

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Charles Collins called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. in Juneau, Alaska. Participation was available via Zoom video conference.

II. ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present, constituting a quorum:

Brad Austin	Randy Beltz	Pamela Cline	Mike Dennis
Sara Faulkner	Bronson Frye	Anthony Ladd	Sarah Lefebvre
Debbie White	Lake Williams	Brian Zematis	

Member John Corbett was excused. Member Zematis arrived at 10:15 a.m. and Member Randall McLellan was absent.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the agenda; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Collins provided a brief legislative update, noting the introduction of two bills affecting workers' compensation: a House bill relating to transportation network company drivers and a Senate bill proposing repeal of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission. He also provided an update on House Bill 245, which would modify the workers' compensation premium tax and authorize the Board to set the rate up to a statutory cap.

Director Collins also reported on recent stakeholder meetings concerning reemployment benefits, regulation rewrites, and employer outreach. He noted that the Division recently held a public meeting regarding the updated *American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* and would issue a bulletin formally adopting the new edition as required by statute.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Misty Steed – PACBLU

- Raised concerns regarding confusion in applying the 2025 fee schedule in conjunction with newly adopted 2026 CMS resource materials.
- Requested that the Division issue a guidance bulletin to ensure consistent application by payers.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Danean Tedford of RefMed provided additional context regarding CMS updates and the dynamic nature of the fee schedule, noting areas where clarification may be helpful.

8 AAC 45.083 – Medical Treatment and Service Fees

Member Lefebvre moved to adopt 8 AAC 45.083, with amendments revising the effective date in subsections (a)(10) and (11) and updating the fee schedule, including the cover and

conforming references throughout, to April 1, 2026; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Lefebvre moved that the Division prepare and issue a bulletin providing clarification regarding the application of the medical fee schedule in light of the delayed adoption and newly adopted CMS resource materials; Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Member Beltz moved to adjourn; Member Lefebvre seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn 11:11 am