

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 MINUTES OF MEETING
7 Friday, November 17, 2023
8

9 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a quarterly meeting
10 of the Alaska State Medical Board was held Friday, November 17, 2023.
11

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

13 The meeting was called to order by Chair Wein at 9:03 a.m.
14

15 **Roll Call**

16 Board members present:

17 Maria Freeman, MD
18 Sarah Bigelow Hood, PA-C
19 Matthew Heilala, DPM
20 Lydia Mielke, Public Member (Secretary)
21 David Paulson, MD
22 Richard Wein, MD (Chair)
23 David Wilson, Public Member
24

25 Board Members not present:

26 David Barnes, DO
27

28 Board staff present: Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator; Jason Kaeser, Jacob Olsen & Alisa Perkins
29 Occupational Licensing Examiners
30

31 Dr. Barnes joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.
32

33 **2. Review / Approval of Agenda**

34 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
35 **call vote the Alaska State Medical Board accepted the draft agenda as presented.**
36

37 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson,
38 Dr. Wein and Mr. Wilson.
39

40 **3. Review/Approval of Minutes**

41 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
42 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board accepted the minutes for the August 18, 2023, board**
43 **meeting with a correction identified to a roll call on page 3, Item #7 ; Dr. Freeman abstained**
44 **from vote** (the draft minutes erroneously reflected her voting in favor of the motion).
45

46 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson,
47 Dr. Wein and Mr. Wilson.

1
2 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
3 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board accepted the minutes for September 21, 2023, board**
4 **meeting as presented.**

5
6 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson,
7 Dr. Wein and Mr. Wilson.
8

9 **4. Ethics Disclosures**

10 Ethics reporting by board members is done on a quarterly basis and is a standing item on the quarterly
11 meeting agenda. The Chair requested Ms. Norberg query each board member.
12

13 There were no ethical disclosures made by board members.
14

15 **5. Physician Health Committee Update**

16 Dr. Foland was invited to address the Board to provide an update on the work of the Physician Health
17 Committee (PHC). Dr. Foland reported that the committee is currently directly monitoring
18 approximately 12 physicians who reside within the state and receiving quarterly reports on 4 physicians
19 who are being monitored by out-of-state physician health committees. Dr. Foland acknowledged and
20 thanked the Medical Board for its work to adopt a consistent and predictable referral process to the PHC
21 for physicians with a DUI charge. The process appears to be working well. With respect to drug testing,
22 the PHC typically administers random urine drug tests to its participants 3 times per month.
23 Approximately once per quarter, participants are required to obtain a full panel drug test to monitor for
24 cross addiction. Dr. Foland urged the board to consider adopting DNA based drug testing for more
25 comprehensive and efficient screening. The mouth-swab DNA based testing offers quicker results than
26 urine tests and does not include a collection fee. After asking and having his questions answered, Chair
27 Wein acknowledged that DNA drug testing may be a worthwhile tool for the board to further explore
28 and utilize.
29

30 **6. Physician Assistant Regulation Project**

31 Chair Wein described the process which led the board to the current draft regulations. The process was
32 initiated by physician assistants who approached the board with a request to modernize the regulations.
33 A work group was formed which met numerous times to talk through potential language changes. A
34 first draft was approved by the board in February 2023. After a legal review was completed, the board
35 approved a second draft in August 2023, which then went out for both written and oral public
36 comments. Chair Wein requested a roll call query of board members to determine whether they
37 listened to the audio recording of the oral public comments and reviewed the written comments:
38

39 Dr. Barnes: Listened to the oral comments, reviewed all written comments

40 Sarah Bigelow Hood: Attended the oral comment hearing and reviewed all written comments

41 Dr. Freeman: listened to the oral comments, did not read all of the public comments

42 Dr. Heilala: listened to the oral comments, read all of the public comments

43 Lydia Mielke: listened to the oral comments, read all of the public comments

44 Dr. Paulson: Read the written comments and the transcripts of the oral comments

45 Dr. Wein: Attended the oral comment hearing and reviewed all written comments

46 David Wilson: Read the written comments and reviewed some of the transcripts of the oral
47 comments
48

1 Chair Wein identified the various options for how the board may proceed with respect to either
2 adopting, tabling, or modifying the proposed regulations. Chair Wein noted that having participated
3 throughout this entire process he believes there is a move towards advancing physician assistants to
4 independent practice. This is evidenced by the desire for physician assistants to have independent
5 prescriptive authority and the desire to not have an alternative collaborator. Chair Wein asserted that
6 supporting physician assistants to achieve independent practice and to establish their own board is
7 another option the Medical Board may consider in deciding how to proceed with the proposed
8 regulation changes. If the board supports independent practice for physician assistants there are two
9 potential options for moving forward: 1) The board could support SB115 introduced last session by
10 Senator Tobin and request the bill be amended to allow physician assistants to form their own board; 2)
11 the board might appeal to the Governor's Office to appoint more physician assistants to the Medical
12 Board to create board within a board using a "Chinese Wall" framework. Chair Wein requested
13 members of the board to share their thoughts on how to proceed.
14

15 Ms. Bigelow Hood read a statement regarding the history and contributions of physician assistant
16 participation on the Medical Board and to assert that physician assistants genuinely value collaborative
17 relationships with physicians in practice and desire collaboration with the medical board. Ms. Bigelow
18 Hood further asserted that the Medical Board should recognize the value of physician assistants and
19 acknowledge the health care crisis that Alaskans face.
20

21 Dr. Barnes stated that in reviewing the public comments it was clear that there is enormous opposition
22 to the changes to the regulations proposed by the board and he questioned whether the changes are
23 appropriate.
24

25 Dr. Freeman stated she was amazed at how strong the response was in opposition of the proposed
26 changes, her conclusion is that the board needs to be going in a different direction.
27

28 Dr. Heilala echoed the reflections of Dr. Barnes and Dr. Freeman, adding he was pleased that the public
29 process worked and provided a nice "gut check" on how impactful these changes would be. In spite of
30 all the deliberations made by the board in developing the proposed changes, the public comments
31 offered a huge eye-opener. Dr. Heilala questioned whether physician assistants or Alaskans actually
32 want a separate board for physician assistants. Dr. Heilala stated he thinks the public likes how things
33 have been functioning in Alaska to this point, but there is a recognition that times are changing. Dr.
34 Heilala supports continuing to work on revising the regulations. He does not support abandoning the
35 project or creating a separate board for the physician assistants.
36

37 Lydia Mielke stated she learned a lot and really appreciated all of the public comments. She noted that
38 there were a few sections in the proposed regulations that did not have opposition and she would be
39 open to approving those sections, or she supports tabling the entire project and starting over fresh on
40 the controversial sections.
41

42 Dr. Paulson acknowledged the strong response to the regulations. He is sensitive to expanding the role
43 of physician assistants and wants to make sure Alaskans are not exposed to unsafe practices. He noted
44 the comments were beneficial and helped increase his knowledge. He is hopeful to find a solution that
45 balances safety and access to care.
46

47 David Wilson stated he appreciated reading all of the comments and acknowledged there was much
48 opposition to the proposed regulations. Mr. Wilson believes there is a need for accountability and

1 updates to the regulations. Mr. Wilson followed up with some of the executives of the rural health care
2 organizations that submitted comments to learn more about the perceived notion that the proposed
3 regulations would harm physician assistant staffing levels. One facility noted they would need 80-100
4 more physician assistants to be considered fully staffed. He has also read reports that indicate that
5 medical staffing shortages is a nation-wide problem due to not enough people entering the industry and
6 schools not producing enough trained professionals. Mr. Wilson disagrees with the notion that the
7 proposed changes to the regulations are going to limit health care in Alaska. Mr. Wilson also reached
8 out to an insurance underwriter for medical malpractice to inquire as to whether a move to
9 independent practice for physician assistants would change the perceived level of risk and cause
10 insurance rates to increase. In essence the response was that the insurance carrier would consider a
11 practitioner and their experience on an individual basis and assess policy costs accordingly. Mr. Wilson
12 concluded that it will be the malpractice insurance companies that will determine whether a physician
13 assistant can afford to practice independently, not the perceived level of regulation imposed by the
14 medical board. Mr. Wilson supports the physician assistants having their own board.

15
16 Ms. Bigelow Hood stated she does not believe the consideration or discussion regarding creating a
17 separate board for physician assistant's is appropriate at this time. Ms. Hood reiterated the desire for
18 the physician assistant community to maintain their historical relationship with the Medical Board and
19 collaborative relationships with physicians on the practice level.

20
21 Dr. Wein reiterated it was the physician assistant association that originally came to the Medical Board
22 to propose a modernization project and the board agreed to form a work group to initiate the project.
23 At this point there had not been any single or significant particular problem or concern identified
24 regarding the regulations – rather a mutual agreement that they needed review and potential updating.
25 Upon closer review, Dr. Wein noted concerns with the limited number of active practice hours required
26 for a collaborating physician. Dr. Wein considers the role of a collaborating physician similar to that of a
27 mentor and since physician assistants do not participate in a residency as part of their formal training,
28 this mentorship role is very important, especially for PA's that are new to the field. Under the existing
29 regulations a mentoring physician would only need to practice 5 weeks (200 hours) out of a year to
30 qualify as a collaborator. In Dr. Wein's view, the proposed change to increase active practice hours to
31 12 weeks (480 hours) would better ensure that the collaborating physician maintains the clinical
32 experience to appropriately serve in the mentoring role. The second area of great contention in the
33 proposed regulation changes is the increase in hours of experience for PA's to work in a remote setting.
34 Dr. Wein asserted that the current requirement of 160 hours of direct supervision if a PA lacks 2 years of
35 general experience prior to taking a remote practice did not seem sufficient. Out of concern for public
36 safety, in his opinion, it is reasonable to increase the hours of experience required to practice remotely,
37 especially considering that the PA might be the highest-level practitioner at the site. Two years/2400
38 hours of prior experience was suggested in the Regulation Project be required before treating patients
39 remotely. It was stated in public commentary that this was too long. Of note, to be a residential or a
40 commercial electrician in Alaska, one needs 4,000 and 8,000 hours respectively before they can
41 independently "practice." Many of the public comments warned that such changes would have dire
42 impacts on the ability to recruit PA's to work in remote settings. Dr. Wein shares Mr. Wilson's opinion
43 that this assertion is false. Dr. Wein noted that staff shortages in remote areas existed prior to COVID,
44 were exasperated during the pandemic, and will continue to exist regardless of if the proposed new
45 standards are put in place. Dr. Wein further noted that outside forces on a national scale, such as
46 corporate telemedicine providers are competing with local providers and pose a threat to local
47 providers earning a living.

48

1 After confirming there were no board members who wished to provide further comments, Ms. Bigelow
2 Hood summarized the public comments received by the Medical Board, stating, "On 9/18/2023 public
3 comments were heard by the ASMB on the proposed PA regulation changes. There were 163
4 unduplicated individuals who provided either oral or written comments. This included 64 individuals
5 who identified as a PA, 25 who identified as MD or DO and 12 who identified as an RN or NP. Three out
6 of the 163 comments contained some limited support for the proposed changes. One hundred and
7 three individuals cited general opposition, many noting the proposed changes are administratively
8 burdensome and will negatively impact health care in Alaska. Sixty-one comments cited specific
9 concerns related to language changes."

10 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Bigelow Hood and seconded by Dr. Heilala, after considering**
11 **all public comments received and cost to private persons, the State Medical Board decided to**
12 **table the regulation project, file number 2023200164, and form a new work group consisting**
13 **of State Medical Board members, Alaska Physician Assistant Academy Board members, and**
14 **other members of the public to continue to discuss and identify new recommended changes**
15 **to the regulations.**

16
17 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson,
18 Dr. Wein and Mr. Wilson.

19
20 **7. (Moved from Agenda #14) The Role of Reviewing Board Members**
21 Chair Wein provided an introduction, stating in the recent past, Reviewing Board Members (RBM) were
22 told they should not participate during the board's deliberative and voting process in (investigative)
23 cases they had reviewed. The Board was provided with a legal opinion on this matter, and it turns out, it
24 is not statutorily mandated for RBM's to be recused, but rather a recommendation. Chair Wein
25 suggested that the board should make a decision regarding how it will proceed with respect to this
26 matter.

27
28 Ms. Mielke introduced a motion, seconded by Dr. Freeman, for the Alaska State Medical Board to
29 resolve that a board member who serves as a reviewing board member during the investigation of a
30 matter, may, at their discretion, participate in the board's deliberation, decision-making, or voting.

31
32 Chair Wein asserted that the RBM has the full knowledge of the case and their help during the
33 deliberation of a case can be of great value, especially in complicated cases.

34
35 Dr. Barnes stated that he agrees with Chair Wein's assertion. Dr. Barnes further stated he understands
36 the concern by the Attorney General's Office is that the in-depth knowledge held by the RBM will bias
37 the other board members, however he believes this depth of knowledge is needed.

38
39 Ms. Bigelow Hood questioned whether the "in-depth knowledge" will be factual based versus opinion.

40
41 Chair Wein responded that generally the RBM is considered an expert on the subject matter and their
42 opinion as an expert is desired. The RBM should be allowed the opportunity to explain their rationale
43 to the Board as to why a provider should be sanctioned.

44
45 Ms. Bigelow Hood suggested that the RBM is provided the opportunity to explain their rationale in
46 writing at the conclusion of their review.

1
2 The Chair recognized Sara Chambers, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, to speak to the motion.
3 Ms. Chambers wished to inform the Board that the Department recognizes the concerns of the Medical
4 Board and is working on developing some tools and changes to the investigative process to make sure
5 the insights of the RBM is appropriately provided to the Board. The first phase is more education for the
6 investigators to encourage the RBM to robustly describe their rationale and for the investigators to
7 consistently convey this information to the board. Secondly the Department is working on developing a
8 risk assessment tool to help the Board assess the risk of having the RBM remain in the deliberative
9 session. The Department is committed to ensuring the RBM is supported in sharing critical information
10 to the board in order to help shield boards from exposing themselves to unnecessary risk by allowing
11 the RBM to participate in the deliberative session.

12
13 Ms. Bigleow Hood stated that she is not in favor of having the RBM present during the deliberative
14 session. Ms. Bigelow Hood recommended tabling the vote on the motion until the board has the
15 opportunity to review the new processes and risk assessment tool being developed by the department.
16

17 Dr. Heilala sees some value in having the RBM present during the deliberative session to help clarify
18 nuances. He stated that board members take an ethical oath and should have the freedom to
19 participate in the deliberative process. Dr. Heilala views the need to protect the public as outweighing
20 the concerns related to risk aversion.

21
22 Ms. Chambers asserted that protecting the public is put at risk if the deliberative process is considered
23 biased and the board's decision is overturned on appeal. Director Robb echoed this statement.
24

25 Chair Wein questioned whether any Medical Board decisions have been overturned related to RBM bias.
26

27 Ms. Bigelow Hood suggested training for the public members of the board may be needed before there
28 is a vote on this matter.
29

30 Mr. Wilson agreed that more education regarding the role of the RBM would be helpful. Mr. Wilson
31 stated that during his time on the board, with respect to bias, in his observation, it is the investigators
32 that appear to bring bias in their investigations. Mr. Wilson further asserted that in considering
33 sanctions for a licensee it is important to discern whether an action was intentional, criminal, negligent,
34 systemic, or isolated in its nature and only the RBM with experience in the field can help discern the
35 intent. Mr. Wilson places tremendous value on the input of the RBM because they have the most
36 relevant information on a case. Mr. Wilson suggested that before there is a vote on this matter, it
37 would be helpful to have data on the number of board cases overturned as a result of the RBM's
38 participation in a final decision.
39

40 Director Robb agreed to have the data related to overturned cases compiled and provided to the board.
41 She noted that because most boards are adhering to the advice to not include RBMs in the deliberative
42 sessions, it unlikely that many of the example cases will point to RBM bias as a reason for the case being
43 overturned. Director Robb offered training to the board on the role of RBM, stating she would like to
44 have Chief Investigator Prieksat provide this training. Finally, Director Robb noted that hearing of
45 perceived Investigator bias is concerning, and she would like to be notified if this is observed during
46 future deliberations.
47

1 Ms. Mielke withdrew the motion. Chair Wein noted that this conversation will be resumed at a future
2 date after the board has had the opportunity to review the aforementioned data and risk assessment
3 tool.
4

5 **8. Division Update**

6 Director Robb provided an overview of the Medical Board’s Final 4th Quarter FY 23 Budget Report. Ms.
7 Mielke inquired as to whether the division has considered consolidating office space with many
8 employees still teleworking. Director Robb advised that the Division’s office space footprint both in
9 Juneau and in Anchorage were significantly decreased this year. Many staff who telework utilize
10 “hotel” spaces for those occasional days in the office. There were no other questions or concerns
11 regarding the budget from board members.
12

13 **9. Break**

14 The board went off the record for a break at 10:59 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:15 a.m.
15

16 **Division Update - Continued**

17 Chair Wein invited Deputy Director Saviers to proceed with the remaining division updates. Ms. Saviers
18 announced the allocation of three new staff positions to support the Medical Board. These positions
19 include a Licensing Supervisor, a Licensing Examiner, and an Administrative Assistant. The division is
20 pleased to announce that the licensing supervisor position was filled by Jason Kaeser, who formerly
21 served as a Licensing Examiner for the Medical Board. The other two new positions remain vacant due
22 to a lack of applicants.
23

24 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by roll**
25 **call vote the board designated Jason Kaeser, Records and Licensing Supervisor, the authority,**
26 **under the direction of the Executive Administrator, to issue temporary permits to physician,**
27 **osteopath, podiatrist, and physician assistant applicants who meet the requirements in**
28 **accordance with AS 08.64.270.**
29

30 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson,
31 Dr. Wein and Mr. Wilson.
32

33 Ms. Saviers introduced proposed changes to regulations related to eliminating certain requirements for
34 licensure. Rationale for eliminating the requirements was provided. Chair Wein indicated his support
35 for eliminating the verification of hospital privileges and DEA clearance so long as separate attestations
36 are added to the license applications for applicants to confirm they have no derogatory issues with any
37 hospital affiliations or the DEA.
38

39 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, the board**
40 **approved to direct the Executive Administrator to work with division staff to draft changes to**
41 **the appropriate sections in Chapter 12 AAC 40 related to the repeal of the requirements for**
42 **the verification of hospital privileges, DEA Clearances and AMA/AOA Physician Profiles for**
43 **initial licensure and license reinstatements for the Board’s review and consideration at the**
44 **next quarterly meeting.**
45

46 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson,
47 Dr. Wein and Mr. Wilson.
48

1 **10. Lunch Break**

2 The board went off the record for a lunch break at 11:50 a.m. and returned on the record at 12:45 p.m.

3
4 **11. Public Comment / Board Communications**

5 Jenny Fayette with Alaska Association of Physician Assistants (AAPA) was invited to address the board.
6 Ms. Fayette highlighted the training and education requirements of physician assistants, challenging
7 members of the board for their frequently used and poor comparison of the training requirements for
8 private airplane pilots to the training required for physician assistants. Ms. Fayette reiterated that AAPA
9 values the collaborative relationship with physicians and thanked the board for voting to table the
10 physician assistant regulation project, vowing to fully participate in the next round of workgroup
11 sessions to propose changes to the regulations.

12
13 Chair Wein provided a summary of written public comments received by the Board during the last
14 quarter.

15
16 **12. Board Interviews**

17 **Mohammad Ashori, MD**

18 Dr. Ashori requested to be interviewed in executive session.

19

20 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood and approved by roll**
21 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS**
22 **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of**
23 **discussing Dr. Mohammad Ashori’s application for licensure, with Board staff remaining**
24 **during the session.**

25

26 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr.
27 Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

28

29 The board entered executive session at 1:05 p.m. The board returned on the record at 1:15 p.m.

30

31 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by**
32 **roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved Mohammad Ashori, M.D., a full**
33 **license.**

34

35 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr.
36 Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

37

38 **Danash Raja, MD**

39 Dr. Raja requested to be interviewed in executive session.

40

41 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood and approved by roll**
42 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS**
43 **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of**
44 **discussing Dr. Danash Raja’s application for licensure, with Board staff remaining during the**
45 **session.**

46

1 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr.
2 Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson
3

4 The board entered executive session at 1:22 p.m. The board returned on the record at 1:28
5 p.m.
6

7 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by**
8 **roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved Danash Raja, M.D., a full license.**
9

10 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr.
11 Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson
12

13
14 **13. Break.** The board went off the record at 3:15 p.m. for a break. The board returned on the record at
15 3:26 p.m.
16

17 **14. Interstate License Medical Compact**

18 Chair Wein introduced this topic by providing a review of the process taken by board members to
19 explore and consider supporting the adoption of the Interstate License Medical Compact (ILMC). This
20 process included dedicated time during the February 2023 quarterly board meeting for an overview and
21 presentation from the ILMC Executive Director; an entire special meeting on April 13, 2023 which again
22 included the ILMC Executive Director; the formation of a work group during the May 19, 2023 board
23 meeting; and three subsequent work group sessions held on September 1, October 13 and November 8
24 which consisted of a thorough examination of the compact language and question and answer sessions
25 facilitated by Deputy Director Glenn Saviers and peer consultation with the State of Idaho. Chair Wein
26 invited board members to share their thoughts on the ILMC before proceeding to a vote.
27

28 Dr. Freeman stated that she is in support of Alaska moving forward with engaging with the ILMC.
29

30 Dr. Heilala acknowledged that with the increasing momentum of granting reciprocity across states, it
31 seems that eventually joining the ILMC is inevitable. He would be interested in moving forward with the
32 ILMC with caution. However, he does have some concerns about the mission drift of the Federation of
33 State Medical Boards and the influence of the FSMB over the ILMC.
34

35 Dr. Barnes stated he holds a bias against the FSMB after being threatened to lose his credentials as a
36 result of sharing "misinformation" during COVID. He is not in support of joining the ILMC because he
37 views it as being too closely aligned with the FSMB. He also voiced a concern that the ILMC would likely
38 increase telemedicine providers in the state who do not care about a physical presence in Alaska.
39

40 Ms. Mielke advised that she is generally in support of the ILMC.
41

42 Mr. Wilson is concerned that the ILMC is not accountable to the people of Alaska. He believes more
43 input from the public is needed before pursuing the ILMC. He shares the concern that the ILMC would
44 draw more telemedicine providers who might threaten the practices of physicians who are physically in
45 the state. He is also concerned about the influence of the FSMB on the ILMC and believes the ILMC is
46 compromised because of its relationship with the FSMB. Mr. Wilson does not wish to pursue the ILMC.
47

1 Ms. Bigelow Hood stated that she is generally in support of the ILMC and would also support the
2 inclusion of a “sunset clause” in the legislation.

3
4 Dr. Paulson shares concerns about the FSMB and is concerned about the FSMB’s relationship with the
5 ILMC. He is opposed to large bureaucratic organizations that answer to nobody. Dr. Paulson does not
6 support joining the ILMC.

7
8 Dr. Wein stated the promise of efficiencies and streamlining of the licensing process was held up as one
9 of the main benefits of joining the compact, however since the board has just agreed to eliminate some
10 redundancies in the licensing process and is receiving additional staff, he does not think the ILMC will
11 bring much added benefit by way of licensing efficiencies. Dr. Wein shares concerns regarding the
12 influence of the FSMB over the ILMC and the combined unchecked power these two entities will have
13 over the practice of medicine in the country. Dr. Wein also shares in the concerns regarding the ILMC
14 benefitting telemedicine providers but not benefitting practitioners in Alaska. Concerns about the costs
15 of implementing the ILMC were also raised.

16
17 **Through a roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical denied the motion duly made by Ms. Mielke**
18 **and seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood to request that the Executive Administrator and Board**
19 **Chair draft a resolution in favor of supporting the ILMC in Alaska and take steps to identify a**
20 **legislative sponsor.**

21
22 Roll Call Vote: Nays, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Barnes, Dr.
23 Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson.

24 25 **16. Malpractice Case Reviews**

26 The Chair recommended that the Board enter executive session.

27 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by roll**
28 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session, in accordance with**
29 **AS 44.62.310 (c)(3), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, with board staff**
30 **remaining in the session, for the purpose of discussing malpractice cases involving the**
31 **following practitioners:**

- 32
33 1. Jason Chirichigno, MD
34 2. Amjad Safvi, MD
35 3. Arelene Sussman, MD
36 4. Jillian Woodruff, MD

37
38 Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Barnes,
39 Dr. Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson.

40
41 The board went off the record and entered executive session at 4:05 p.m. The board returned on the
42 record at 4:36 p.m.

43
44 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Sarah Bigelow-Hood, and approved by**
45 **roll call vote the Alaska State Medical Board decided to take no further action with respect to**
46 **malpractice cases involving the following physicians:**

- 47 1. Arelene Sussman, MD
48 2. Jillian Woodruff, MD

1
2 Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Barnes, Dr.
3 Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson.
4

5 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Sarah Bigelow-Hood, and approved by**
6 **roll call vote the Alaska State Medical Board decided to request the Executive Administrator**
7 **draft a non-disciplinary advisory letter for the following physicians pertaining to their**
8 **involvement in the reviewed malpractice cases:**
9

- 10 1. Jason Chirichigno, MD
11 2. Amjad Safvi, MD
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13 Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Barnes,
14 Dr. Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson.
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16 **17. Applicant Review / License Approvals**
17 **Full Board Review**
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19 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood and approved by roll**
20 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS**
21 **44.62.310(c)(2), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of**
22 **discussing Dr. Leo Hsu's application for licensure, with Board staff remaining during the**
23 **session.**
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25 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr.
26 Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson
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28 The board entered executive session at 4:43 p.m. The board returned on the record at 4:48 p.m.
29

30 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by**
31 **roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved Leo Hsu, M.D., a full license.**
32

33 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr.
34 Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson
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36 **License Approvals: DPM, DO, MD, PA**
37

38 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by**
39 **roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved Megan Jennings and Benjamin**
40 **Tehrani, doctors of podiatric medicine, full licenses.**
41

42 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr.
43 Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson
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45 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by**
46 **roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the following list of osteopathic**
47 **physicians for full licensure.**

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Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

	Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
1.	DO	Lori	Arney
2.	DO	Umar	Bhatti
3.	DO	Martin	Cook
4.	DO	Khomthon	Cunvong
5.	DO	Bradley	Dayton
6.	DO	Randolph	Dipp
7.	DO	Perry	Funk
8.	DO	Georgia	Gaveras
9.	DO	Terry	Himes
10.	DO	Jeremy	Hunter
11.	DO	Emily	Hurst
12.	DO	Christina	Kang
13.	DO	Amanda	Killinger
14.	DO	Shiny	Mandla
15.	DO	Sarah	McClure
16.	DO	Ronald	McHose
17.	DO	Ryah	McKinley
18.	DO	Sarah	Mills
19.	DO	Brian	Morgan
20.	DO	Peter	Nguyen
21.	DO	Avinash	Ravilla
22.	DO	Chad	Terry

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the following list of allopathic physicians for full licensure.

Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

	Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
1.	MD	Avram	Adelman
2.	MD	Rana	Ahmad
3.	MD	Umer	Ahmed
4.	MD	William	Altemeier
5.	MD	Alison	Amsterdam
6.	MD	Anthony	Anderson
7.	MD	Heather	Anderson
8.	MD	Julia	Atkins
9.	MD	Erin	Balay-Dustrude
10.	MD	Rachel	Banach
11.	MD	Kate	Baron
12.	MD	Ahmad	Bayomy
13.	MD	Clarence	Blea
14.	MD	Peter	Benda
15.	MD	Anthony	Bennett
16.	MD	Tristan	Berry
17.	MD	Carolyn	Blackman
18.	MD	Clarence	Blea
19.	MD	Tiffany	Borbon
20.	MD	Robert	Brenteson
21.	MD	John	Brockington
22.	MD	Daniel	Brunnhoelzl
23.	MD	Claudio	Burstein
24.	MD	Ashley	Call
25.	MD	Kevin	Carr
26.	MD	Vivek	Chander
27.	MD	Jonathan	Chen
28.	MD	Geman	Cheng
29.	MD	David	Chess
30.	MD	Christine	Chung
31.	MD	Shannon	Colohan
32.	MD	Cary	Crall
33.	MD	Joseph	Crane
34.	MD	Kelly	Craven
35.	MD	Steven	Creelman

	Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
36.	MD	Scott	Cummis
37.	MD	Eve	Cunningham
38.	MD	Timothy	Curlett
39.	MD	Andrew	Dabbs
40.	MD	Michael	D'Amore
41.	MD	Krissi	Danielsson
42.	MD	Glenn	Davis
43.	MD	Ralph	Davis
44.	MD	Iris	DeCastro
45.	MD	Ann	Diamond
46.	MD	Falguni	Doshi
47.	MD	John	Dugal, Jr.
48.	MD	William	Ellis
49.	MD	George	Fournier
50.	MD	Babuji	Gandra
51.	MD	Sarah	Gartner
52.	MD	Frank	Gilliam
53.	MD	Leonard	Giuffreda
54.	MD	Philip	Granchi
55.	MD	Ashish	Gupta
56.	MD	Shahin	Hakimian
57.	MD	Ann Malia	Haleakala
58.	MD	Maureen	Handoko-Yang
59.	MD	Daniel	Hanesworth
60.	MD	Ernst	Hansch
61.	MD	Morgan	Hines
62.	MD	Benjamin	Hoffman
63.	MD	Christoph	Hofstetter
64.	MD	Thomas	Holcombe
65.	MD	Agnes	Hunyady
66.	MD	Ravi	Jhaveri
67.	MD	Arthie	Jeyakumar
68.	MD	Steven	Jones
69.	MD	Richard	Joseph
70.	MD	Taylor	Kantor

71.	MD	Siddartha	Kapnadak
72.	MD	Christopher	Katsura
73.	MD	Matthew	Kay
74.	MD	Ross	Kessler
75.	MD	Dareen	Khalaf
76.	MD	Kristen	King
77.	MD	Corinne	Klein
78.	MD	Andrew	Ko
79.	MD	Alan	Kowitz
80.	MD	David	Krakowski
81.	MD	Stephen	Kujansuu
82.	MD	Cedric	Kwon
83.	MD	William	Lasswell
84.	MD	Sergy	Lemeshko
85.	MD	Michael	Levitt
86.	MD	Phillippe	Levy
87.	MD	Chantal	Lewis
88.	MD	Kelly	Locke
89.	MD	Thomas	Long
90.	MD	Paul	Lynch
91.	MD	James	Lyons
92.	MD	Barbara	Macfarlane
93.	MD	Jennifer	Maciaszek
94.	MD	Gary	Mallis
95.	MD	Paul	Manner
96.	MD	David	Marks
97.	MD	Angela	McCarthy
98.	MD	Robert	McClure
99.	MD	Glen	McCracken
100.	MD	Bryan	McNeilly
101.	MD	Casey	Medina
102.	MD	Jonathan	Mellen
103.	MD	Susan	Mellinger
104.	MD	Mariah	Minder
105.	MD	Faiz	Mirza
106.	MD	Steven	Mishkind
107.	MD	Natalia	Murinova
108.	MD	Nicholas	Murray
109.	MD	Ram	Narayan
110.	MD	Kellie	Nelson
111.	MD	Noel	Nepomuceno
112.	MD	Tara	Ness
113.	MD	Kirk	O'Donnell
114.	MD	Armond	Ohanian

115.	MD	Irene	Oladokun
116.	MD	Daniel	Olivero
117.	MD	Hope	Opara
118.	MD	Thomas	Orsini
119.	MD	Jacqueline	Panko
120.	MD	Chinmay	Paranjape
121.	MD	Devin	Patchell
122.	MD	Thomas	Pitts
123.	MD	Andrew	Plaster
124.	MD	Kathryn	Polovitz
125.	MD	Hina	Quasim
126.	MD	Ganesh	Raghu
127.	MD	Stephen	Ratcliff
128.	MD	Roman	Reznik
129.	MD	Cherry	Rosales
130.	MD	Timothy	Rupp
131.	MD	Timothy	Russell
132.	MD	Constantine	Saclarides
133.	MD	Choudhury	Salekin
134.	MD	Aravind	Sanjeevaiah
135.	MD	Aurianna	Santos
136.	MD	Mary	Sarrantonio
137.	MD	David	Schaeffer
138.	MD	Joshua	Schiffer
139.	MD	Nicholas	Schiller
140.	MD	Carl	Schofield
141.	MD	Herman	Sequeira
142.	MD	Julia	Shatten
143.	MD	Sherene	Shalhub
144.	MD	Benjamin	Shapiro
145.	MD	Sung	Shim
146.	MD	Michael	Shin
147.	MD	Emma	Simpson
148.	MD	Anupama	Singh
149.	MD	Vikramjeet	Singh
150.	MD	Evert-Jan	Slingerberg
151.	MD	Philip	Smith
152.	MD	Saron	Smith
153.	MD	Shawn	Smith
154.	MD	Rebecca	Sutphen
155.	MD	David	Swain
156.	MD	Vinita	Tandon
157.	MD	Brian	Thomas
158.	MD	Katherine	Thomas

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159.	MD	Rechelle	Tull
160.	MD	Heath	Turner
161.	MD	Amanda	Underwood
162.	MD	James	Underwood
163.	MD	Sridevi	Upadhyayula
164.	MD	Pamela	Valentino
165.	MD	Gloria	Von Geldern
166.	MD	Devesh	Vyas
167.	MD	Melissa	Walsh
168.	MD	John	Weston
169.	MD	Ryan	Wilson
170.	MD	Tenaya	Wilson-Charles
171.	MD	Steven	Wong
172.	MD	Randall	Wright
173.	MD	Vivian	Yang
174.	MD	Martin	Yee
175.	MD	David	Zhen
176.	MD	Dan	Zuckerman

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On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the following list of physician assistants for full licensure.

Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

	Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
1.	PA	Craig	Ameduri
2.	PA	Rebecca	Beutel
3.	PA	David	Bird
4.	PA	Amanda	Blanchet
5.	PA	Laura	Brewer
6.	PA	Dwayne	Bricker
7.	PA	Summer	Britton
8.	PA	Shelley	Butler
9.	PA	Michele	Church
10.	PA	Taylor	Deal
11.	PA	Scott	Dombroski
12.	PA	Morgan	Edwards
13.	PA	Wesley	Estock
14.	PA	Parvaneh	Firozbakht
15.	PA	Scott	Fleck

	Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
31.	PA	Sandra	Kruidenier
32.	PA	Alexander	Kryvenia
33.	PA	Amanda	Laferty
34.	PA	Michael	Mallatt
35.	PA	Jacob	McNamara
36.	PA	Aaron	Parcha
37.	PA	Meagan	Rector
38.	PA	Cara	Rockwood
39.	PA	Madison	Rosin
40.	PA	Joshua	Stickland
41.	PA	Viola	Sudheer
42.	PA	Mark	Vonderharr
43.	PA	Lina	Weber
44.	PA	Stephen	Webber
45.	PA	Emily	Wolf

16.	PA	Stephanie	Flood-Thomas	46.	PA	Stephen	Young
17.	PA	Cameron	French				
18.	PA	Thomas	Gathright				
19.	PA	Daniel	Greene				
20.	PA	Robert	Hamblin				
21.	PA	Jon	Haney				
22.	PA	Karen	Harris				
23.	PA	Charise	Hasdorff				
24.	PA	Camden	Helder				
25.	PA	Cynthia	Henry				
26.	PA	Martin	Hensel				
27.	PA	Carrie	Hofstad				
28.	PA	Lydia	Knuths				
29.	PA	Simon	Kolcaj				
30.	PA	Sandra	Kruidenier				

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20. Closing Business/Adjourn

Chair Wein thanked the Board Members for their time and participation in the meeting.

The next quarterly meeting date is set for February 16, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:58 p.m.