

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 Thursday June 13, 2024
8

9 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a special meeting of
10 the Alaska State Medical Board was held Thursday, June 13, 2024.
11

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

13 The meeting was called to order by Chair Nimmo at 4:02 p.m.
14

15 **Roll Call**

16 Board members present:

17 Eric Nimmo, MD, Chair
18 David Barnes, DO
19 Matt Heilala, DPM
20 Lydia Mielke, Public Member (Secretary)
21 Brent Taylor, MD (New)
22

23 State employees present:

24 Sonia Lipker, Senior Investigator, Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator, Jason Kaeser, Licensing
25 Supervisor
26

27 Board members, David Wilson, joined the meeting at 4:11 p.m., David Paulson joined at 4:22 p.m. and
28 Sarah Bigelow Hood joined at 4:25 p.m.
29

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

31
32 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Barnes, the Alaska State Medical**
33 **Board approved by roll call vote the agenda as presented.**
34

35 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, and Dr. Taylor
36 Absent: Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Paulson and Mr. Wilson
37

38 **3. Investigations Update**

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40 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by a roll call**
41 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session under AS 44.62.310(c)(2) & (3)**
42 **involving Division case #2023-000030 with Investigations and Board staff remaining in the**
43 **session and the reviewing board member abstaining from the session.**
44

45 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, and Dr. Taylor
46 Absent: Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Paulson and Mr. Wilson
47

48 The Board entered executive session at 4:06 p.m. The Board exited executive session at 4:25 p.m.
49

1 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
2 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to table the imposition of a civil fine and**
3 **request a voluntary suspension of license involving Division case #2023-000030.**

4
5 Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
6 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

7 Abstained: Dr. Barnes

9 **4. Strategic Goals and Priorities**

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11 Chair Nimmo introduced this topic, referencing the *Goals and Priorities* document drafted by Ms.
12 Norberg, which includes a compilation of former Board priorities and strategies and new strategies
13 identified by board members through an online survey process.

14
15 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Barnes, and approved by roll call vote,**
16 **the Alaska State Medical Board approved the 2024 board priorities, goals and strategies as**
17 **presented.**

18
19 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
20 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

21
22 Sarah Bigelow Hood requested an additional priority be added to the list: The board’s advocacy for a
23 statutory change related to eliminating the requirement to respond to subpoena requests only by
24 telephone and adding the ability to respond through an email.

25
26 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Barnes, and approved by roll call vote,**
27 **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to revise the 2024 board priorities, goals and**
28 **strategies to include advocating for statutory change related to the method for subpoena**
29 **responses.**

30
31 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. David Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo,
32 Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

33
34 Chair Nimmo recommended as a next step, the board rank the list of strategies in the order of their
35 perceived urgency or priority in order to help the board identify a timeline for pursuing its goals and
36 strategies.

37
38 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
39 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved to request the Executive Administrator to**
40 **poll board members for the purpose of ranking the list of board goals and strategies in priority**
41 **order.**

42
43 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
44 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

45
46 Chair Nimmo asserted that two items should not wait to be prioritized and could be immediately
47 addressed by the board. The first of these issues being the consideration of establishing a regular, short,
48 monthly meeting for the purpose of addressing time-sensitive business items such as licensing
49 applications, investigative matters, or possibly interviews. Several board members spoke in favor of
50 adopting a regular, monthly meeting schedule, allowing for flexibility as needed.

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 approved the implementation of a regular monthly**
4 **meeting schedule to address business that cannot wait until the quarterly meetings.**
5

6 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
7 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
8

9 The second priority item raised by Dr. Nimmo was the matter related to the authorization of Board staff
10 to approve full licenses for applicants with clean records. At the last quarterly meeting the Board
11 approved the initiation of a regulation project aimed to address this matter. Ms. Norberg explained that
12 after a thorough examination, it was determined that the framework for this delegated authority
13 currently exists in statute and regulation and a new regulation project is not necessary. This goal may
14 be achieved through a Board motion.
15

16 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
17 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board granted Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator,**
18 **the authority to approve full licensure to applicants with a complete application and no “yes”**
19 **answers to professional fitness questions.**
20

21 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
22 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
23

24 **5. Annual Report**

25 Chair Nimmo invited Ms. Norberg to introduce the draft Annual Report. Ms. Norberg explained that a
26 report containing a summary of the Board’s activities is required annually to the legislature. The report
27 must be approved by the board before it can be transmitted to the legislature. It was suggested that the
28 aforementioned statutory change, related to eliminating the requirement to respond to subpoena
29 requests only by telephone, be added under the “needs” section of the report. Additionally, the final
30 numbers of approved licenses will be updated just prior to the report’s submission to reflect the most
31 accurate statistics for the year.
32

33 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
34 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the FY 2024 draft annual report as**
35 **presented and with the amendments as discussed.**
36

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

40 **6. Physician Assistant Work Group**

41 Chair Nimmo reminded board members that at the February 2024 board meeting the Physician
42 Assistant Work Group was tabled for the duration of the legislative session. Now that the legislative
43 session is over, the board must decide whether to 1) reconvene the work group; 2) maintain the existing
44 work group membership, and if so; 3) what to do about the two vacant work group positions. Ms.
45 Bigelow Hood asserted that there is still a strong public interest in having the regulations modernized.
46 Mr. Wilson asked for clarity regarding the key changes that need to be made for the regulations to be
47 “modernized.” Prescribing and scope of practice restrictions, remote practice rules and requirements for
48 an alternate collaborating physician were examples of topics previously identified as needing to be
49 updated. Several board members voiced support for reconvening the work group.
50

1 On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll
2 call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the reconvening of the Physician Assistant
3 for Work Group for the purpose of recommending changes to modernize existing regulations
4 and directed the Executive Administrator to solicit statements of interest from physicians who
5 may be interested in joining the work group to replace the physicians who dropped out.
6

7 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
8 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
9

10 7. Applicant Review

11 On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by
12 roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the following list of applicants for
13 full licensure.
14

15 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
16 Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
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19

| | Lic Type | First Name | Last Name |
|-----|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. | MD | Kyle | Bonar |
| 2. | PA | Jennifer | Brooks |
| 3. | PA | Lisette | Carrera |
| 4. | MD | Dawn | Clancy |
| 5. | DO | Kelsey | Flynn |
| 6. | MD | Lilian | Holloway |
| 7. | DO | Patrick | Moran |
| 8. | MD | Khalid | Mughal |
| 9. | DO | Frias | Naji |
| 10. | MD | Laura | Nason |
| 11. | MD | Emil | Sanchez |

20 8. Wrap up /Adjourn

21 Chair Nimmo opened the floor for board members to discuss the issue of the recusal of the Reviewing
22 Board Member's participation in deliberative sessions; after noting that it appears the matter continues
23 to remain unresolved after the special legal training and discussion on this topic during the May 30
24 special board meeting. Board members reflected on their experiences as reviewing board members and
25 provided suggestions for ensuring the process is unbiased, defensible and protects the public. Some
26 members suggested that having increased access to legal council during deliberative sessions would
27 increase their confidence in the process and make them feel more comfortable about having the
28 Reviewing Board Member Excluded from sessions. In conclusion, Chair Nimmo summarized the
29 consensus of the board as being that Reviewing Board Members will be excluded from deliberative
30 sessions unless there are extraordinary circumstances.
31
32

33 The Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:46 p.m.
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