JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

ALASKA ACADEMY OF PA

Letter from the President

Hello Colleagues across Alaska!

It is with pleasure and honor I present our quarterly newsletter with updates from our professional academy. Legislation, Membership, CME, Wellness, Scholarship have been busy keeping up with annual tasks. CME 10/6-8/2022 should be epic and I look forward to seeing you all.

Our 2022 board has been overactive, hyperactive in some moments, regarding regulation and statute changes to modernize PA practice in our state. Please read our recent rendition and game plan for the upcoming year. Also, check akapa.org and find our landing page for PA Practice Modernization **here**. Links, letters, legislation, and supporting documentation in one area!

A special thank you to all the board members who traveled to

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Legislative Update

The AKAPA Legislative committee is actively working with state organizations to move PA Modernization forward in the State of Alaska. While there is general agreement and support for several changes, much work is still to be done.

Alaska State Medical Board – The AKAPA has made it a point to be on the agenda at each State Medical Board meeting. During the last meeting, the AKAPA was tasked with formally responding to concerns the State Medical Board has about implementing changes. The response was submitted on Friday, July 22nd. No follow-up date has been made. The next medical board meeting is 8/19/2022.

Alaska State Medical Association – ASMA has created a

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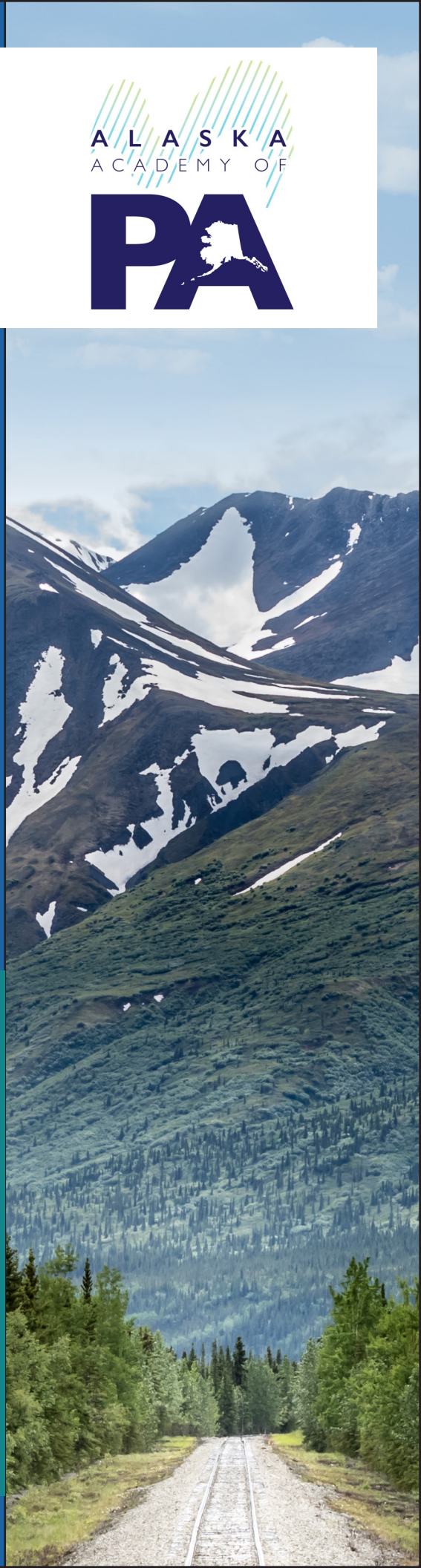

Legislative Update continued from page 1

PA Modernization Workgroup. They meet every two weeks to discuss possible changes to PA practice regulations. The last meeting was 7/26 with more feedback provided to the committee. We continue to pursue support from physician organizations for these changes.

AAPA – The AKAPA has been awarded a grant by AAPA to hire a lobbyist. Monthly meetings are held to identify next steps. Currently, the Legislative committee is working on building relationships with stakeholders, developing talking points and presentations, and closely monitoring elections.

HB265 was signed into law on July 13, 2022. You can learn more **here**.

All members are encouraged to attend our monthly legislative committee meetings to stay up to date on the latest news. Meetings take place the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm. Meeting links can be found on the PA Practice Modernization webpage here.

Follow Up Survey
AKAPA Updated PA Practice Proposals

Greetings AKAPA Members,

AKAPA needs your feedback once again! Following is a new survey with questions about updated proposals to PA practice in Alaska.

The legislative committee has continued to work on the modernization of PA practice. After numerous meetings with the State Medical Board and the Alaska State Medical Association, we have gathered important feedback from our physician colleagues and identified opportunities for modifications to our initial proposals. We need your input!

The following survey gives you the chance to share your feedback on AKAPA's updated proposals for PA practice in Alaska. Please fill it out and provide as much feedback as possible. Your voice is important, and your participation is critical.

TAKE SURVEY

HOD Recap

AAPA 2022 HOD meeting occurred from 5/19-5/22.

Here are a few key items from the meetings. Thanks to those who gave feedback via social media.

Name Change

The AAPA Bylaws were amended as follows:

ARTICLE I NAME

The name and title by which this corporation shall be known is the American Academy of Physician ~~Assistants~~ ASSOCIATES, Inc., herein referred to as the Academy or AAPA.
*AAPA Board of Directors ratification required

Student Members Voting for AAPA Board of Directors

Amend AAPA Bylaws Article III, Section 4 as follows:

Section 4: Student Members. A student member is an individual who is enrolled in an ARC-PA or successor agency approved PA program. ~~Except~~ STUDENT MEMBERS ARE ONLY ELIGIBLE TO HOLD ELECTED OFFICE IN THE STUDENT ACADEMY OR as otherwise provided in these Bylaws,. ~~student members shall not be entitled to vote or hold office. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, one student shall be elected by eligible student members to sit on the Board of Directors and this Student Director shall have all rights and privileges of any other member of such Board. CREDENTIALED STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT ACADEMY ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVES, CREDENTIALED~~ THE STUDENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND APPORTIONED STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES ~~AND STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS~~ SHALL BE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN AAPA GENERAL ELECTIONS.
*AAPA Board of Directors ratification required

Increase in category 1 CME for preceptors

Amend policy HP-3200.3.3.1 as follows:

The preceptors **Reproductive Healthcare Restrictions**

Amend policy HX-4600.6.1 as follows:

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President Letter continued from page 1

Juneau 6/25/2022 (at their expense!) for our first face to face outside of Anchorage in a decade. It was a pleasure to share our Capital city with the AKAPA board members and staff.

AKAPA board continues to meet monthly, second Monday of every month at 6:30pm on Zoom. All members are welcome, 8/9/2022 6 pm. Facebook is also a great resource for events and announcements.

Important Dates

Alaska State Medical Board
Friday, August 19
Click to learn more

Annual Meeting of the Membership
Saturday, October 8

COVID, COVID, COVID --- fatigued to say the least. Essential oil on the bottom of the surgical mask DOES help, thank you AKAPA All-Alaskan Medical Conference 2022 for the advice and idea! I wish I felt like an expert, but as information changes so rapidly, I find myself doubting my training. As a primary care PA on the front lines, talking and counseling about COVID is a multiple day affair. Sars-Co-V-2 is a virus, mutating and evolving, as they do, affecting everyone uniquely. Why can a 70 yr old have a sore throat for a day and a 27 yr old be bed ridden for a week? So odd how the immune system responses and for how LONG some people suffer. Common sense advice, no smoking, reducing alcohol, walking, drinking plenty of fluids, washing your hands, and eating plenty of green leafy vegetables has never been so important. Spending time focusing on your mental health to improve your physical health as never rang so true. We all have COVID stories to share and should for catharsis and normalization. Please continue to reach out to friends, coworkers, and patients to reassure and support.

With Solstice behind us, the weather is getting chilly, fireweed is flowering, the inevitable is upon us, FALL/WINTER. While you gear up for your late summer salmon run fishery, expectant moose, caribou, deer, sheep hunt, skiing, skating, or tropical getaway, make time for yourself. Deep breathing for a minute and expressing gratitude for the ability enjoy the great outdoors and the honor to server our community as healers and helpers.

Sincerely,
Wendy Smith, PA-C

HOD Update continued from page 3

AAPA opposes RESTRICTIONS ~~OR~~ AND attempts to restrict the availability of AND ACCESS TO reproductive healthcare.

Join the AKAPA Board of Directors!
Nominate yourself or a colleague today!

Breastfeeding/chest feeding

Amend policy HX-4200.1.5 as follows:

AAPA endorses exclusive breast

OR CHEST feeding when possible, for about the first 6 months of life, UNLESS MEDICALLY CONTRAINDICATED. CONTINUED BREAST/CHEST FEEDING (ALONG WITH COMPLEMENTARY FOOD INTRODUCTION) ~~UNLESS MEDICALLY CONTRAINDICATED~~, IS RECOMMENDED FOR AT LEAST THE FIRST YEAR OF THE INFANT'S LIFE AND THEN AS

MUTUALLY DESIRED BY THE PARENT AND INFANT. ~~followed by breastfeeding with complementary food introduction until at least 12 months of age.~~

Methadone Restrictions

AAPA encourages federal, state, and local regulatory bodies to consider reducing restrictions on the use of methadone in the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder.

Telemedicine
Amend policy HX-4500.1 as follows:

AAPA believes that telemedicine THAT FOLLOWS BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES IMPROVES ~~can improve~~ access to cost-effective, quality healthcare. ~~and improves clinical outcomes by facilitating interaction and consultation among providers. Because of the potential of telemedicine to enhance the practice of medicine by physician-PA teams,~~ AAPA encourages PAs AND PA STUDENTS to BECOME COMPETENT ~~PROFICIENT take an active role in the utilization and evaluation of this technology~~ IN THE BEST PRACTICES OF TELEMEDICINE TECHNOLOGY AND THE CLINICAL DELIVERY OF TELEMEDICINE SERVICES. ~~AAPA supports further research and development in telemedicine, including resolution of problems related to regulation, reimbursement, liability, and confidentiality.~~

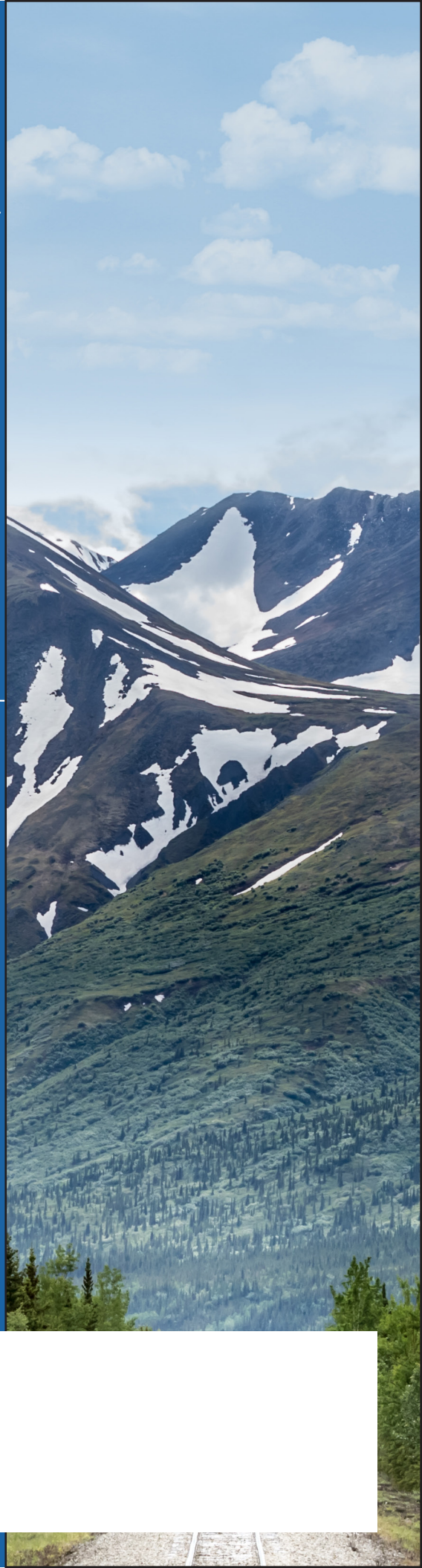
AAPA encourages PAs and PA students to advocate for appropriate resource allocation to support development of telemedicine programs. AAPA supports the elimination of barriers to implementation and utilization of telemedicine services for patients, providers, and the healthcare system.

For the complete summary of actions click **here** (select 2022 HOD Summary of Actions)

All the best,

Your AKAPA delegates
Chris Dietrich
Cherise Hug
Denise Kolojejchick-Coslett

From left to right: Chris Dietrich, Denise Kolojejchick-Coslett, Cherie Hug



Alaska Academy of PA

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