



AK PT/OT Board - Regulations Committee Mtg January 23, 2026 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
1/23/2026 9:00 AM AKST
Videoconference

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

Committee Members: Valerie Phelps, Eliza Ellsworth, Tori Daugherty

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Regulations Committee meeting was called to order on Friday, January 23, 2026 at 8:59 am by Valerie Phelps.

Roll call taken:

Committee members present: Valerie Phelps, Tori Daugherty, and Eliza Ellsworth.

Staff present: Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1 and Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner.

Guest: Kristen Neville, State Affairs Manager, AOTA

2. Review/Approve Agenda

Tori Daugherty motioned to accept the agenda for the January 23, 2026 PHY Regulations Committee meeting as written. Eliza Ellsworth seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Approve Minutes 01/09/2026

Eliza Ellsworth motioned to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2026 PHY Regulations Committee meeting as submitted. Tori Daugherty seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Public Comment

No public comment given.

5. AO360 Regulation Reduction Plan

Examples of Ethics Documents

Committee discussed ethics documents for the profession. Members wanted it on the record that standards for ethical behavior per AS 08.84.120(4) exist for both the physical therapy and occupational therapy professions in the public realm. Committees recommendation to repeal 12 AAC 54.500(c) + (d) for physical therapy standards and 12 AAC 54.800(a) for occupational therapy standards that adopt the Principles of Practice - March 2015 by reference as part of AO360 Reform plan.

Consensus of committee to refer the following topics to be discussed and voted on at board meeting on February 6, 2026 rather than continue deliberation at committee level:

- Active practice requirement for renewal in 12 AAC 54.405 + 12 AAC 54.705
- Hanging a license in 12 AAC 54.500(b) + 12 AAC 54.805.

Committee reviewed working document from Continuing Competency Committee meeting 01-22-2026 and discussed how to incorporate overall concepts into AO360 Reform Plan. Decision to ask for assistance from Dept. of Law in crafting language for 12 AAC 54.420(c) and 12 AAC 54.715(c) so it allows for the expansion of opportunities (categories) of continuing education discussed by the Continuing Competency Committee in Working Document for Alaska CEU Updates - 01-22-2026.PDF included in Public Packet to maintain applicable to therapy skills. Intent to modernize continuing education by shifting the focus from traditional CE to a more robust continuing competency model. Intent of board to broaden categories of CE courses and activities to include in addition to professional education courses and activities:

- 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);

- Special topics (ethics and boundaries, informed consent, cultural, sexual misconduct/trafficking, understanding addiction).

Change approving entities in 12 AAC 54.420 and 12 AAC 54.715 to expanded list:

- Any state or national professional healthcare association or state licensing entity
- Accredited hospital or related healthcare institution
- Accredited college or university health care programs
- local/state educational entity (example: elementary or secondary school environment provides educational opportunity within the school setting for autistic children on managing emotional regulation).

With the board providing a vast range of approving entities, the "one-half" approval requirement in 12 AAC 54.410(b) and 12 AAC 54.710(c) would no longer be applicable. To maintain standards, all CE would need to be approved (recognized). Expansion of list would allow for more training opportunities (in-person as well as remote learning opportunities) in Alaska as not limiting to just physical or occupational therapy related sponsors.

Changing language in 12 AAC 405(a)(1); 12 AAC 54.705(a)(1) and (a)(2) for professional practice and 12 AAC 54.410(a); 12 AAC 54.410(a)(1); 12 AAC 54.710(a) and 12 AAC 54.710(a)(1) for continuing education from "during the concluding licensing period" to "at the time of application" or "prior to application" to remove barriers to renewal/reinstatement and allow licensee to complete requirements without board having to utilize discretion in 12 AAC 02.965.

Add conversion for professional development units to 12 AAC 54.710(d)(5) - 1.25 PDUs equals 1 contact hour.

12 AAC 54.510(e) Supervision of PTA + 12 AAC 54.810(a)(1) Supervision of OTA discussed.

Break taken 10:34 am recording stopped. 10:46 am resumed.

Roll call:

Committee members present: Valerie Phelps, Tori Daugherty, and Eliza Ellsworth.

Staff present: Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1 and Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner.

Guest: Kristen Neville, State Affairs Manager, AOTA

Supervision PTA/OTA discussion continued.

Regulation Committee makes the following recommendations:

- Removing minimum monthly requirement. Schedule to be determined by Supervising PT or OT based on the needs and experience level of the PTA or OTA. Change from "The" to "A" to clarify that PTAs and OTAs have evolving/changing supervisors from day to day and are not locked in to one specific supervising PT or OT.
- Repealing 12 AAC 54.510(f) as federal statutes/regulations superseded state regulations. Language is unnecessary.
- Repealing 12 AAC 54.530 and 2 AAC 54.825 - Telerehabilitation Standards for PT and OT - outdated. Centralized statute AS 08.02.130 Telehealth supersedes.
- Replacing "before dismissal" with "at discharge evaluation" in 12 AAC 54.590(a)(6)(B) and 12 AAC 54.890(a)(6)(B) definition of supervision requirements for PT and OT to provide clarification for event of self-discharging patients.
- Repeal 12 AAC 54.920(d) - service no longer offered. No payment of fees required. No license printed; issued electronically through MyLicense portal.
- Repeal 12 AAC 54.950(e) - 150-hour internship being repealed; statutory conflict with AS 08.84.150 licensure required; no exception for anyone to complete the internship and no temporary permit can be issued. Cannot provide services without a license.
- Repeal 12 AAC 54.990(6) - outdated language; centralized statutes AS 08.02.130(j)(5) telehealth; AS 47.05.270(e) overrides.
- Repeal 12 AAC 54.990(7) - no longer required; repealing 12 AAC 54.530 and 12 AAC 54.825 telerehabilitation services

Committee discussed prioritization of recommendations of AO360 Reform Plan.

1. Statutorily Required - SB74
2. Professional Reference elimination

3. Verification of Work Experience elimination
4. Jurisprudence Questionnaire elimination
5. Foreign Educated PT post graduate 6-month internship elimination and Foreign Educated OT application clarification
6. 150-hour internship conflict at initial application, renewal and reinstatement
7. Continuing Education Clarification = Continuing Competency project + concluding licensing period
8. Dry Needling PT + OT
9. Telehealth/Telerehabilitation
10. Active Practice renewal requirement - depending on vote at February 6, 2026 board meeting
11. 12 AAC 54.600 - Occupational Therapy Licensure clarification - by examination and by credential split out

6. Next Steps

1. Kristen Neville asked for copy of AO360 PT-OT Regulations PDF recommendations working copy. Staff to send via email.
2. Staff to compile all changes discussed into PDF and Excel AO360 Reform Plan documents and forward to committee members for review.

7. Adjourn

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Regulations Committee meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm on Friday, January 23, 2026.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2026 at 10:00 am - regular committee meeting.