

Annual Report ***Fiscal Year 2011***

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD

July 2011



DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

This Annual Performance Report is presented in accordance with Alaska Statute 08.01.070(1) and Alaska Statute 37.07.080(b). Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the past and present needs of the licensing program.

**ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD
FY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page #</u> |
|---|----------------------|
| IDENTIFICATION OF BOARD..... | 1 |
| IDENTIFICATION OF STAFF | 2 |
| NARRATIVE STATEMENT | 3 |
| BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 4 |
| PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 5 |
| REGULATION RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 6 |
| GOALS AND OBJECTIVES..... | 7 |
| SUNSET AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 8 |
| STATISTICAL OVERVIEW..... | 9-10 |

**ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD
FY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
IDENTIFICATION OF BOARD**

Alaska Statute 08.64.010 establishes the State Medical Board, composed of eight members, including five licensed physicians, one licensed physician assistant, and two public members. Each member is appointed to serve by the governor and serves a four-year term; a member may serve beyond the termination date until a successor is appointed.

| <u>Board Member</u> | <u>Date Appointed</u> | <u>Term Expires</u> |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jean M. Tsigonis, MD, Chair 1001 Noble Street Fairbanks AK 99701 | November 15, 2006 | March 1, 2012 |
| Edward A. Hall, PA-C, Secretary 13601 Windward Circle Anchorage AK 99516 | May 19, 2008 | March 1, 2013 |
| John S. Cullen, MD Post Office Box 1829 Valdez AK 99686 | January 29, 2008 | March 1, 2012 |
| Kathleen (Casey) Millar, Public Member 15801 Windsong Drive Anchorage AK 99516 | March 1, 2009 | March 1, 2013 |
| David A. Miller, MD 3268 Hospital Drive, Suite C Juneau AK 99801 | March 1, 2009 | March 1, 2012 |
| David J. Powers, MD 6000 Kanakanak Rd. Dillingham AK 99576 | December 2, 2008 | March 1, 2012 |
| William W. Resinger, MD Post Office Box 839 Palmer AK 99645 | September 21, 2007 | March 1, 2014 |
| Michael J. Tauriainen, Public Member 35186 Spur Highway Soldotna AK 99669 | May 28, 2003 | March 1, 2012 |

**ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD
FY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
IDENTIFICATION OF STAFF**

Anchorage Office

Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage, AK 99501

Debora Stovern, Executive Administrator

Work: (907) 269-8163

Fax: (907) 269-8196

Susan Winton, Senior Investigator

Work: (907) 269-8189

Fax: (907) 269-8195

David Newman, Investigator

Work: (907) 269-8177

Fax: (907) 269-8195

Miriam Patredis, office Assistant

Work: (907) 269-8163

Fax: (907) 269-8196

Juneau Office

Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806

Ronelle Beardslee, Licensing Examiner (A – K)

Work: (907) 465-2756

Fax: (907) 465-2974

Michelle Johnston, Licensing Examiner (L – Z)

Work: (907) 465-2541

Fax: (907) 465-2974

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD

FY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

The Alaska State Medical Board is responsible for protecting the public through the licensing, regulation, and discipline of physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, physician assistants, and mobile intensive care paramedics.

The board establishes and evaluates minimum education and competency standards for applicants who wish to practice medicine in Alaska. The board also ensures the continuing competency of practitioners by establishing and evaluating professional standards and specific requirements for biennial license renewal. Such standards provide reasonable assurance to the public that licensees are qualified to practice medicine. During FY 2011, the board maintained its consistently high level of activity in all categories of licensure, including the initial licensure of 421 physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, physician assistants, and mobile intensive care paramedics new to Alaska. In addition, the board issued 30 locum tenens permits for temporary practice by physicians to fill absences in the state, and 83 resident permits to physicians participating in an accredited post-graduate residency program in the state.

The Alaska State Medical Board takes its public protection responsibilities very seriously and has well-established policies and procedures to investigate complaints and malpractice settlements, and take disciplinary action as appropriate. The Board has worked with its investigative staff to develop specific disciplinary guidelines in order to mete out consistent and effective sanctions when violations occur. During FY 2011, the board took 23 formal actions under its enforcement mandate.

The board continues to monitor and propose regulation changes to improve its effectiveness. During FY 2011, the board adopted regulations establishing licensing requirements for applicants from fifth pathway programs, clarifying the scope of practice for mobile intensive care paramedics, and further defining unprofessional conduct. In addition, the board has been reviewing and considering changes to continuing medical education requirements, licensing requirements for graduates of foreign medical schools, and regulation of physician use of automatic dispensing systems.

The board continues to participate in the activities of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and Administrators in Medicine (AIM). Attendance at their national and regional meetings allows the board and board staff to remain aware of issues concerning the practice of medicine nationally, and to participate in programs involving licensing requirements, professional standards and ethics, public protection, regulation, and discipline. The federation monitors developments in the health care regulatory field by the federal government, administers the national licensure examination, and maintains a national database of licensed physicians and physician assistants. AIM researches and tracks issues and developments on a state-by-state basis and assists board executives in obtaining or sharing information to more effectively respond to the needs of their states. Both organizations are active in providing education and assistance to board staff and members, including certification programs for board executives and board investigators.

The board employs an executive administrator, two investigators, two licensing examiners, and an administrative clerk. At the beginning of the fiscal year, they experienced a large turnover in key licensing staff, with the retirement of the long-term Executive Administrator and the resignation of both licensing examiners. They successfully filled those positions and are pleased to have an effective and professional staff.

In the coming year, the board will continue to seek important and meaningful change in the areas of administrative and board functions. The board has developed policies and procedures for conducting routine business. They continue to evaluate and make changes as necessary for more efficient and appropriate licensing, regulation, and disciplinary processes. The board continues to seek new ways to disseminate information to the public and the profession, to have more information available on their website, and do more business via the internet. The board will continue to be accessible to its licensees and the public and to be responsive to the needs and safety of Alaska's citizens.

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD
FY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2012

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Hold four Board meetings per year at an approximate average cost of \$7,850 each (cost per meeting ranges from \$5,400 to \$11,200, depending on the location) | \$31, 400 |
| Travel and per diem for two Board members and the executive administrator to attend the annual Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) meeting – the FSMB provides the travel for one Board member and the executive administrator. | \$ 3,400 |
| Travel and per diem for the executive administrator to attend the annual Administrators in Medicine (AIM) meeting and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) board executive training – the FSMB and AIM provide the travel. | -0- |
| TOTAL COSTS | \$34,800 |

Board Meeting Travel:

In accordance with Alaska Statute 08.64.085 the board meets at least four times a year. The board holds two of their meetings in the Anchorage area, one meeting in the Southeast area, and one meeting in Northern Alaska. The meetings are scheduled for as many geographical areas of the state as possible, in order to be accessible to the public and the profession. Board meetings are two days with a full agenda to conduct required administrative business (reviewing license applications and reinstatements), assess and propose regulation changes, evaluate board procedures and guidelines, deal with correspondence, and handle disciplinary matters.

Other Travel:

The FSMB establishes national policies and standards for the medical profession on behalf of state medical and osteopathic boards in their protection of the public. They hold an annual meeting and provide the travel for one board member and the executive administrator to attend. AIM is an affiliated organization for board executives. They also hold an annual meeting and provide the travel for the executive administrator to attend. These meetings are well attended by all 70 state and territorial boards and staff. Attendance at the meetings by board members and executive staff allows the board to stay informed of issues concerning the practice of medicine nationally and to participate in programs involving the national licensing examination and reciprocity of professional licenses, as well as to participate in the development or revision of professional policies and standards.

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD
FY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR FY 2012

The Alaska State Medical Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD
FY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
REGULATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Alaska State Medical Board is not currently pursuing regulation changes. However, they will be considering changes to continuing medical education requirements, licensing requirements for graduates of foreign medical schools, and regulation of physician use of automatic dispensing systems.

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD
FY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2012

1. The board will continue to educate licensees regarding the medical board statutes and regulations.
2. The board will continue to assess and evaluate the licensing of physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists, physician assistants, and mobile intensive care paramedics.
3. The board will continue to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of current regulations and the need for revisions or new regulations.
4. The board will annually review and update its disciplinary guidelines and its policies and procedures.
5. The board will continue to be involved nationally with the Federation of State Medical Boards and its affiliated organizations, and support board and staff attendance at their meetings and activities.

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD
FY 2011
SUNSET AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Alaska State Medical Board had its last Sunset Performance Audit conducted in 2006 with the following conclusions:

- the board is operating in the public's best interest and should continue
- the board is safeguarding the public interest by promoting the competence and integrity of those who hold themselves out to the public as qualified and competent medical professionals
- the board serves a public purpose and has demonstrated an ability to conduct its business in a satisfactory manner

The report did note a need for reducing lengthy investigative periods because "prompt investigations of complaints regarding medical professionals are essential to public health and welfare." The board has worked with investigative staff to develop disciplinary guidelines, to establish procedures for investigating complaints and malpractice settlements, and take disciplinary action as appropriate.

The report included one recommendation: to update regulatory language to reflect current license-by-examination practices. The board has since completed that regulation change.

The Board's next sunset review is scheduled to occur prior to its June 30, 2013 termination date.

FISCAL YEAR 20____ STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Program: _____

AS 08. _____

12 AAC _____

Name of Individual Completing Report: _____

Date: _____

| CATEGORY | NEW-ISSUED FY 20____ | TOTAL AS OF 6/30/____ | EXAMINATION/ CREDENTIAL |
|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|

A. Current Active Licenses, Endorsements, Permits, Exam Fees, Course Approval Fees

(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")

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|-----|---------------------------|
| Example: License Type | 10 | 250 | Exam: 6 Credentials: 4 |
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| 5. | | | |
| 6. | | | |
| 7. | | | |
| 8. | | | |
| 9. | | | |
| 10. | | | |
| 11. | | | |
| 12. | | | |
| 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. | |
| TOTAL | |

C. Retired Licenses

| CATEGORY | RETIRED DURING FY 20____ | TOTAL AS OF 6/30/____ | NOTES |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

D. Examination Dates

(List each examination administration separately.)

| EXAM TYPE | LOCATION | DATE | CANDIDATES | NO. PASSED | NO. FAILED |
|-----------|----------|------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

E. Board Meetings and Teleconferences

| DATE | LOCATION (<i>indicate if teleconference</i>) |
|------|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |