

Eliza Caguioa Ellsworth, PT

Statement of Purpose

I am seeking continued appointment to the Alaska State Physical and Occupational Therapy Board to further strengthen the regulatory, clinical, and ethical standards guiding rehabilitation practice across Alaska. During my current term on the Board, I have been committed to upholding public protection, reviewing licensure regulations, addressing professional conduct cases, evaluating CEU requirements, and supporting statewide workforce quality.

My work as a clinician and Therapy Services Manager serving the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta for nearly a decade has equipped me with a nuanced understanding of the unique challenges in both remote and urban communities. I have firsthand experience with barriers to care, clinical autonomy needs, documentation standards, culturally responsive practice, and the coordination required for safe and effective therapy services.

I remain dedicated to advancing high-quality rehabilitation care that protects the public, supports clinicians, and strengthens the statewide framework for physical and occupational therapy. I would be honored to continue serving on the Alaska State Board and contributing to the integrity, safety, and growth of the profession.

Professional Summary

Physical therapist with over 15 years of clinical experience, including 8 years serving rural Alaska. Experienced in full-scope PT practice, interdisciplinary care coordination, culturally responsive care, and wound care leadership. Dedicated to strengthening statewide rehabilitation standards through regulatory participation, clinical education, and public-protection-focused governance.

Professional Experience

Manager of Therapy Services, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (2015–Present)

- Manage PT, OT, SLP, and wound care service lines in a large tribal health region.
- Lead onboarding, compliance, documentation quality, staff training, and rural clinic scheduling.
- Develop protocols for wound care, frostbite, pediatric coordination, and interdisciplinary workflows.

Full-Time Physical Therapist, YKHC (2015–2022)

- Orthopedic, neurologic, pediatric, vestibular, and chronic disease management.
- Provide care across outpatient, inpatient, telehealth, and remote village clinics.

Physical Therapist, Therapy in Motion, Norman, OK (2011–2015)

- Outpatient orthopedics, sports therapy, and clinical instruction.

Physical Therapist, Comanche County Memorial Hospital (2011–2013)

- Acute care, inpatient rehab, and outpatient treatment.

Education

Doctor of Physical Therapy — University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (2010)

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Sport Science — Concordia University (2007)

Certifications

- Wound Care Certified (WCC)
- Certified Myofascial Trigger Point Therapist (CMTPT)
- Manual Lymphatic Drainage/Complete Decongestive Therapy (MLD/CDT)
- Complete Vestibular Rehabilitation Certification
- Certified Clinical Instructor I — University of Indianapolis (Completed Nov 8, 2025)
- MDT Certification Expected Summer 2026

Professional Affiliations

- Association of Advanced Wound Care — Member
- American Physical Therapy Association — Member

Teaching & Education Experience

- Wound care, frostbite, vestibular rehabilitation, and interdisciplinary clinical educator at YKHC.
- Certified Clinical Instructor with experience mentoring DPT students.
- Assistant Tennis Coach — Concordia University.

Key Skills

- Rural and remote care delivery
- Advanced wound management (frostbite, burns, diabetic wounds)
- Documentation quality improvement
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Telehealth clinical care
- Department operations and leadership