

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2009

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD

July 2009



**DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**



STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor
Emil Notti, Commissioner
Lynne Smith, Director

Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD

14 August 2009

Lynne Smith Director
Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau AK 99811-0806

Dear Ms. Smith:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the Annual report for Fiscal Year 2009 from the Alaska State Medical Board.

It has been a challenging year for the board and a satisfying one. We have sought to give thoughtful, considered guidance to our license population while executing our mandate to protect the public. We are eager to move forward in the coming year to address the wide variety of health care issues of vital importance to our profession and the public.

It has been our privilege to serve the people of Alaska by establishing and maintaining standards of excellence in regulating the practice of medicine and insuring quality health care for the people of Alaska through licensure, discipline, and education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean M. Tsigonis".

Jean M. Tsigonis, MD, Chair
Alaska State Medical Board

Enclosure

Alaska State Medical Board

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STATE MEDICAL BOARD ROSTER

Alaska Statute 08.64 establishes the State Medical Board to be composed of eight members, five physician members, two public members, and one physician assistant. Each member is appointed to serve by the governor and serves a four-year term. The member may serve beyond his or her termination date until a new member is

Jean M. Tsigonis, MD, Chair. 03/01/2012
1001 Noble Street Work - 907/459-3500
Fairbanks AK 99701

Edward A. Hall, PA-C, Secretary. 3/01/2013
13601 Windward Circle Work - 907/222-7612
Anchorage AK 99516

John S. Cullen, MD. 03/01/2012
Post Office Box 1829 Work - 907/835-4811
Valdez AK 99686

Kathleen Millar, Public Member. 03/01/2013
15801 Windsong Drive Work - 907/522-2251
Anchorage AK 99516

David A. Miller, MD. 03/01/2012
3268 Hospital Drive – Suite C Work - 907/586-4126
Juneau AK 99801

David J. Powers, MD. 03/01/2012
Post Office Box 324 Work - 907/842-9218
Dillingham AK 99576

William W. Resinger, MD 03/01/2010
Post Office Box 839 Work - 907/745-8133
Palmer AK 99645

Michael J. Tauriainen, Public Member. 03/01/2012
35168 Spur Highway Work - 907/262-4624
Soldotna AK 99669

Alaska State Medical Board

DEDICATED BOARD STAFF

Leslie A. Gallant, Executive Administrator Work - 907/269-8163
550 West Seventh Avenue Suite 1500
Anchorage AK 99501 Email: Leslie.Gallant@alaska.gov

Linda Sherwood, Licensing Examiner Work - 907/465-2541
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Juneau AK 99811-0806 Email: Linda.Sherwood@alaska.gov

Mariana Moreno-Goodwin, Licensing Examiner. Work - 907/465-2756
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Lee Strout, Investigator. Work - 907/269-8187
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Anchorage AK 9950 Email: Lee.Strout@alaska.gov

Susan Winton, Investigator. Work - 907/269-8189
550 West Seventh Avenue Suite 1500
Anchorage AK 99501 Email: Susan.Winton@alaska.gov

Miriam Patredis, Administrative Assistant. Work - 907/269-8163
550 West Seventh Avenue Suite 1500
Anchorage AK 99501 Email: Miriam.Patredis@alaska.gov

Alaska State Medical Board

FY 09 NARRATIVE STATEMENT

Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of Alaskans through the creation of and adherence to the highest standards of excellence in the licensure and regulation of physicians, physician assistants, and paramedics.

Board Meetings

During FY 09, the board met four times in person and two times via teleconference:

- July 24 – 25, 2008 Dillingham
- October 2, 2008 Teleconference
- October 23 – 24, 2008 Anchorage
- December 11, 2008 Teleconference
- January 29 – 30, 2009 Juneau
- April 16 – 17, 2009 Anchorage

Board Appointments

Drs. David A. Miller and David J. Powers and Ms. Kathleen Millar were appointed to the board during the last year.

Application Review

The board approved the issuance of 233 new physician licenses during FY 09. They also issued 70 resident permits and 48 locum tenens permits. Fifty new physician assistant licenses were granted as well as 43 paramedic licenses. Please see the Statistical Overview for additional information.

Investigations/Disciplinary Processes

The State Medical Board considers investigations and enforcement to be one of its most important responsibilities. The board has worked closely with the investigators to insure fair, objective, and impartial actions with all those who are investigated or disciplined. During FY 09, 37 formal board actions were taken by the board in executing its mandate to protect the public.

During FY 09, the board maintained its consistently high level of activity in all categories of licensure.

The results of a national survey ranked Alaska number one in the nation for the number of disciplinary sanctions against physicians, per capita. This is the 20th consecutive

year the Alaska State Medical Board has placed in the top ten states in country in this ranking of board performance. We believe these statistics reflect the Alaska board's vigorous and objective enforcement of the laws that regulate the practice of medicine in Alaska and the board's commitment to the safety and well being of the citizens of this state.

National and Regional Meetings

The executive administrator for the board is an elected member of the board of directors of the Federation of State Medical Boards. In that capacity, she had attended the annual meeting of the Federation and two board of directors' meetings of the Federation. The board recognizes the honor bestowed on Alaska with her participation in these activities and believes that this work helps to keep the board abreast of national trends, other states' standards for licensure, and emerging issues before the board. The board chair also attended the annual meeting of the Federation and with the executive administrator, met with Alaska's two senators, the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich.

The executive administrator's expenses for attending these meetings are paid by the Federation and represent no cost to the state. The board chair's attendance at the annual meeting was also paid by the Federation, a practice the Federation offers for all state boards to encourage attendance and participation.

The executive administrator, as past president of Administrators In Medicine, also serves as chairperson of the national Certification of State Medical Board Investigators program.

Regulations Adopted

During the last fiscal year, the board adopted regulations pertaining to collaborative relationships for physician assistants, lapsed physician license applications, continuing medical education, independent medical evaluations, reinstatement of a surrendered license, and unprofessional conduct.

Comments

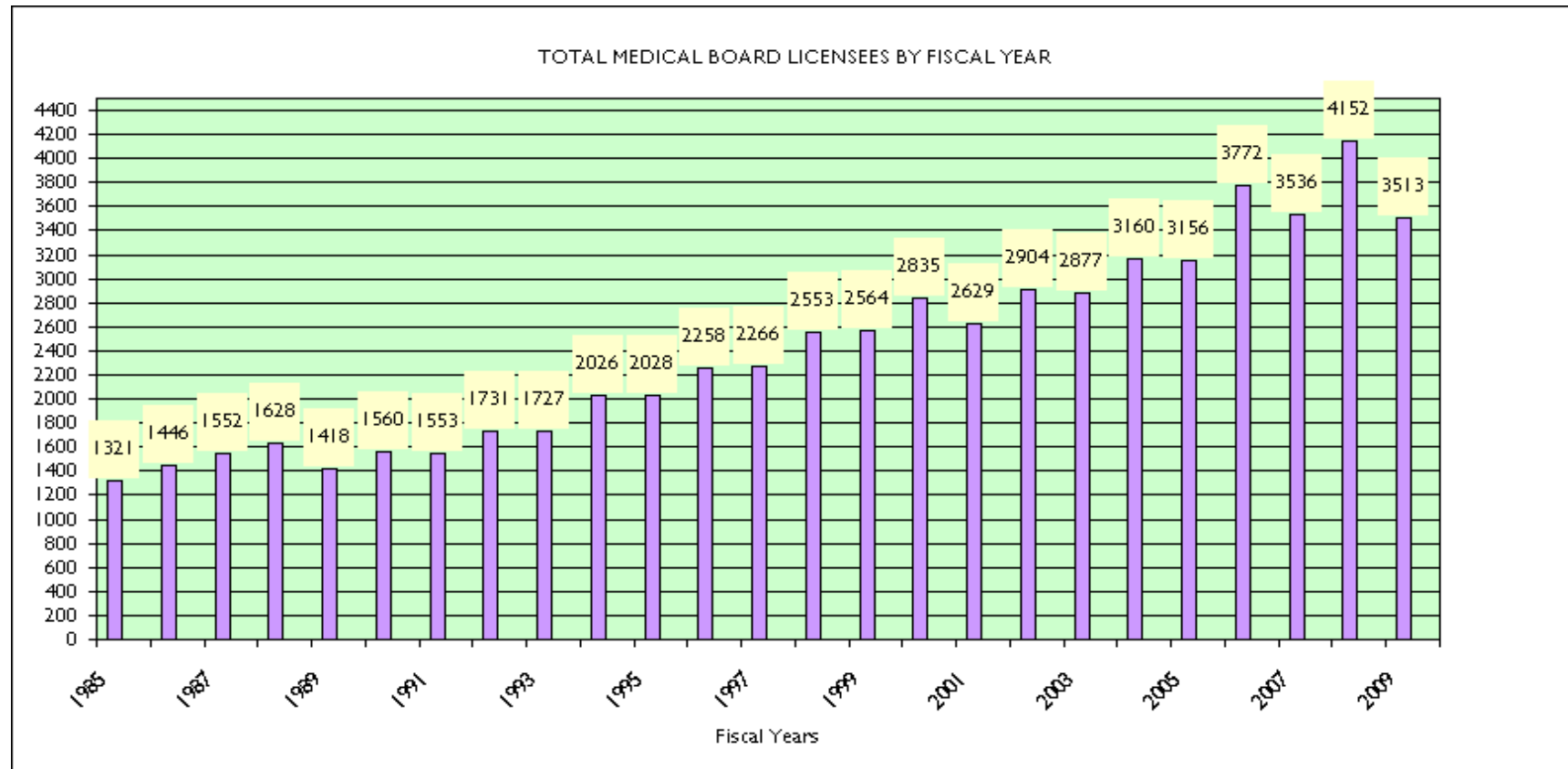
The board thanks its staff, Leslie Gallant, Executive Administrator, Licensing Examiners Linda Sherwood and Mariana Moreno-Goodwin, its investigators, Lee Strout and Sue Winton, and its administrative assistant, Miriam Patredis. Without the support of these committed individuals, the board would be far less effective in executing its responsibilities. Daily, these professionals give their energies, their skills, their knowledge, and their hearts to the work of the board. The board wishes to recognize and thank them for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the physicians, physician assistants, and paramedics of the state, and most especially, for their concern for the people of Alaska.

TOTAL PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, AND PARAMEDICS BY FISCAL YEAR

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY04	FY05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09
MD/DO Active	815	934	1027	1089	925	1038	1004	1152	1183	1417	1419	1593	1603	1826	1810	2034	1850	2080	2099	2321	2309	2809	2579	3079	2555
MD/DO Inactive	317	305	279	322	255	254	273	263	243	243	262	262	277	266	300	289	285	268	249	242	240	238	232	225	183
DPM-Act/Inact	0	11	11	0	0	0	9	11	12	15	13	14	14	15	15	16	16	17	18	17	20	21	19	22	21
PA-C-Act/Inact	111	111	134	126	138	157	159	186	177	216	200	231	221	255	244	266	245	284	266	297	307	370	369	436	384
MICP-Active	78	85	101	91	100	111	108	119	112	135	134	158	151	191	195	230	233	255	245	283	280	334	337	390	370
TOTAL	1321	1446	1552	1628	1418	1560	1553	1731	1727	2026	2028	2258	2266	2553	2564	2835	2629	2904	2877	3160	3156	3772	3536	4152	3513

% Variance
from

Previous Year	--	+9.4	+7.3	+4.8	12.9	+10	-.05	+11.4	-.02	+17.3	--	+11.3	.03	+12.6	+0.4	+11	-7.8	+10.4	-.09	+ 9.8	---	+16.3	-6.6	+14.8	18.2
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FISCAL YEAR 20____ STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Program: _____

AS 08. _____

12 AAC _____

Name of Individual Completing Report: _____

Date: _____

CATEGORY	NEW – ISSUED DURING FY 20____	TOTAL AS OF 6/30/____	EXAMINATION/ CREDENTIAL
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A. Current Active Licenses, Endorsements, Permits

(student, locum tenens, limited, courtesy licenses)

List type and if issued by examination or credential, as applicable

(Do not list “temporary permits” or “temporary licenses”)

1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
TOTAL			

B. Current Inactive Licenses (not lapsed licenses)

(Only Medical, Chiropractic, CPA, and Real Estate)

CATEGORY	TOTAL AS OF 6/30/____
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
TOTAL	

Alaska State Medical Board

SUNSET PERFORMANCE AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The board is scheduled to sunset June 30, 2013.

In the last legislative sunset audit, there were no major deficiencies found with the operations of the medical board.

Alaska State Medical Board

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal No. 1

To continue to protect the public and safeguard the health and safety of the public by:

- maintaining the highest standards of licensure in the country insuring that only the most competent physicians practice in Alaska and insure their continued competency;
- vigorously and objectively enforce the statutes and regulations of the state of Alaska that define the practice of medicine;
- provide information and education to both our licensees and the population about the board and its work.

Objective

Continuously review and revise our licensing requirements seeking ways to improve our processes. Restore the board's newsletter that was eliminated several years ago and improve our communications with our licensees and the public. Continue to work collaboratively with the Investigations Unit to pursue and resolve complaints filed with the board.

Goal No. 2

Promulgate statutes and regulations that are clear, relevant, unambiguous, and functional.

Objective

To continuously improve language in the statutes and regulations for clarity and to be aware of and responsive to changes in practice of medicine.

Goal No. 3

Increase the public and professional awareness of the board and its activities.

Objective

To resume the publication of a board newsletter to keep our licensing population and the public informed of the board's activities and perspective.

Goal No. 4

Continue to develop and promote positive relationships with our colleagues in other organizations such as other boards, the Federation of State Medical Boards, Administrators In Medicine, the National Board of Medical Examiners, the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, the American Board of Medical Specialties, and other professional organizations.

Objective

Through our positive relationships with other organizations, the board seeks to stay abreast of developments in physician education, training, development, recruitment, and retention.

Goal No. 5

Pursue within the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing adequate financial and human resources to create and maintain an effective operational structure so that the board can meet its mission and goals. The board recognizes the increased work load over the years and will be seeking to add an additional staff member in the Anchorage office to assist with its administrative functions.

Objective

The board seeks to serve its licensing population with competent, courteous, and prompt assistance when called upon. In order to achieve our objective, we need to provide adequate resources to our staff including compensation and a positive work environment. The board seeks to utilize technology in the most efficient ways possible to achieve its goals and to provide the best service possible to both our licensees and the public.

Goal No. 6

Pursue with the Division the board's desire to have the licensing examiners and board license records moved to the Anchorage office.

Objective

The board recognizes the increased efficiency to its operations with all personnel and records located in the largest population center in the state rather than maintaining two office locations. The board also recognizes the increased cost savings and security of records this move would provide.

Alaska State Medical Board

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2010

Office Move
\$30,000

The board seeks to have adequate funding made available to provide for the move of personnel and records to the Anchorage office in order to combine the two offices into a more efficient and cost effective operation.

Educational Meetings
\$5,000

The board requests adequate funding to permit attendance at appropriate educational meetings during the year for its staff.

The board does not anticipate any other special funding projects at this time.

Alaska State Medical Board

UPCOMING REGULATIONS PROJECTS

The board has a new regulations project in the beginning stages and will be moving forward with it in the coming weeks. The project involves regulations regarding standard of care, the use of the title "Doctor" by non-physicians, supervision of paramedics, the licensure of Fifth Pathway physicians, and additional language to the unprofessional conduct regulation. These regulations do not involve any expenditure of funds.

No other projects are contemplated at this time.

Alaska State Medical Board

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The medical board is not seeking any legislative changes to its statutes at this time.