



Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Meeting May 22, 2026 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
5/22/2026 1:00 PM AKDT
Virtual - Zoom

These minutes were approved by the board 06/04/2026 in accordance with PL12/online voting.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

A. Roll Call

The Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting was called to order on Friday, May 22, 2026 by Chair Valerie Phelps at 1:01 pm.

Roll Call - Roll call taken by Chair Phelps.

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

Staff present: Sheri Ryan, License Examiner 3 and Stephane Davis, Regulations Specialist.

Guests: Billie Joseph, Greg Kaganovsky, Tara Hollman, and Jennifer Menefee.

Quorum established; 4 of 7 board members present. Two board positions open. OT/OTA seat vacant since 03/2025; Public member seat vacant since 09/23/2025.

B. Ethics Reporting

Jonathan Gates requested recusal from discussion and voting on the application for Gregory Kaganovsky as he was the reviewing board member. Chair Valerie Phelps granted Jonathan Gates' request for a recusal. Jonathan to be put into the waiting room during that agenda item.

No other conflicts of interest reported by board members.

C. Review/Approval Agenda

Agenda for the May 22, 2026 Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy board meeting accepted as submitted by consensus.

2. Public Comment

No written comment submitted or oral public comment given at this meeting.

3. Application - Gregory Kaganovsky - 252346 - Application by Credentials

Jonathan Gates was recused from discussion and voting on this agenda item. He was placed in the waiting room. Quorum remains as recused board members are still counted for quorum. 4 of 7 board members.

Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner summarized that Dr. Kaganovsky's application had been previously reviewed by the board in April, 2026 and was conditionally approved by the board 04/17/2026 pending receipt of clear background reports from the Department of Public Safety. Those reports have now been received and did not meet the board's instructions. The application was being presented again with the updated information from the Department of Public Safety and the reviewing board member's recommendations. As the reviewing board member had been recused from the discussion, the remaining board members discussed and they did not feel the aged item from May, 2018 of aide/abetting in exhibition of speed constituted a danger to patient care and Dr. Kaganovsky's application for licensure should be approved.

Tori Daugherty moved to approve the Physical Therapist application by Credentials - #252346 for Gregory Kaganovsky. Motion seconded by Michelle Scott-Weber. Roll call vote:

Valerie Phelps = Yes

Tori Daugherty = Yes

Michelle Scott-Weber = Yes

All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item:

Staff to issue physical therapist license #252346 effective 05/22/2026 for Dr. Kaganovsky and send notification.

Board member Jonathan Gates re-admitted to the meeting from the waiting room. Quorum remains – 4 of 7 board members present.

4. Regulations Project - HB173

Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner summarized [House Bill 173](#)'s recent passage on 05/21/2026. While the bill has not been signed by the Governor yet nor is there an established effective date for the bill, the next PHY board meeting is not scheduled until November, 2026. It is anticipated both will occur before the board meets again. The board discussed the need to start a regulations project in advance of their November meeting to research and begin drafting regulatory language to support the OT Compact Licensure, Executive Administrator, and OT Scope language (previously HB347)

components of the bill. The board discussed how the OT scope language included a definition in AS 08.84.190 for “tests and measurements” which clarified the ability for occupational therapists and physical therapists to order diagnostic imaging in statute and the need for the board to explore possible regulatory language to support this clarification, if necessary. Brief discussion on requirements of any language that might be needed for Executive Administrator position. Regulations Specialist Stefanie Davis deferred those questions to the Deputy Director who would more than likely be helping with implementation of the EA bills.

Tori Daugherty moved to initiate a regulations project regarding OT Compact Licensure, diagnostic imaging, and other regulations necessary to support HB173 for the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board. Work on the draft language to be referred to the PHY Regulations Committee for approval by the board. Motion seconded by Jonathan Gates. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Tori Daugherty requested with the passage of HB 173, the board also considering delegating to the Scope of Practices committee work on drafting an updated position statement related to whether or not OTs can perform dry needling since the scope statutory language now includes “instrument-assisted treatment modality, wound care, and manual therapy” as well as other supportive language related to pain management. Board discussion regarding previous Board Position statement issued 06/16/2023 and retracted 11/17/2023 and board is currently silent on dry needling for occupational therapy. See [posting](#) on Frequently Asked Questions webpage of PHY website.

Tori Daugherty moved to delegate to the Scope of Practices Committee to review whether dry needling may or may not be within OT or PT scope of practice based on statutory changes from HB173 if HB 173 were to enter into law pending government action and modify the position statement accordingly. Seconded by Michelle Scott-Weber. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Items:

- Staff to research possible regulatory requirements to support Executive Administrator position within HB173 for Regulations Committee meeting.
- Regulations Committee to begin Regulations Project for HB173 for board review.
- Scope of Practices Committee to work on drafting any necessary modifications to Dry Needling Position Statements due to passage of HB173 for board review.

5. Regulations Project - Priority 1 Items - AO360 Reform Plan

Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner summarized next steps for AO360 reform plan. The AO 360 plans have officially been approved across the department. The approved plan for DCCED was posted on OPN and can be seen [here](#). A copy of the PHY plan broken down

by priorities #1-#6 was provided to the board in OnBoard for review. The board has been given the green light by the department to put together the necessary items to initiate a regulations project for the Priority #1 items so it can be submitted to the Regulations Specialist, so the project is ready to be submitted when the Department of Law is ready to receive.

The board discussed the need to make a motion on the record to open a regulations project before any items can be submitted to the Regulations Specialist and how best to handle the workload required. Opening Questionnaires will need to be completed in addition to completed draft language for the priority #1 items. While the board cannot submit lower priority items at this time, they can still complete all work in advance.

Jonathan Gates motioned to initiate a regulations project regarding the AO360 priority one projects for the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board and that work on the draft language to be referred to the PHY Regulations Committee for refinement and approval by the board. Motion seconded by Michelle Scott-Weber. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item:

Regulations Committee to begin Regulations Project for AO360 Priority #1-#6 items for board review.

6. Board Correspondence

Certificates T. McLean – 04-23-2026 - Board discussed correspondence from Tina McLean requesting clarification on whether instructor credit for courses co-instructed in January 2026 and April 2026 could be accepted for continuing education contact hours for requirements in 12 AAC 54.410 per 12 AAC 54.420. Board confirmed the 50 contact hours Dr. McLean took as a participant in November 2025 from the course “*Certification for Advanced Competency in Dry Needling*” meets requirements per 12 AAC 54.420 but nothing in current regulation allows for the credit hours to be allowed for time as an instructor/co-instructor. However, the board is currently working on changes to the regulations as part of the AO360 reform plan that would broaden the categories in 12 AAC 54.420 and allow for professional contribution (clinical instructor, attending board meetings, publications, teaching, mentoring/supervision); Professional advancement (residency, board certification, fellowship, PhD, ScD); Professional Administration (documentation/coding, risk/practice/financial management); Professional Workplace Wellness (stress management, avoiding burnout, practice culture, patient culture, effective communication and difficult conversations); and special topics (ethics and boundaries, informed consent, cultural, sexual misconduct/trafficking, understanding addiction) and would like to make Dr. McLean aware of the anticipated changes.

PTA Scope of Practice – Supervision and Discharge – 05-04-2026 - Board briefly reviewed correspondence from Jeff Stroke. Consensus of the group that additional

research needed. Regulations committee is currently reviewing PTA supervision. Regulations committee meets June 26. Scope of Practices Committee meets August 6. Tori Daugherty is a member of both committees so she will act as liaison between the committees regarding.

Valerie Phelps motioned to send the board correspondence PTA Scope of Practice – Supervision and Discharge – 05-04-2026 for consideration of a reply to the Scope of Practices Committee. Motion seconded by Jonathan Gates. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

- Staff to respond to board correspondence Certificate T McLean 04-23-2026 per board discussion.
- PTA Scope of Practice – Supervision and Discharge – 05-04-2026 question from Jeff Stroke to be referred to Regulations Committee on June 26 and Scope of Practices Committee on August 6 for research and response recommendations to the board. Staff to notify Jeff Stroke.

7. Meeting Summary - Action Items

1. Staff to issue physical therapist license #252346 effective 05/22/2026 for Dr. Kaganovsky and send notification.
2. Staff to research possible regulatory requirements to support Executive Administrator position within HB173 for Regulations Committee meeting.
3. Regulations Committee to begin Regulations Project for HB173 for board review.
4. Scope of Practices Committee to work on drafting any necessary modifications to Dry Needling Position Statements due to passage of HB173 for board review.
5. Regulations Committee to begin Regulations Project for AO360 Priority #1-#6 items for board review.
6. Staff to respond to Tina McLean as instructed regarding continuing education question.
7. PTA Scope of Practice – Supervision and Discharge – 05-04-2026 question from Jeff Stroke to be referred to Regulations Committee on June 26 and Scope of Practices Committee on August 6 for research and response recommendations to the board. Staff to notify Jeff Stroke.

8. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm on Friday, May 22, 2026.

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