

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS, AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
4

5 STATE MEDICAL BOARD
6

7 MINUTES OF MEETING
8 Thursday, April 2, 2020

9 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a special COVID-19
10 video-conference meeting of the Alaska State Medical Board was held on Thursday, April 2, 2020.
11

12 Thursday, April 2, 2020
13

14 **1. Call to Order/ Roll Call**

15 The meeting was called to order by Chair Wein at 4:02 p.m.
16

17 **Roll Call**

18 Board members present, constituting a quorum:

19 Sarah Bigelow Hood, PA
20 David Boswell, Public Member
21 Christopher Gay, MD
22 Lydia Mielke, Public Member
23 Steve Parker, MD
24 Richard Wein, MD (Chair)
25

26 Board member Larry Daugherty, MD was not in attendance.
27

28 Board staff:

29 Alysia Jones, Executive Administrator
30 Steven Alvarado, Licensing Examiner
31 Olena Ziuba, Licensing Examiner
32

33 The following visitors attended the meeting:

34 Dr. Adam Gadzinski
35 Melissa Dumas, Administrative Officer, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional
36 Licensing
37 Sher Zinn, Regulations Specialist, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
38 Sharon Walsh, Deputy Director, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
39
40

41 **2. Review Agenda**

42 The Board reviewed the agenda.
43

44 **On a Motion duly made by Dr. Gay, seconded by Mr. Boswell and approved**
45 **unanimously, the Board approved the agenda as presented.**
46
47

1 **3. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes**

2 The board reviewed the meeting minutes from both the March 13th and March 26th meetings.
3 Dr. Gay noted one correction to the March 26th minutes stating that he was present but that he was not
4 let in to the meeting until 4:15 p.m. Ms. Jones apologized for the delay in admittance and made note of
5 the correction.
6

7 **On a Motion duly made by Dr. Gay, seconded by Ms. Mielke, and approved**
8 **unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the March 13th meeting as presented and**
9 **March 26th meeting as amended.**

10
11 **4. Public Comment 8:00**

12 The Chair invited Dr. Adam Gadzinski to speak. Dr. Gadzinski stated that he is a urologist working in
13 Seattle, Washington. Dr. Gadzinski noted that Seattle physicians see several patients from Alaska that fly
14 down to Seattle for treatment. He noted that they have the capability to offer telemedicine to Alaska
15 patients, but requested clarification on whether an emergency license was required to offer
16 telemedicine.
17

18 The Chair noted that the board would be discussing emergency courtesy license later in the meeting. It
19 was noted that US DHSS offered a lot of leeway in terms of mechanisms used for telemedicine during
20 COVID-19. The Chair asked what additional clarification the board could provide.

21 Dr. Gadzinski thanked the board for the clarification and recommended updating information on the
22 website to clarify when an emergency courtesy license was needed.
23

24 Ms. Jones explained the difference between the proposed emergency courtesy license and current
25 available options for licensure. She confirmed that the guidance published on March 18th was still in
26 effect, but noted that there was legislation awaiting the Governor's signature that would waive Alaska
27 licensure requirements for physicians that met certain criteria to practice telemedicine. Dr. Gadzinski
28 asked for guidance on seeing patients prior to the legislation take effect. The Chair referenced Health
29 Mandate :05 regarding urgent and emergent.
30

31 **5. Update on SB 241 Update on SB 241 - Extending COVID-19 Disaster Recovery**

32 **5.A. Bill Outline**

33 Ms. Jones provided an overview of SB 241 regarding what each section does, who it affects, and
34 when it expires. Ms. Jones directed the board's attention to sections 6 and 7. Section 6 would
35 allow for emergency courtesy licenses, waiving of continuing education requirements,
36 determination of scope, duration and supervision, and no increase of fees. Additionally, section
37 6 would require provider traveling to Alaska from another jurisdiction must comply with travel
38 restrictions or guidelines ordered by the CDC or US DHHS. Section 7 waives licensure
39 requirements for health care providers under AS 08.64 or AS 08.68 who are providing treatment,
40 rendering a diagnosis, or prescribing, dispensing, or administering a prescription that is not a controlled
41 substance without first conducting an in-person physical exam if certain criteria is met.
42

43 Mr. Boswell asked for clarification if section 7 is intended to specifically to care for patients with COVID-
44 19, serve any patient that would otherwise be traveling out of state for care, or expanding care of
45 Alaskans in general. The Chair responded that it appears to be opening up care of Alaskans in general
46 during the COVID-19 and recommended there be additional discussion on this topic.

1 Mr. Boswell expressed his concern with section 7 and asked about capturing data such as type of
2 service, how often the physician has seen the patient, etc. Dr. Gay noted that providers are currently still
3 required to register with the telemedicine business registry to offer telemedicine in Alaska. Ms. Jones
4 agreed to get clarification regarding whether the Telemedicine Business Registry will continue to be
5 required if SB 241 is signed.

6
7 Dr. Parker noted a potential misconception that waiver for Alaska licensure for telemedicine may be
8 interpreted as a permanent change rather a temporary measure in response to COVID-19.
9 It was suggested that further clarification should be added to the website regarding this topic.

10 11 **5.B. Review of Assets**

12 Ms. Jones provided a partial list of the breakdown of licensees by specialties and location information
13 for the board to review. The Chair reported that other health care boards will be assessing their
14 capabilities and submitted data to the medical board to compile a statewide list of assets if mobilization
15 is needed.

16 17 **6. Financial Review in Consideration of Waiving Fees**

18 Melissa Dumas, Administrative Officer for the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional
19 Licensing reviewed the FY 2019 Financial Report and FY 2020 2nd Quarter report. Ms. Dumas noted that
20 the board is scheduled to conduct a fee analysis, but that had been postponed slightly due to the
21 potential transfer of mobile intensive care paramedics from the Medical Board to Department of Health
22 and Social Services, Emergency Medical Services Division. Ms. Jones and Ms. Dumas also noted that
23 costs of personnel services may vary from previous years due to restructuring of staffing for the
24 program in late 2019 and repurposing of other Division staff members in preparation for COVID-19
25 related tasks.

26
27 Mr. Boswell asked if other states were processing emergency license applications at a zero cost. Ms.
28 Jones indicated that several states had waived fees, but agreed to follow up with more concrete data.
29 The board discussed potential surges and considered ways to capture applicants' specialties and related
30 information to ascertain how those individuals coming to Alaska plan to utilize their skills to assist with
31 COVID-19.

32 33 **7. Emergency Courtesy License**

34 **7.A. Emergency Regulations** – The board reviewed a rough draft of the regulations prepared by Ms.
35 Jones based upon discussion at the board's March 26th meeting. The proposed regulations expanded the
36 current courtesy license to include physician assistants and paramedics as well as the application
37 requirements for the emergency license.

38
39 The board discussed making emergency regulations to address the current situation versus more
40 general regulation changes to cover a wider range of emergencies.

41 42 **7.B. Emergency Courtesy License Application Form**

43 The board reviewed the sample emergency application form from Illinois and made recommendations
44 for potential edits. Dr. Parker and Dr. Gay both suggested capturing information regarding specialties
45 and scope of practice.

1 **8. Joint statement with BON & BOP**

2 The board reviewed a draft statement from the Board of Nursing, Board of Pharmacy and Medical Board
3 on medications to treat covid-19.

4

5 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved**
6 **unanimously, the board accepted the statement and be part of the Board of Nursing, Board of**
7 **Pharmacy joint statement on medications to treat Covid-19.**

8

9 The Chair asked if there were any other topics for discussion at this meeting or the next scheduled
10 meeting.

11 Dr. Gay asked if the joint statement with BON and BOP was the first the board had released. The Chair
12 confirmed that it will be the first joint statement for the current board and that it signifies unity among
13 the state boards. The Chair explained collaboration among health care related boards has been one of
14 the outcomes of COVID-19.

15 The Chair encouraged the board to be actively thinking of ways to disseminating information to
16 licensees regarding the board’s activities and thoughts.

17 The board discussed the timeframe for implementing the emergency courtesy license. The Chair and Ms.
18 Jones reviewed the process and required steps for implementing the emergency courtesy license, noting
19 the intent is to move it forward as soon as possible.

20 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

21

22 Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

23

24 /s/ _____

/s/  _____

25 Alysia D. Jones, Executive Administrator
26 Alaska State Medical Board

Richard Wein, MD, President
Alaska State Medical Board

27

28 April 21, 2020

April 21, 2020

29 Date

Date