discussion. The board accepts the course work tool appropriate/effective at the time of graduation. The board clarified that if a more recent (higher) CWT version has already been used and the applicant's program was found to be "substantially equivalent" (meets expectations), the Alaska Board will accept that newer standard. The Board will not require an additional evaluation under a different CWT version in these cases, as its intention is to prevent undue financial burdens and eliminate unnecessary barriers to licensure for foreign-educated professionals.

Does Alaska accept the FCCPT PTA educational equivalency Review (PTA-EER) for foreign-educated applicants whose entry-level education was as a physical therapist – PT to PTA? Board briefly discussed foreign-educated PT applying for licensure as a PTA. US educated PT licensure as a PTA  
These situations are not addressed in current statutes or regulations.  
Determination by the board to update strategic plan and add as a goal under licensing and assign to Regulations Committee to research situation(s).

**Action Item:**

Staff to add Research and Identify pathway for Foreign-Educated PT licensure as a PTA and US Educated PT licensure as a PT as goals under Licensing on Strategic Plan and assign to Regulations Committee to research situation. Copy of updated strategic plan to be disseminated to all board members.

D. 2026 Fee Analysis + Division Update - FY2025 Q4 + FY2026 Q1 + Q2 Reports

Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager reviewed the 2026 Fee analysis provided to the board and FY2026 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter report. No fee increase or decrease recommended by the division or the board for the 2026-2028 renewal period. Board discussed potential savings to boards with Governor's proposed general budget bill where investigative costs would be shifted to division budget instead of each individual board (licensees) to be shouldered.

5. Lunch - recording stopped 11:53 am. Recording resumed 12: 31 pm.

Roll call taken:

Board members present: Valerie Phelps, Chair; Tori Daugherty, Secretary; Jonathan Gates, and Michelle Scott-Weber, and Eliza Ellsworth.

Staff present: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1, and Sheri Ryan, License Examiner 3.

Guest: Alexander Tate

Quorum established; 5 of 7 board members present. Two board positions open. Public member seat vacant since 09/23/2025. OT/OTA seat vacant since 03/2025.

6. Legislative Initiatives

A. HB173/SB172 - OT Licensure Compact

Board discussed previous motion authorizing board members to testify on behalf of HB173/SB172 - OT Licensure Compact for the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board as it did not include all current members of the board.

**Tori Daugherty moved the board appoint any board member, Valerie Phelps, Tori Daugherty, Jonathan Gates, Michelle Scott-Weber and Eliza Ellsworth 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.**

HB173/SB172 current in Senate Finance Committee. Board requested staff send 2026 Legislative Guidance handout and previous board letters of support submitted to legislature to all board members as resources for testifying. In addition, Tori Daugherty to provide written testimony previously read at hearing on behalf of OT licensure compact. Resources to include elevator speech from website outlining role and responsibilities of the board and what to say if unable to answer questions.

**Action Items:**

Tori Daugherty to share script she utilized for testimony done last session. Staff to forward it and additional resources for testifying - Legislative guidance; PHY Letter of Support for the bills; elevator speech from website re: what the board does; response for unknown answers.

B. Executive Administrator Position

Board discussed status of potential sponsorship of a bill to create an Executive Administrator position for the PHY board and partnership request with stakeholder. Board discussed previous motion authorizing board members to seek sponsorship as it did not include all current members of the board.

**Jonathan Gates moved to approve all current board members to seek sponsorship for the Executive Administrator for the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board, those members include Valerie Phelps, Tori Daugherty, Jonathan Gates, Michelle Scott-Weber and Eliza Ellsworth. Motion seconded by Tori Daugherty. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

Dental Board (HB197 – Rep. Tomaszewski) and Big Game Board (SB29 – Senator Bjorkman) also seeking Executive Administrator positions currently this session. Board requested bill numbers and sponsors be forwarded. Board discussed previous conversations with legislators and strategized on introducing bill this session even though potential for success for passage might be minimal.

**Action Items:**

1. Staff to forward previous sponsor contact spreadsheet; approved bill language draft and talking points; identify other similar bills currently introduced and bill sponsors.
2. Valerie Phelps to follow up with Senator Kawkasaki. Jonathan Gates to follow up with Representative Ruffridge.

7. Correspondence

Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner provided an overview of the general informational correspondence provided in the board packet.

8. Association Updates

A. APTA-Alaska

Leah Einhorn, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT – President, APTA-Alaska. Newly elected President. Has served on the board of director for six years as secretary and vice-president. Work clinically in a private practice setting and does some teaching in an orthopedic therapy fellowship at Northwestern University and lectures at the PTA Program here in Alaska at UAA.

Working to get new board oriented at APTA-Alaska. They have two brand new members who just started in January, 2026 on their board – VP and Chief Delegate. Secretary position currently vacant but they are in the election process. Should be completed in the next several weeks. Past-President Alec Kay has

transitioned to Legislative Liaison. Updating their state strategic plan currently. Annual spring and fall conference. Expanding fall conference at Captain Cook w/concurrent speakers. Ongoing process to improving membership opportunities and increasing CE opportunities.

3.5 years ago, the state association started Alaska Physical Therapy Community Clinic, pro bono, hosted by a private practice group, staffed totally by volunteers has expanded to four locations – Anchorage, Wasilla, Fairbanks, and Homer – to provide physical therapy services for anyone with financial barriers. It has been very well received by the communities. First model developed and sponsored by the APTA but hosted in a private practice clinic. Other pro bono programs have been in conjunction with university or PT schools.

APTA National updated their code of ethics. Bring up to contemporary standards. Now clearly distinguishes between guiding principles and enforceable standards. New code took effective January 1, 2026.

National also updated their strategic plan for 2030. 3 main pillars

1. Increasing economic opportunities for PTs and PTAs; Advance payments for Medicare; most common billable codes; extend Medicare telehealth services (approved through 2027)
2. Empowering our members – deliver a high impact member experience – career advancement and professional development through continuing education
3. Evolve our practice – transformation of practice models and services to better serve society as well as the profession; includes pushes trying to gain PT's access to radiology; primary care; promote education for PTs and PTAs; promoting use of technology and AI within the profession; raising awareness of physical therapy and who can benefit from it. Documentary has been developed that is available on Hulu and Disney called "Future You".

She is looking forward to working with the board on developing the practice act.

Valerie Phelps asked Leah Einhorn if she was aware of the Executive Administrator initiative that had previously been discussed as a partnership with the APTA-AK. Leah Einhorn to contact Alec Kay, the association's Legislative Liaison and provide a status update to the board.

Tori Daugherty provided brief overview on HB347 – Occupational Therapists and Assistants and impact language could have for physical therapy.

**Action Item:**

Valerie Phelps to provide Leah Einhorn with relevant information related to the EA initiative.

Staff to provide Valerie Phelps with Leah Einhorn's contact details.

B. AKOTA

Brianne (Bri) Oswald, OTD, OTR/L, LSVT-BIG, CSCS – President, Alaska Occupational Therapy Association – outgoing President. Served for two years, was on the board for five years, served as secretary and a director. New board takes over March 1, 2026. New president Merrik Brown. Will continue to support the new president during the transition. Two legislative actions OT licensure compact and the OT scope of practice update that they have been collaborating with the board on. They have a lineup of OTs and COTAs willing to testify and working with their lobbyist to make sure they are connecting with the correct representatives to advocate for that update and change.

They have an upcoming conference at UAA 03-21-2026 to provide continuing education units as they are aware this is a license renewal year.

Focusing on other advocacy efforts with the lawsuit that the State of Alaska is involved in regarding Section 504 Rehabilitation Act. Because of the language confusion, some school-based OT practitioners are experiencing pushback from schools who are providing accommodations. AKOTA spoke with the State Attorney General last year and received good information. While not intended, there have been negative consequences of the lawsuit so AKOTA is going to continue their advocacy and explain how it impacts patients and individuals with disabilities.

Board suggested AKOTA appoint a board liaison position.

9. Meeting Summary - Action Items

1. Tori Daugherty to draft response for non-compete board correspondence to be reviewed on Friday, February 27, 2026 board meeting
2. Staff to add additional public comment period for Friday board meeting and contact Mr. Phil White and invite to join for public comment period.
3. Staff to adjust board agenda for Friday meeting for NBCOT to attend and comment on HB347 to 9:15 am.
4. Staff to send FSBPT Regulatory Workshop information to board members Tori Daugherty and Eliza Ellsworth to register.
5. Staff to update PHY Strategic Plan as discussed and forward to all board members for use in compiling Annual Report.
6. Staff to send email to current work group members re: current board openings (recruitment)

7. Response for UltraMIST letter - 12-22-2025 approved. Staff to send.
  8. Staff to add Foreign educated PT testing as PTA; US educated PT testing as PT on Strategic Plan as a goal under Licensing and send to Regulations Committee for research.
  9. All board members approved to testify on behalf of HB173/SB172 - OT Compact Licensure. Tori Daugherty to share script she utilized for testimony done last session. Staff to forward it and additional resources for testifying - Legislative guidance; PHY Letter of Support for the bills; elevator speech from website re: what the board does; response for unknown answers.
  10. All board members approved to seek sponsors for Executive Administrator position statutory initiative. Staff to forward previous sponsor contact spreadsheet; approved bill language draft and talking points; identify other similar bills currently introduced and bill sponsors.
  11. Valerie to send Executive Administrator information to Leah Einhorn, President of APTA-AK; staff to send contact information for Leah Einhorn to Valerie Phelps.
10. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm on Thursday, February 26, 2026.

Board meeting to resume Friday, February 27, 2026 virtually.



# Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Meeting February 27, 2026 - Day 2 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
2/27/2026 9:00 AM AKST  
Virtual Meeting - Zoom

## 11. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting was called to order on Friday, February 27, 2026 by Chair Valerie Phelps at 9:00 am.

### A. Roll Call

Roll call taken by Chair Phelps.

Board members present: Valerie Phelps, Chair; Tori Daugherty, Secretary; Jonathan Gates, Michelle Scott-Weber, and Eliza Ellsworth.

Staff present: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1, Billy Homestead, Investigator 4, and Sheri Ryan, License Examiner 3.

Guest: Kyle Jones, Assistant Director, External & Regulatory Affairs, NBCOT

Quorum established; 5 of 7 board members present. Two board positions open. Public member seat vacant since 09/23/2025. OT/OTA seat vacant since 03/2025.

### B. Ethics Reporting

No conflicts of interest for today's agenda items reported by any of the five board members present.

### C. Review/Approval Agenda

**Tori Daugherty moved to approve the revised agenda for the February 27, 2026 Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting as submitted. Michelle Scott-Weber seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

## 12. Committee Reports

- A. OT Scope Modernization Work Group – Tori Daugherty presented history on the OT Scope Modernization Work Group and how the product from that work group was introduced this legislative session as HB 347 bill by the Alaska Occupational Therapy Association. AKOTA conducted extensive stakeholder consultation and the only negative concerns received were from the acupuncture association. The bill is being sponsored by the House Labor and Commerce Committee as a whole rather than by any one house representative. AKOTA is currently talking with state Senators to run the bill concurrently through the Senate. Tori explained the draft revisions necessary and rationale to get to the current language of the bill that was introduced.

Concern expressed by board members that on line 16 and line 18 of the bill language includes reference to “occupational therapist assistant” instead of “occupational therapy assistant” as is currently utilized in AS 08.84.

Board feels HB347 fulfills goals set forth by OT Scope Modernization Work Group. Board reviewed draft letter of support for HB347.

**Tori Daugherty moved to approve the Letter of Support for HB347 – Occupational Therapists & Assistants as written for Representative Hall and Representative Fields, co-chairs of the House Labor & Commerce Committee. Eliza Ellsworth seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

Because of Tori Daugherty’s direct experience and historical knowledge with the development of the scope modernization bill language, a request was made for her to write up a commentary document by paragraph on the intent of the bill language from concept to introduction to assist the board with testifying as well as available for when the board moves into writing regulations to support the statutory changes if and when it passes.

Board discussed need to designate appropriate board members to testify on behalf of HB347 and any future Senate counterpart bill should one be introduced.

**Michelle Scott-Weber moved the board appoint any board member to testify on behalf of the board related to HB347 - OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS & ASSISTANTS and its counterpart bill SBXXX when introduced. Eliza Ellsworth seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Action Items:**

- Tori Daugherty to talk to Senator Bjorkman regarding senate bill introduction.

- Tori Daugherty to contact appropriate individuals regarding bill language changes needed in HB347 – from occupational *therapist* assistants to occupational *therapy* assistants.
- Tori Daugherty to work on commentary document for HB347 for use by board members for testifying and for historical purposes for future regulation projects.
- Staff to send Letter of Support for HB347 for House L+C through appropriate channels.
- Any board member approved to testify on behalf of PHY board re: HB347 or companion SB when introduced.

B. Regulations Committee

Valerie Phelps submitted a written report of the Regulations Committee’s work since the last board meeting. Send PDU information provided by Kyle Jones with NBCOT to the Regulations Committee to continue discussion.

C. Investigative Report

Billy Homestead, Investigator 4 provided the investigative report for the PHY program for the period of September 24, 2025 through February 26, 2026. 4 open matters currently; 7 closed cases. Written report provided.

D. Brief break taken. Recording stopped 10:25 am. Recording Resumed 10:30 am.

Roll call taken:

Board members present: Valerie Phelps, Chair; Tori Daugherty, Secretary; Jonathan Gates, Michelle Scott-Weber, and Eliza Ellsworth.

Staff present: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1, and Sheri Ryan, License Examiner 3.

Guest: Phil White

Quorum established; 5 of 7 appointed board members present.

E. Public Comment

Phil White attended the public comment to answer questions the board had related to his board correspondence submitted on non-compete contracts.

Board shared potential public strategies that Mr. White could pursue for resolving the issues but shared that unfortunately the PHY board did not have the authority to change laws or regulations that directly affect

employer/employee relationships. Mr. White shared that he has had contact with legislators as well as other entities in an attempt to address the non-competent situations.

F. Legislative Committee (Presenters: Victoria Daugherty)

Legislative Committee did not meet in 2026 and continue to remain paused. Board discussed Executive Administrator position update received from Alec Kay, Legislative Liaison with APTA-Alaska. Board members expressed concern regarding project and discussed potential for losing progress on strategic plan goals with staff change(s) if EA position was approved. Staff explained hiring process for state positions. Board reaffirmed needs for EA position as aligned with strategic plan.

**Jonathan Gates moved the board should move forward with seeking an Executive Administrator position to better serve with its high volume of projects, PT Compact Commission, and upcoming OT Compact Commission, and subsequent delegation of additional meetings that need to be attended and to lower the boards volume of touches on licensure applications with the contingency that the board is insistent on having a board member on the hiring committee. Michelle Scott-Weber seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

Board members to move forward as previously discussed with legislative contacts.

G. Scope of Practices Committee – Tori Daugherty submitted a written report in advance of the meeting.

H. Continuing Competency Committee - Valerie Phelps submitted a written report and walked the board through the Working Document CEU Requirements document that the committee is still formulating. Some of this plan has been incorporated as part of the AO360 recommendations – expansion of CE category opportunities and broadening PT/OT specific CE approval entities to general healthcare organizations to expand professional development options while still maintaining CE integrity. No recommendations for changes in CE minimum/maximums requirements for renewal or required course types. Board discussed committee member priorities and decided to put committee on hold for remainder of 2026 and shift Disciplinary Matrix and Informed Consent projects to Regulations Committee. Staff to cancel 4/16/2026, 7/16/2026 and 10/15/2026 Continuing Competency meetings and move Disciplinary Matrix and Informed Consent projects to Regulations Committee. INV to be invited to attend discussion regarding Disciplinary Matrix development.

- I. PT Scope Modernization Work Group - Jonathan Gates submitted a written report in advance and briefly summarized his report and the most recent PT Scope Modernization statutory draft language from 01-28-2026 for the board.
13. Tabled Correspondence (Presenters: Victoria Daugherty)  
Board reviewed draft response for Non-compete Contracts-12-01-2025 for Phil White.  
**Tori Daugherty moved to accept the response as written. Jonathan Gates seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.**  
**Action Item:**  
Staff to send response to Phil White.
  14. Break – Recording stopped 12:30 pm. Recording resumed 12:35 pm. Roll call taken:  
Board members present: Valerie Phelps, Chair; Tori Daugherty, Secretary; Jonathan Gates, Michelle Scott-Weber, and Eliza Ellsworth.  
  
Staff present: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1, and Sheri Ryan, License Examiner 3.  
  
Quorum established; 5 of 7 appointed board members present.
  15. Animal Physical Therapy  
Board members discussed general concept of providing physical therapy services for animals. Current AS 08.84 statutes do not allow for PT services to be provided beyond human beings. Board reviewed and discussed Veterinary statutes AS 08.98.250(6) “practice of veterinary medicine” and 08.98.120 License required; prohibitions; penalty. Optometry AS 08.72.050(7) on delegation reviewed as a possibility for a supervisory model under the Vet board. Board briefly discussed availability of courses for animal physical therapy and statutory/regulatory models available in other states. Audiologists, Massage Therapists, and Chiropractors have all inquired with the Alaska Veterinary board about providing care to animals and the Vet board has provided consistent messaging that it is not allowed per statute. The PHY board would need to document evidence-based studies for providing animal physical therapy care in Alaska and work collaboratively with the Veterinary Board on potential statutory and/or regulatory changes for animal physical therapy. No further board action recommended.
  16. AO 360 Next Steps  
Board briefly discussed final plan submitted to Division by 2-13-2026 deadline. 2026 reductions - 126 = 38%; 2027 reductions - 22 = 7%; Overall - 148 = 44% and next steps. The PHY board made a request for a progress update from the department on their submitted reform plan. Staff to follow up with more information as available.

17. Meeting Summary - Action Items

1. Tori Daugherty to work on commentary document for HB347 for use by board members for testifying and for historical purposes for future regulation projects.
2. Staff to send Letter of Support for HB347 for House L+C through appropriate channels.
3. Any board member approved to testify on behalf of PHY board re: HB347 or companion SB when introduced.
4. Tori Daugherty to talk to Senator Bjorkman re: sponsorship of OT Scope Modernization bill.
5. Tori Daugherty to contact appropriate individuals need to change "occupational therapist assistant" to read "occupational therapy assistant" in HB347 bill language.
6. PDU conversion to contact hours discussion to Regulations Committee to continue discussion. Page 7 of NBCOT renewal handbook as resource.
7. Executive Administrator bill draft initiative reaffirmed. Valerie Phelps to touch base with Sen. Kawasaki re: bill sponsorship/introduction efforts. Jonathan Gates to touch base with Rep. Ruffridge.
8. Informed consent project moved from Continuing Competency to Regulations Committee for further research. FSBPT adopted guidelines May, 2025. Resources available here --><https://www.fsbpt.org/Free-Resources/Regulatory-Resources/Informed-Consent>
9. Continuing Competency Committee put on hold for remainder of 2026. Staff to cancel 04/16, 07/16 and 10/15/2026 meetings.
10. Shift Disciplinary Matrix from Continuing Competency Committee to Regulations Committee. Add to next meeting date of 03/13/2026. Invite representatives from Investigations to collaborate on development.
11. Board correspondence response for Non-Compete Contracts - 12-01-2025 approved; staff to send.
12. Annual report - Michelle Scott-Weber to complete "Accomplishments" section instead of Jonathan Gates. Staff to send schedule with dates and previous summaries to MSW.

18. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm on Friday, February 27, 2026.

Next meeting to be held November 5-6, 2026 virtually.