

**API GOVERNING BODY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**



LOCATION: In Person and Microsoft Teams Meeting
Alaska Psychiatric Institute, 3700 Piper Street, Room 27C,
Anchorage, AK 99508
[Teams Link:](#)
Passcode: di6sV7Ja
Meeting ID: 267 814 352 723 848
Dial in by phone: 1-907-202-7104
Phone Conference ID: 583 724 926#

DATE: June 8, 2026

TIME: 3:00 PM to 3:48 PM

3:00 PM: CALL TO ORDER

Introductions

Tracy Dompeling

Commissioner Tracy Dompeling called the special meeting of the API Governing Body to order shortly after 3:00 PM.

Voting Members Present:

- Tracy Dompeling, Commissioner (DFCS)
- Marian Sweet, Assistant Commissioner (DFCS)
- Kaela Watson, Vice Chair (Designee for Deputy Commissioner Member)

Non-Voting Members Present:

- Dr. Robert Lawrence, Chief Medical Officer (DOH)
- Jenn Carson, Director of Behavioral Health (DOH)
- Ken Cole, CEO, Alaska Psychiatric Institute (DFCS)

Advisory Board Nominees Present:

- Elizabeth King, Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association
- Dr. Lisa Lindquist, Alaska Native Health Board
- Esther Pitts, Alaska Mental Health Trust
- Ann Ringstad, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Summer LeFebvre, Alaska Behavioral Health Association
- Sam Garcia, Alaska Mental Health Board
- Travis Welch, Department of Corrections

API Staff Present:

- Dr. Robert Long, Alaska Psychiatric Institute

MISSION: *Providing compassionate health care to support Alaskans in living their best possible lives.*

VISION: *An Alaska where everyone receives the care they need, when they need it, without judgment.*

- Dolly Lamont, Alaska Psychiatric Institute

A quorum was established with two of three voting members present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Marian Sweet, Second: Commissioner Dompeling - Motion passed unanimously.

No Discussion.

3:10 PM: NEW BUSINESS

Appointment / Approval of Advisory Board Nominees

Tracy Dompeling

- Elizabeth King, Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association
- Dr. Lisa Lindquist, Alaska Native Health Board
- Esther Pitts, Alaska Mental Health Trust
- Ann Ringstad, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Summer LeFebvre, Alaska Behavioral Health Association
- Sam Garcia, Alaska Mental Health Board
- Travis Welch, Department of Corrections
- Anthony Newman, Department of Health

Purpose of Meeting

The Governing Body met to select members for the newly established API Advisory Board, created as part of the updated Governing Body bylaws.

The Advisory Board may include up to seven members, with no more than three State of Alaska employees.

Review and Voting on Advisory Board Nominees

For each nominee, Commissioner Dompeling presented background information and invited discussion.

The term for an Advisory Board member is two years.

Advisory Board Nominations and Voting:

1. **Elizabeth King**, VP of Operations, Alaska Health and Healthcare Association (AHHA):
 - Elizabeth King was nominated by the Alaska Health and Healthcare Association.
 - **Discussion:** Members discussed the term commitment for individuals joining the Advisory Board. Tracy Dompeling clarified that the commitment is two years. She noted the importance of staggering terms to avoid all members rotating off at the same time, which could disrupt the Board's work. Options include the Governing Body determining rotation plans or asking the Advisory Board for suggestions. At the end of each two-year term, the Governing Body will review whether a member will continue or step down. Tracy also emphasized that if a member's role or capacity changes at any point, they should inform the Governing Body so new nominations can be considered. Robert Lawrence confirmed he raised the question to ensure incoming members understood their commitment. Following this discussion, voting proceeded, beginning with Elizabeth King.

- Commissioner Dompeling moved her appointment, Assistant Commissioner Sweet seconded the nomination. Both Governing Body members voted yes.
2. **Dr. Lisa Lindquist**, Southcentral Foundation, VP Behavioral Health Services:
 - Dr. Lindquist was nominated by Alaska Native Health Board.
 - There were no discussions or questions.
 - Assistant Commissioner Sweet moved the nomination, Commissioner Dompeling Seconded the nomination. Both Governing Body members voted yes.
 3. **Esther Pitts**, CEO, Mat-Su Health Foundation:
 - Esther Pitts was nominated by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.
 - There were no discussions or questions.
 - Commissioner Dompeling moved her appointment, Assistant Commissioner Sweet seconded the nomination. Both Governing Body members voted yes.
 4. **Ann Ringstad**, National Alliance of Mental Illness, Executive Director:
 - Ann Ringstad was nominated by the National Alliance of Mental Illness.
 - Assistant Commissioner Sweet moved the nomination, Commissioner Dompeling Seconded the nomination. Both Governing Body members voted yes.
 5. **Summer LeFebvre**, Southcentral Foundation, Training Specialist:
 - Summer LeFebvre was nominated by Alaska Behavioral Health Association.
 - Commissioner Dompeling moved her appointment, Assistant Commissioner Sweet seconded the nomination. Both Governing Body members voted yes.
 - Discussion: Summer LeFebvre informed the Governing Body that her position changed from Division Director to a Training Specialist role in Development and Training.
 6. **Travis Welch**, Director of Department of Corrections, Division of Health & Rehabilitative Services:

He would represent a State of Alaska seat. Director Welch's section routinely works with API staff regarding individuals in the correctional system who are ordered into civil or forensic care at API. API also partners with the jail-based restoration program to help address the significant waitlist for individuals needing forensic services.

 - Travis Welch was nominated by Commissioner Dompeling, DFCS Commissioner.
 - **Discussion:** Dr. Lawrence expressed strong support for Director Welch joining the Advisory Board and emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong connection between API and the Department of Corrections. He suggested the Board consider establishing an ex-officio seat in the future to ensure ongoing coordination. Commissioner Dompeling agreed that this is a valuable topic for future discussion and noted that adding any ex-officio members would require updates to the bylaws.
 - Assistant Commissioner Sweet moved the nomination, Commissioner Dompeling Seconded the nomination. Both Governing Body members voted yes.
 7. **Anthony Newman**, Director of Senior Disability Services (SDS):
 - Anthony Newman was nominated by Tracy Dompeling, DFCS Commissioner.
 - **Discussion:** The Chair asked if there were any discussion or questions. She pointed out Dr. Lawrence's earlier point: if the Governing Body considers adding ex-officio members in the future due to State of Alaska representation, Senior and Disability Services would also be considered for an ex-officio seat. No additional discussion was raised.
 - Commissioner Dompeling moved his appointment, Assistant Commissioner Sweet seconded the nomination. Both Governing Body members voted yes.

8. Sam Garcia, Behavioral Health Professional (Peer Recovery Systems in Alaska):

- Sam Garcia was nominated by Jenn Carson with the Alaska Mental Health Board.
- There were no Discussion or questions.
- Assistant Commissioner Sweet moved the nomination, Commissioner Dompeling Seconded the nomination. Both Governing Body members voted no.
- Commissioner Dompeling noted the decision was not a reflection on qualifications but based on seat limitations and desire for continuity from previous Governing Body contributors.

Advisory Board Members Approved by the Governing Body:

1. Elizabeth King
2. Dr. Lisa Lindquist
3. Esther Pitts
4. Anne Ringstad
5. Summer LeFebvre
6. Travis Welch
7. Anthony Newman

Discussion:

A reminder was provided that the Advisory Board meets regularly with the Governing Body, and the next joint meeting is scheduled in two weeks.

Advisory Board members may submit agenda items for all future meetings.

Advisory Board may meet independently as needed and may designate its own point of contact for coordination.

3:45PM: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public participants joined. Public comment closed at 3:47 PM.

4:00PM: OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn: Marian Sweet; Second: Commissioner Dompeling. Meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, June 23, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM