		State of Alaska	
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development			
	Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing		
	BOAF	RD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINE	RS
		MINUTES OF THE MEETING	
		Friday, February 12 th , 2021	
By authority	of AS 08.01.070(2)), and in compliance with the provisio	ons of AS 44.62, Article 6, a
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	rd of Chiropractic Examiners was held	
November 13			
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		Friday, November 13, 2020	
Agenda Item	i 1	Call to Order/Roll Call	Time: 10:13 a.m.
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The meeting v	was called to order	by Chairman, Brian Larson, at 10:13 a.m.	
Board Momb	ers present, constitu	iting a guorum:	
Doard Membe	<u>is present, constitu</u>	<u>uting a quorum</u> .	
	Brian Larson De	octor of Chiropractic	
Jonathan Vito, Doctor of Chiropractic James Morris, Doctor of Chiropractic			
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	John Lloyd, Doci	tor of Chiropractic	
Division Staff present were:			
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	Tracy Wiard, Oco	cupational Licensing Examiner	
	Thomas Bay, Oc	cupational Licensing Examiner	
	Joseph Bonnell, I	Licensing Supervisor	
	Jasmin Bautista, I	Investigator (present at 1:14 p.m.)	
		Division Director (via videoconference at 2:35	p.m.)
Present from	<u>the Public:</u>		
	Sheri Ruan Chief	f Operating Officer, Alaska Chiropractic	Society
		ska Chiropractic Society	Society
		y, Chief Auditor, Division of Legislative A	Andit
	Lewis Pagel	y, Chiel Auditor, Division of Legislative I	Tudit
	Edward Barringto		
R. Hoffard, MPC Greg Sampson			
	Greg Sampson		
	2		
Agenda Item	12	<u>Keview/Approve Agenda</u>	11me: 10:09 a.m.
Agenda Item		<u>Review/Approve Agenda</u> on asked the board to review the agenda.	Time: 10:09 a.m.

RESOLVED to approve the agenda as written. Resolution Time: 10:10 a.m. Agenda Item 3 Review/Approve Meeting Minutes Time: 10:10 a.m. Meeting Time: 10:35 a.m. Meeting Time: 10:3	49 50 51	On a motion duly made by Jonathan Vito, seconded by James Morris, and approved unanimously by a roll call, it was			
54 55 56 57 58 58 59 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50		RESOLVED to a	approve the agenda as written.		
55 Agenda Item 3 Review/Approve Meeting Minutes Time: 10:10 a.m. 56 The board reviewed the meeting minutes from August 21st, 2020.					
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95 how it would benefit the board to modernize the language through legislation.			9	•	
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97 Dr. Vito felt that modernizing the term would be a good idea as it would encompass the scope 98 of practice used for chiropractors and would not be confused by other medical professionals	97				

Board of Chiropractic Examiners Board Meeting of November 13, 2020 Page 2 of 11

99 who may think subluxation complex is referring to a partial dislocation. Dr. Morris believed 100 the term subluxation complex needed to be updated as well. He stated it is obvious 101 chiropractors take care of many musculoskeletal issues and it would be a good idea to get some 102 language that supports that. At the same token he stated it was important to keep some of the 103 language already established regarding vertebral subluxation and core methodology with the 104 chiropractor's current language but adding neuromuscular joint dysfunction to encompass 105 everything chiropractors do. Dr. Morris stated that, "Once the language is established the 106 board can then address scope of practice issues."

Dr. Larson wanted to bring the new board member up to date. He referred to the board's statutes and regulations, stating a person licensed under this chapter may analyze, diagnose and treat the chiropractic condition of a patient by utilizing chiropractic core methodology or ancillary methodology. Dr. Larson went on to explain that in Alaska law, all areas of practice must specify what that area is. For medical doctors and osteopaths, it simply says they are medical doctors. For nurse practitioners there needs to be specification that they are using a nursing diagnosis. Chiropractors use the chiropractic diagnosis. This specifies the area of treatment used.

117Dr. Larson went on to read the definitions of ancillary methodology and chiropractic core118methodology. He explained that chiropractic core methodology is without the use of119prescription drugs and surgery and licensed chiropractors can only operate within the scope of120practice defined in the statutes and regulations which are over 30 years old. He went on to121explain, this definition of chiropractic core methodology limits the scope of ancillary methods122according to interpretation by law.

124 Dr. Larson continued to explain that in more recent years, the practice of chiropractic has been 125 expanding, more specialties have been introduced to the practice and education has been 126 improving. Alaska statutes and regulations are behind the curve regarding procedures a 127 chiropractic doctor can perform. It would be nice if the regulations matched the scope of 128 practice. Dr. Larson stated the regulations state any use of a needle would constitute surgery, 129 but a hypodermic needle can be used for venipuncture. In addition, Dr. Larson stated most 130 supplements in a chiropractic office for sale would constitute a prescription drug which could 131 be outside the scope of practice. Dr. Larson stated these methodologies are being used all 132 over the country in other states and is not a new practice. He also stated it has been discussed 133 to add a medicine ledger to the practice for prescribing antibiotics, nutritional injections, etc. 134 Dr. Larson added that sometimes the chiropractor is the only medical profession in a village.

Dr. Larson spoke about the recent board chair meeting that deals with medical boards
addressing the Covid-19 pandemic. OLE Thomas Bay stated there may have been a
misunderstanding regarding the meeting of board chairs at the last Covid-19 meeting. He
believed the chairs were being asked if they would be willing to perform Covid-19
immunizations if the legislation administered emergency regulations allowing chiropractors and
other health care practitioners to do so.

143Other items on the board's task list were discussed, including the contract with the NBCE144allowing them to administer their EBAS exam, as a disciplinary tool, and the board's145jurisprudence examination across the country at their testing locations. Division staff explained146this would be a slow-moving process and the new records and licensing supervisor was aware147of the issue and getting the ball rolling on it. Division staff also informed the board that there148is no contract yet, but it was in process.

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149150The board moved on to discuss the recently adopted regulations requiring all Certified151Chiropractic Clinical Assistants to be credentialed no later than February 23, 2021. All newly152hired clinical assistants will have one year from date of hire to complete the credentialing153process. Sheri Ryan informed the board that the Alaska Chiropractic Society has been154informing chiropractic doctors with questions that this is a requirement for anyone performing155procedures typical of a chiropractic assistant.

157Dr. Lloyd stated that he has been asked if clinics that employ a physical therapist and a158chiropractor, if the chiropractic assistant works primarily with the physical therapist, is the159credentialing of the clinical assistant still required. Dr. Lloyd added that, according to160regulations, the clinical assistant is still required to be certified. They would need the credential161to be able to perform standing orders. Physical therapy aids have their own requirements to162adhere to.

164 Dr. Larson asked if the assistants could perform their tasks while the chiropractor was out of 165 the building or if they needed to be present. OLE Thomas Bay informed the board that when 166 he asked the regulations specialist their opinion regarding the regulations, the term, "under general supervision," is vague and may need further interpretation from law. Dr. Larson 167 168 informed the board that the term personal supervision was to be used for interns only. The 169 only time an intern is under direct supervision is when they are performing a chiropractic 170 adjustment. There is a difference regarding the supervision used for interns vs. assistants. 171 They are in the regulations. 172

173 Sheri Ryan addressed the board and offered to answer Dr. Larson's question, as she had been 174 involved with the regulatory change from its onset and understood the initial intent. She stated 175 that the original intent was not just to deal with standing orders but to deal with minimal 176 education requirements of chiropractic assistants. Sheri Ryan informed the board that the 177 regulations allowed the board to have authority over the desired education required to be a 178 chiropractic assistant in Alaska. The regulations also deal with the insurance companies that 179 were saying chiropractors could not delegate tasks to chiropractic assistants because they were 180 not trained, licensed or competent to do so. The required certification mitigates these issues 181 for any assistant who performs any hands-on procedures. OLE Tracy Wiard asked if the 182 board would like to create a license type for chiropractic assistants. Sheri Ryan stated the fiscal 183 note that would have accompanied the legislation was astronomical and it was found at the 184 time that the Board of Chiropractic Examiners could not afford the cost or the additional 185 work load. This resulted in the requirements of a national certification in regulation as 186 opposed to a state issued license. The Alaska Chiropractic Society has a method for obtaining 187 reporting requirements for clinical chiropractor assistants and it is then reported to the Board 188 of Chiropractic Examiners. Dr. Lloyd suggested the board do a PR for chiropractors in the 189 state so they understand the reasoning and the benefits of having a certified assistant.

191 Sheri Ryan went on to explain that assistants who have been employed for a time and already 192 have the training may opt to take the certification exam only. Those assistants who do not have the knowledge and training of the assistant, may take the training component as well as 193 194 the test. Many assistants are opting to take that route, but it is not required. It was also stated 195 that a new assistant has one year from date of hire to obtain the certification. With that in 196 mind, the assistant cannot perform any procedures they are not competently trained to 197 perform. OLE Tracy Wiard suggested the board may be interested in writing a position 198 statement for the board's website.

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200 On a motion duly made by Jonathan Vito, seconded by Gabriel King, and approved

201 unanimously by a roll call, it was

RESOLVED to have Dr. Morris write the certified clinical chiropractic assistant position statement for the board website with the assistance of Sheri Ryan.

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207 <u>Ratify New Licenses:</u>

Having finished with the discussion of the previous task list and the boards annual report goals, the
board began discussion on ratifying the new licenses for licensees who sat for the February 21st, 2020,
jurisprudence examination.

On a motion duly made by Jonathan Vito, seconded by James Morris, and approved unanimously by a roll call, it was

RESOLVED to ratify the license for Joseph Wojciechowski III.

216217 Agenda Item 5

Statutes and Regulations

Time: 11:40 a.m.

Time: 11:55 a.m.

219 <u>Regulations Discussion:</u>

220 A question was asked if there was any update on the statutes and regulations project. Dr. Larson

stated, after talking with the Department of Law, it was determined the board needs to talk to the legislature about revising the scope of practice before any further changes could be made. Dr. Larson

stated he was working with Dr. Morris to redefine the definition of chiropractic. Dr. Larson stated, it

needs to be revised from stating it is the science of the subluxation complex to be performed without surgery or drugs. Many people have felt that the term ancillary methodology would mean, with proper

training, some needles (excising living tissue) and prescription drugs should be allowable. Unless the

legislature wishes to expand the scope of practice to include these things, the board may not move

- 228 forward with their proposed changes.
- 229

230 Dr. Larson asked Sheri Ryan if the ACS had any updates from their board for proposed redefining of 231 the term chiropractic for legislation. Sheri Ryan stated she did not think the scope change would be 232 impossible, if much of the scope remained the same. She believes that the removal of subluxation 233 complex may alarm many chiropractors in the state. Sheri Ryan suggested, a better task may be to 234 modernize the language to include musculoskeletal joint dysfunction. The problem with the board's 235 proposed changes was not so much the reference to surgery, but that the changes did not reflect on 236 the chiropractic core methodology. This was the problem with dry needling and incising. Dr. Larson 237 asked if the board could obtain their own legal counsel outside the state. OLE Tracy Wiard informed 238 the board it was not in their purview to hire outside legal representation to review the definitions 239 proposed by the board.

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241 Agenda Item 6

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243 <u>Covid-19 Discussion:</u>

Dr. Larson discussed with the board the formation of the medical board chairs group to meet and

Covid-19

discuss the status of covid-19. This group has been meeting biweekly for some time. The group

246 discusses plans and procedures for remaining in business and helping hospitals and clinics that may

- 247 become overrun with patients infected with Covid-19. It was suggested that the boards may want to
- take over the procedures for practicing safe patient care as the governor was gearing towards moving

Board of Chiropractic Examiners Board Meeting of November 13, 2020 Page 5 of 11

249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258	away from the state mandates. It would be beneficial for the board to have guidance for practitioners considering the mandates. Currently, the mandates were extended for another 30 days but once the mandates are over, the boards would want to have procedures in place to maintain the safety of patients and providers. The board reviewed Dr. Larson's letter regarding this topic. Dr. Morris suggested that Dr. Larson's letter address compliance with local mandates in addition to the state mandates as some local mandates may supersede the state mandates. Dr. Vito agreed with Dr. Morris's suggestion. Dr. Larson asked the board members for further thoughts. The board thanked Dr. Larson for his contribution and clarification regarding proper procedures for remaining in practice while handling the Covid-19 pandemic.			
259 260 261	Off Record: 12:17 p.m. On Record: 1:12 p.m.			
262 263	The meeting was called bac	ck to order by Chairman, Brian Larson, at 1:12	p.m.	
264	Board Members present, co	onstituting a quorum:		
265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272	Jonathan V James Morr John Lloyd	on, Doctor of Chiropractic ito, Doctor of Chiropractic cis, Doctor of Chiropractic , Doctor of Chiropractic ng, Public Member <i>(Joined telephonically at 10:22</i>)	a.m.)	
 273 274 275 276 277 278 	Thomas Ba Jasmin Bau	d, Occupational Licensing Examiner y, Occupational Licensing Examiner tista, Investigator <i>(present at 1:14 p.m.)</i> mas, Administrative Officer <i>(via videoconference a</i>	ut 2:35 p.m.)	
279 280	Present from the Public:			
280 281 282	Sheri Ryan,	Chief Operating Officer, Alaska Chiropractic	Society	
283	Agenda Item 6	Covid-19	Time: 1:12 p.m.	
284 285 286 287 288 289	Dr. Larson picked up with the discussion of the Covid-19 letter he had drafted prior to lunch and read the letter to the board. He had drafted the changes that the board recommended prior to lunch and wanted the board to discuss. It was stated the board could continue to review through On Board and make any required suggested changes, or could vote to approve and add to the board's website.			
290	On a motion duly made by Jonathan Vito, seconded by James Morris, and approved			
291 292 293 294 295 206	unanimously by a roll call, it was RESOLVED to add Dr. Larson's Covid-19 letter to On Board for board review or approval and add to the State of Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners Website.			
296 297 298	Agenda Item 8	Fall District Meeting	Time: 1:15 p.m.	

- 299 It was stated that the letter from the FCLB regarding the fall district meeting was never received.
- 300 There was no letter to review as planned on the agenda.
- 301

302 Agenda Item 9303

Investigative Report

Time: 1:20 p.m

304 <u>Investigative Report:</u>

305 Investigator Jasmin Bautista joined the meeting to provide the investigative report for the dates

- 306 08/06/2020-11/05/2020. The report included cases, investigations, intakes and complaints that were
 307 received during that timeframe. Jasmin reminded the board that any cases regarding continuing
 308 education audits are with the paralegal and not part of this report.
- 309

310 There were four open cases with the board's investigations team. There were three cases that were

- closed during this timeframe. There was an incomplete complaint. This means there was a call or complaint in the mail and when the investigations team followed up with the forms and affidavit the investigations team never received the complaint form back. The second closed investigation was an investigation review and the last was a license action. There were no other questions from the board regarding the investigations report.
- 316317 Agenda Item 10

ACS Update

Time: 1:25 p.m.

318319 <u>ACS Report:</u>

320 The board moved on to the report from the Alaska Chiropractic Society staff. Debbie Ryan was

321 unable to attend the board meeting. Sheri Ryan provided the report for the board. She stated the

ACS is monitoring the proposed CMS 2021 reimbursement cuts for chiropractic services. Overall,

323 CMS will be increasing reimbursement for E&M (evaluation and management codes) and reducing
 324 reimbursement for other codes as part of the HSS budget neutrality. Chiropractic services are some of

the other cuts that will be made to account for the increased E&M payments. CMS cuts are 10% but

because of the relative value units, the cuts come out to about 19.5%. The affects will have all

- insurances reducing their reimbursements because all insurance companies base payments off CMS
- 328 coverage.

329 ACS submitted public comment to CMS which ended in October. ACS ran a campaign to educate the

- 330 US Congressional contingency to inform them of the far-reaching consequences. The proposed cuts
- 331 were discussed with Alaska Representatives and Senators and the thought from the Congress was that

chiropractic physicians would make up the cuts with the increased E&M code reimbursement. It was

unknown to the Congress that chiropractors do not get a reimbursement for E&M codes and will be

affected by this CMS change in a negative way. ACS did make comments on the issue on behalf of the

- 335 chiropractors who are licensed in Alaska.
- Recent legislation was introduced in the house that would address the budget neutrality and the

337 conversion factor. ACS is putting together a campaign to reach out to the Representatives and

338 Senators to hold chiropractors at the current reimbursement level until 2022. It would allow the E&M

increases without the decreases in chiropractic care. This would prevent the cuts coming from other

- 340 insurance companies like Alaska Workers Comp and Aetna.
- ACS also put out a webinar regarding changed codes in the CPT for chiropractic care. The ACS
- 342 hosted a billing boot camp that was very well received. If the Alaska chiropractors are not up to speed

- 343 on coding changes, they will have denied reimbursements on insurance claims. The boot camp also
- 344 discussed many ethical issues regarding writing off copays and deductibles.
- 345

346 Dr. Larson asked about issues with Blue Cross Blue Shield in Texas not reimbursing for massage 347 therapy treatment. Sherri Ryan stated the association has reached out numerous times. The 348 employees may be in state but the insurance companies are out of state. If the provider is in network, 349 Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield requires in network providers to code a certain way for the massage. 350 Sheri Ryan recommended a grass roots campaign as many people are getting denied coverage for 351 services their insurance should cover. If the office is not a Premera network office, then it is 352 appropriate for the office to bill the massage under the DC NPI number. The board went on to 353 discuss certain massage CPT codes. 354 355 356 357 Agenda Item 11 Correspondence Time: 1:40 p.m. 358 359 Letter Regarding Previous Regulations Project: • 360 There was a letter that was requested to be read for board review from Dr. Shannon and Dr. 361 McAfee. The letter addressed the meeting minutes from the BOCE's August 2020 meeting. 362 The doctors asked the board to continue on with their attempts to change regulations allowing 363 for nutritionals to be prescribed as part of the chiropractic scope of practice as well as the 364 many ancillary methods the board had discussed with LAW and Director Chambers. The 365 board reviewed the letter and took the comments into consideration for future regulation 366 revisions and projects. 367 368 OLE Thomas Bay addressed the board informing them that he did pass this question of 369 whether the board could pass the regulations without the approval of law and Mr. Bay was 370 informed that could not be done. Dr. Larson inquired why this was. Mr. Bay informed Dr. 371 Larson that Director Chambers was aware of the letter and if he had any questions she would 372 be happy to speak with him about it. Dr. Larson stated he would reach out to Director 373 Chambers regarding the matter and discuss the issue with her. Dr. Larson would then write 374 out the context of the conversation via OnBoard so the board could obtain the information.

- 375 376 The next e-mail was from Chirocredit.com asking to be added to the CCCA and PACE 377 provider list on the board's website. OLE Thomas Bay informed the board that the provider 378 list was going to be updated and Chirocredit.com is already listed as a PACE approved 379 provider on the FCLB website. The link will show them as a provider on the FCLB site. One 380 continuing education provider cannot be singled out over the others. OLE Tracy Wiard to 381 write an e-mail informing them they are already listed on the approved provider's website at 382 FCLB. Mr. Bay asked Sheri Ryan if Chirocredit.com is a CCCA provider. Sheri Ryan stated 383 Chirocredit.com is an education provider but not a certification provider.
- 385 Agenda Item 12 Budget Report/Division Update Time: 2:15 p.m. 386

387 The division's Administration Officer Melissa Dumas provided the 4th quarter FY 20 budget report 388 and annual report. The division report is in the board packet and provides all the expenditures and 389 revenue generated for the board during FY 20 as well as indirect expenditures. 390

Board of Chiropractic Examiners FY 20

Revenue from License Fees Allowable Third Party Reimbursements	\$ 24,395
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 24,395
Expenditures	
Non Investigation Expenditures	
1000 - Personal Services 2000	73,885
- Travel	5,152
3000 - Services	13,719
4000 - Commodities 5000 -	-
Capital Outlay	-
Total Non-Investigation Expenditures	92,756
nvestigation Expenditures 1000-	
Personal Services 2000 - Travel	5,622
3023 - Expert Witness 3088 -	-
Inter-Agency Legal	-
3094 - Inter-Agency Hearing/Mediation 3000 -	7,077
Services other	-
4000 - Commodities	7
Total Investigation Expenditures	-
	12,706
Total Direct Expenditures	
	105,462
ndirect Expenditures	
Internal Administrative Costs	
Departmental Costs Statewide	15,826
Costs	10,926
Total Indirect Expenditures	10,474
	37,226
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 142,688
Currenter the (Definite) protocolog	
Cumulative Surplus (Deficit) Beginning	¢ 70.400
Cumulative Surplus (Deficit) Annual	\$ 78,465
Increase/(Decrease)	(118,293) (39,828)
Ending Cumulative Surplus (Deficit)	(39,828)
	Fee analysis required
Statistical Information	
Number of Licenses for Indirect calculation	343
Number of Elements for multer calculation	

392 On Record: 2:42 p.m.

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395 The meeting was called back to order by Chairman, Brian Larson, at 2:42 p.m.

Board Members present, constituting a quorum:
Brian Larson, Doctor of Chiropractic
Jonathan Vito, Doctor of Chiropractic
John Lloyd, Doctor of Chiropractic
Gabriel King, Public Member (Joined telephonically at 10:22 a.m.)
Division Staff present were:
Tracy Wiard, Occupational Licensing Examiner
Thomas Bay, Occupational Licensing Examiner
Present from the Public:
Sheri Ryan, Chief Operating Officer, Alaska Chiropractic Society
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413	Agenda Item 14	Administrative Business	Time: 2:43 p.m.
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415		ing: The board voted to set the next meeting dates.	8
416		ng on Friday, February 12 th , 2021. The board also a	
417	meeting of 202	21 on Thursday, April 29th, 2021. OLE Tracy Wiard	l will set up the meeting.
418	• <u>Task List:</u> OL	E Tracy Wiard read over the tasks the board created	d during today's meeting.
419		ned the following, which will also be e-mailed to the	
420	• TASK:	Dr. Morris with help from Sheri Ryan will crea	te a board position
421	statem	ent for the Board of Chiropractic Examiners we	ebsite regarding CCCA
422	regula		0 0
423	\circ TASK:	OLE Tracy Wiard will e-mail Board of Chirop	ractic Examiners statutes
424		gulations to Mr. Gabriel King.	
425		Dr. Larson will contact Director Chambers reg	arding why the board
426		t pass their regulations project without approval	
427	draft o	f the conversation for the board via OnBoard.	
428	\circ OLE 7	Fracy Wiard will reply to chirocredit.com e-mail	1.
429		rson and Dr. Morris will continue working on le	
430		Fracy Wiard will add Dr. Larson's Covid-19 lette	0
431	review	or approval and add to the State of Alaska Boar	rd of Chiropractic
432	Exami	iners Website.	-
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434			
435			
436	Agenda Item 13	Public Comment	Time: 3:00 p.m.
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438	No one called in for pu	ablic comment.	
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455	On a motion duly ma	ade by Jonathan Vito, seconded by John Lloyd,	it was
456			
457	RESOLVED	to adjourn the meeting.	
458	O(CD) = 1.2	0	
459	Off Record: 3:	02 p.m.	
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461			

Board of Chiropractic Examiners Board Meeting of November 13, 2020 Page 10 of 11

462	Respectfully Submitted by:	
463	1 5 5	
464	/unavailable/	
465	, , ,	
466	Tracy Wiard	Date
467	Licensing Examiner	
468		
469		
470		
471	Approved by:	

DocuSigned by: Ah 1/ Juna Sel

5/3/2023

Dr. Brian Larson Date Alaska State Board of Chiropractic Examiners