

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, May 14, 2020
9

10 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a special COVID-19
11 video-conference meeting of the Alaska State Medical Board was held on Thursday, May 14, 2020.
12

13 Thursday, May 14, 2020
14

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

16 The meeting was called to order by Chair Wein at 4:01 p.m.
17

18 **Roll Call**

19 Board members present, constituting a quorum:

20 Sarah Bigelow Hood, PA
21 David Boswell, Public Member
22 Larry Daugherty, MD
23 Christopher Gay, MD (*joined at 4:03 p.m.*)
24 Lydia Mielke, Public Member
25 Steve Parker, MD
26 Richard Wein, MD (Chair)
27

28 Board staff:

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

33 **2. Review Agenda**

34 The board reviewed the agenda.
35

36 **On a Motion duly made by Mr. Boswell, seconded by Dr. Daugherty, and approved**
37 **unanimously, the Board approved the agenda as presented.**
38

39 **3. Review/Approve May 7th Meeting Minutes**

40 The board reviewed the meeting minutes from the May 7th meeting
41

42 **On a Motion duly made by Ms. Bigelow Hood, seconded by Mr. Boswell, and approved**
43 **unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the May 7th meeting as amended.**
44

45
46
47 Dr. Gay joined the meeting at 4:03 p.m.
48

1 **4. Public Comment**

2 The Chair requested any persons to be heard. Seeing there were no members of the public present, the
3 board moved to the next item on the agenda.

4
5 **5. Correspondence (Sent / Received)**

6 There was no correspondence for the board's review.
7

8 **6. Follow up: Health Mandate 15 Guidance**

9 The board reviewed a revised draft of Health Mandate 15. The Chair explained that the state wishes to
10 begin opening-up routine health maintenance procedural work and encouraged the board to bring
11 forward any comments, questions or concerns related to this topic.
12

13 Dr. Daugherty reiterated his dislike of the use of mandates and suggested the state shift towards
14 providing guidance and best practices. The Chair responded that the shift is taking place and offered to
15 relay Dr. Daugherty's comments forward. Dr. Daugherty expressed his appreciation of the state's
16 leadership during this unprecedented learning process for everyone.
17

18 The board discussed upcoming expiration dates for certain mandates, potential extensions, and the
19 possibility of a second surge.
20

21 Mr. Boswell asked the physicians on the board about the risk of office closures due to COVID-19, noting
22 a headline in the *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*.
23

24 Dr. Daugherty responded that he has seen the strain on a number of clinics. He also reported that the
25 clinic where he is employed filed for Chapter 11. Dr. Gay stated that he is primarily out-patient, but
26 suggested that there was likely a backlog of cases that need to be completed. Dr. Wein stated that even
27 as things open up, patients are reticent about re-entering the hospital setting. Dr. Parker responded (*via*
28 *Zoom chat feature*) that it was his understanding there has been a 95% revenue decline at local
29 hospitals.
30

31 Mr. Boswell asked about a letter of guidance related to PDMP to the Board of Pharmacy, that Dr. Parker
32 and Dr. Gay had been tasked to work on. The Chair reported that it had not been done. Ms. Jones
33 reported that the task was assigned at the April 30th meeting and had been inadvertently left off of the
34 follow up on previously asked questions report for the May 7th meeting. Ms. Jones stated that the task
35 was noted on this week's follow up document.
36

37 Mr. Boswell expressed his concern that people are uncomfortable seeking proper medical care and
38 asked how the board could encourage people to utilize health care services that are available in a safe
39 manner. He explained the goal of the health mandates were to flatten the curve so that the medical
40 system could manage any outbreaks, but that there may be a reverse effect occurring to a certain
41 extent.
42

43 The Chair responded that the state is moving in a reasonable way, opening up medical practices. The
44 board discussed general concerns as well as the transitions to new procedures to accessing care.
45

46 **7. Consideration of Board Order RE: CMEs**

47 Ms. Jones explained the board had made a motion at their March 26th meeting to reduce the continuing
48 medical education (CME) requirements, which preceded the adoption of SB 241. Ms. Jones asked the

1 board to consider reiterating their position, if that is still the will of the board, so that an official board
2 order could be created. Ms. Jones provided a draft of the board order for the board’s consideration.

3
4 Mr. Boswell recalled the previous motion was a result of hearing from licensees that continuing medical
5 education classes were cancelled and/or licensees were unable to travel. Mr. Boswell asked if new,
6 alternative methods had become available. Ms. Bigelow Hood responded that as a physician assistant
7 she does not fall under this waiver. CME requirements for physician assistants are through the NCCPA¹.
8 Ms. Bigelow Hood stated she completed all 100 hours of her CME and that CME providers are doing a lot
9 to make courses available knowing that people are unable to travel.

10
11 The Chair concurred with Ms. Bigelow Hood’s response, while acknowledging the board’s collegial
12 thought of the original motion.

13
14 In accordance with SB241 Sec. 6(b)(1) and

15
16 **upon a motion duly made by Dr. Daugherty, seconded by Ms. Mielke and approved**
17 **unanimously, the board resolved to reduce the continuing medical education requirements**
18 **for all licensees regulated by the board by fifty percent, unless otherwise mandated by a**
19 **national governing body.**

20
21 Mr. Boswell read the above motion into the record.

22
23 This board order will cease on January 1, 2021, following the end of the current renewal cycle. In the
24 event the COVID-19 pandemic extends past the renewal deadline, the board may consider adjusting
25 CME requirements for the 2021-2022 licensing period.

26 27 **8. Follow up on Previously Asked Questions**

28 Ms. Jones provided an update on the following topics:

- 29
- 30 • **12 AAC 40.943(b)** – A supplemental notice was sent out today (5/14/2020) explaining the
31 additional changes to the adopted emergency regulations pertaining to 12 AAC 40.943
32 Standards of Telemedicine. The effective date of the emergency regulations (and the
33 amendment adopted 5/7/2020) were back dated to 5/5/2020, and will expire September 1,
34 2020 unless made permanent. Public comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on
35 June 16, 2020.

36 Ms. Jones explained that all comments would be compiled after the deadline and presented to
37 the board for review.

- 38
- 39 • **Emergency Courtesy License Applications** – Both online and paper applications are now
40 available. Ms. Jones reported 5 applications for emergency courtesy licenses have been
41 received to date. Mr. Boswell asked if the applicants were in state or out of state. Ms. Jones
42 responded that she believed the applications were from out of state, but would confirm at the
43 next meeting.
 - 44 • **PDMP Work Group** – At the 4/30/2020 board meeting, Dr. Parker and Dr. Gay were tasked with
45 drafting a letter to the Board of Pharmacy (BOP) outlining the board’s concerns and
46

¹ National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

1 recommendations for improving the PDMP. Ms. Jones also noted that the BOP Chair is
2 interested in establishing a work group with input from the six boards that interact with the
3 PDMP. The Chair added that Chair Holt will establish the structure for that group and additional
4 information will be shared with the board as it becomes available.
5

6 The following topics remain on the board's radar:

- 7 • Asset Data
 - 8 • Data collection of health care staffing needs
 - 9 • Why Alaska is the only state not to require licensure for respiratory therapist
 - 10 • SB 173 Transfer of MICPs to DHSS/EMS
- 11

12 In preparation for the board's quarterly meeting, scheduled for May 21-22, 2020, the board briefly
13 discussed logistics for the May 21-22, 2020 and decided to suspend the weekly COVID-19 meetings until
14 June 4th.
15

16
17 **9. Adjourn**

18 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **4:51 p.m.**
19
20
21
22

23 Respectfully submitted:

24
25
26 /s/ _____
27 Alysia D. Jones, Executive Administrator
28 Alaska State Medical Board

29 6/14/2020
30 _____
31 Date

Approved:

26 /s/ *Richard J. Wein, M.D.*
27 Richard Wein, MD, President
28 Alaska State Medical Board

29 6/14/20
30 _____
31 Date