

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE

March 22, 2006

1:33 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fred Dyson, Chair
Senator Gary Wilken, Vice Chair
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Kim Elton
Senator Donny Olson

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Confirmation Hearings

Board of Marital and Family Therapy

Vivian C. Finlay - Wasilla
Curtis C. Schlosser - Homer
Dorothy (Dottie) Vanmeter Stanton - Anchorage
Patricia A. White - Juneau
CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

State Medical Board

Edward A. Hall - Anchorage
Nancy Puckett - Anchorage
Kevin M. Tomera - Anchorage
CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees

Laraine L. Derr - Juneau
CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Barbara Norton - Anchorage
Holly M. Steiner - Wasilla
Mila (Melinda) A. Cosgrove - Juneau
CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Nursing

JoAnne Bell-Graves - Juneau
Catherine A. Giessel - Anchorage

CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Examiners in Optometry

Dennis A. Swarner - Kenai
CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board

Julius S. Brecht - Anchorage
CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Occupational Safety and Health Review Board

Timothy O. Sharp - Fairbanks
Thomas A. Trosvig - Kodiak
CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Professional Teaching Practices Commission

Craig Baker - Kodiak
Bonnie C. Gaborik - North Pole
Linda L. Gillam Black - Anchorage
CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Dental Examiners

Kevin L. Gottlieb, DDS - Anchorage
CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners

Lorin L. Bradbury - Bethel
CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Social Work Examiners

Gail La Rose-Henderson, MSW - Wasilla
CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record

WITNESS REGISTER

Dennis A. Swarner
Kenai, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Catherine A. Giessel
Anchorage, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Nursing.

JoAnne Bell-Graves
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Nursing.

Dorothy (Dottie) Vanmeter Stanton
Anchorage, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy.

Kevin M. Tomera
Anchorage, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the State Medical Board.

Lorin L. Bradbury
Bethel, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners.

Vivian C. Finlay
Wasilla, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy.

Barbara Norton
Anchorage, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives.

Nancy Puckett
Anchorage, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the State Medical Board.

Kevin L. Gottlieb, DDS
Anchorage, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Dental Examiners.

Linda L. Gillam Black
Anchorage, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

Patricia A. White
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy.

Laraine L. Derr
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees.

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR FRED DYSON called the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Standing Committee meeting to order at [1:33:17 PM](#). Present were Senators Lyda Green and Chair Fred Dyson. Senators Kim Elton, Gary Wilken and Donny Olson joined the meeting in progress.

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

Board of Marital and Family Therapy
State Medical Board
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees
Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
Board of Nursing
Board of Examiners in Optometry
State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board
Occupational Safety and Health Review Board
Professional Teaching Practices Commission
Board of Dental Examiners
Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
Board of Social Work Examiners

CHAIR DYSON announced that the committee would hear from the governor's appointees to the foregoing boards and commissions who were up for confirmation. He first called upon testifiers who had time constraints.

SENATOR ELTON arrived at [1:34:23 PM](#).

DENNIS A. SWARNER, Kenai, appointee to the Board of Examiners in Optometry, responded to Chair Dyson's questions. He explained that he is an optometrist who was born and raised in Fairbanks. He said he believes his main responsibility on the board will be to protect the public.

CHAIR DYSON asked whether Dr. Swarner believes he could blow the whistle on a fellow practitioner if that person was being unprofessional.

DR. SWARNER answered that he believed so, yes.

[1:35:26 PM](#)

CATHERINE A. GIESSEL, Anchorage, appointee to the Board of Nursing, responded to Chair Dyson's questions. She explained that she has been doing this for the last three years, enjoys it a great deal, believes she is doing a good job and would like to continue. Saying the board clearly protects public safety through regulation of the nursing practice, she added that big issues right now include ensuring that nurses are competent to continue practicing and ensuring that the entry level for nurse practitioners is where it should be.

CHAIR DYSON, on another issue, requested that Ms. Giessel call him sometime about mandatory overtime for nurses.

[1:36:36 PM](#)

JOANNE BELL-GRAVES, Juneau, appointee to the Board of Nursing, answered Chair Dyson's questions, saying she was born and raised in Alaska and believes she would be an asset to the board. She specified that she is the public member of the board.

SENATOR WILKEN arrived at [1:36:43 PM](#).

[1:37:04 PM](#)

DOROTHY VANMETER STANTON, Anchorage, appointee to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy, responded to Chair Dyson's questions. She informed members that she was a teacher for many years and a counselor after that. Even though she isn't licensed in this state and doesn't practice, she's still connected in an informal way and is dedicated to helping and protecting people who are vulnerable.

[1:38:18 PM](#)

KEVIN M. TOMERA, Anchorage, appointee to the State Medical Board, answered Chair Dyson's questions. Noting that he's already serving on the board, Dr. Tomera said he has been here since 1993 and believes he has an obligation to the medical community and patients in Alaska. The major issues he sees for patients are affordability - although it's not an issue for the medical board - and quality.

SENATOR GREEN announced Dr. Tomera is her doctor. She recommended him highly and acknowledged a conflict of interest.

[1:39:29 PM](#)

LORIN L. BRADBURY, Bethel, appointee to the Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners, responded to Chair Dyson's questions, noting that he has been serving for the last three years. Asked why he wants to continue, Dr. Bradbury said he finds it interesting and believes it's important to maintain a high standard within the discipline. He highlighted the need for integrity. Saying he is on the fetal alcohol syndrome disorder (FASD) team in Bethel, Dr. Bradbury affirmed he'd met Chair Dyson some years ago at a meeting there.

[1:40:42 PM](#)

VIVIAN C. FINLAY, Wasilla, appointee to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy, answered Chair Dyson's questions. She said this is her seventh year, and the board didn't have anyone but her on it for a while. Thus she has a history and believes it is important to continue to help instruct the new people about what is done and what perhaps could be done better.

SENATOR OLSON arrived at [1:41:58 PM](#).

[1:42:09 PM](#)

BARBARA NORTON, Anchorage, appointee to the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, answered Chair Dyson's questions, saying she wants to serve because she is a certified nurse midwife and has worked closely with certified direct-entry midwives for eight or nine years in the community.

CHAIR DYSON called an at-ease at [1:42:24 PM](#). He handed the gavel to Senator Green.

SENATOR GREEN called the meeting back to order at [1:43:01 PM](#). She invited Ms. Norton to continue.

MS. NORTON concluded by saying she believes she understands the issues faced by certified direct-entry midwives and is supportive of their practice.

[1:43:41 PM](#)

NANCY PUCKETT, Anchorage, appointee to the State Medical Board, responded to Senator Green's questions, noting that she began serving in July as the public member. Ms. Puckett said she has always worked in business and currently is a contractor with a

nonprofit organization. The main reason she wants to serve is a desire for public service. She likes Alaska, and it has been good to her, she noted, saying she'd like to make a contribution. She highlighted the importance of having public members on this board, since they see issues from the perspective of the public and hopefully help to protect them.

[1:45:06 PM](#)

KEVIN L. GOTTLIEB, DDS, Anchorage, appointee to the Board of Dental Examiners, responded to Senator Green's questions, noting that he's been serving for the last three years and was asked to continue. He said this is worthwhile from his perspective.

[1:45:51 PM](#)

LINDA L. GILLAM BLACK, Anchorage, appointee to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission, answered Senator Green's questions, saying she is a new appointee and will be the university-level representative. She said she is looking forward to it, has been in education for 30 years, is a lifelong Alaskan, and feels very passionate about this.

[1:46:47 PM](#)

PATRICIA A. WHITE, Juneau, appointee to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy, came forward. Responding to Senator Green's questions, she noted that she is a new appointee, has lived in Juneau since 1982, has been in private practice since 1989 and has been licensed since 1992. She expressed interest in serving to repay the state, where she has had a wonderful career, since she now has time to serve.

[1:48:03 PM](#)

LARAINÉ L. DERR, Juneau, appointee to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees, came forward and responded to Senator Green's questions. Acknowledging this as a new adventure, she said this particular board will be a real challenge. There are only seven members, and a tremendous number of challenges come before that board. She said she is looking forward to it.

SENATOR GREEN remarked that she believes Ms. Derr is aptly suited for it and will do a great job.

[1:49:35 PM](#)

SENATOR GREEN asked whether anyone else on teleconference wished to testify. She called the names of the remaining appointees. [There was no response.] She pointed out that resumes and information on all appointees were included in committee packets. She suggested that members review the materials and determine whether they wanted to hear from anyone.

[1:51:06 PM](#)

SENATOR WILKEN moved to advance the names of the appointees to the aforementioned boards and commissions for full consideration of the legislature. The appointees were: Vivian C. Finlay, Curtis C. Schlosser, Dorothy Vanmeter Stanton, Patricia A. White, Edward A. Hall, Nancy Puckett, Kevin M. Tomera, Laraine L. Derr, Barbara Norton, Holly M. Steiner, Mila A. Cosgrove, JoAnne Bell-Graves, Catherine A. Giessel, Dennis A. Swarner, Julius S. Brecht, Timothy O. Sharp, Thomas A. Trosvig, Craig Baker, Bonnie C. Gaborik, Linda L. Gillam Black, Kevin L. Gottlieb, Lorin L. Bradbury, and Gail La Rose-Henderson.

SENATOR GREEN reminded members that agreeing to advance the confirmations did not indicate an intention to vote either for or against the appointees. No objection was stated, and the confirmations were advanced from the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Standing Committee.

[1:51:48 PM](#)

SENATOR GREEN announced there would be no meeting this coming Friday, March 24.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Senator Green adjourned the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Standing Committee meeting at [1:52:13 PM](#).