

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Professional Counselors

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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**Board of Professional Counselors
FY 2023 Annual Report**

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**Board of Professional Counselors
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Dorene Hagen Board Chair, LPC	Homer	March 1, 2021	March 1, 2025
Sammie O'Neal Vice Chair, LPC	Eagle River	March 1, 2021	March 1, 2025
Eleanor Vinson Public Member	Juneau	October 26, 2016	March 1, 2024
Rachel Buddin-Young LPC	Eagle River	August 3, 2022	March 1, 2026
Teresa Cotton LPC	Bethel	May 25, 2022	March 1, 2026

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Identification of Staff

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Lacey Derr – Records & Licensing Supervisor

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Renee Carabajal – Program Coordinator 2

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Josh Hardy – Investigator

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Jasmin Bautista – Investigator

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**Board of Professional Counselors
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Identification of Staff (continued)

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Greg Francois – Chief Investigator

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Jeanne Pace – Program Coordinator 1

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**Board of Professional Counselors
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Narrative Statement

The Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) Report of Activities is based on the activity of the Board of Professional Counselors (PCO) between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. During this period, the board held four regular meetings: September 2022 (in person), December 2022 (via zoom), February 2023 (via zoom), and April 2023 (via zoom). The board met for two additional meetings on January 6, 2023, to review and discuss an applicant's continuing education, and January 23, 2023, to review and discuss current legislative proposals. This board has worked hard at each board meeting towards reviewing regulations that are outdated or ineffective and implementing changes needed in order to remove unnecessary barriers to licensing, while ensuring safety and best practice standards for clients served. In addition to the board meetings, the board worked to review between 20-30 applications monthly, performed investigations (each board member reviews 1-3 allegations of misconduct per month), researched between meetings, updated counseling compacts, and met with legislation regarding proposed statute changes. The board also reviewed audit renewal applications to monitor compliance with the continuing education requirements.

Two board members attended the NBCC Counseling Regulatory Board Summit (CRBS), one in person and one via teleconference. The licensing examiner and a board member attended the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) conference. One board member attended the American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA) conference.

"The express purpose of the board is to protect the public by regulating the profession of Professional Counseling. The board accomplishes this by reviewing applications for licensure to ensure minimal professional competence and fitness for licensure, investigating allegations of misconduct on the part of licensees and upholding the rules of code pertaining to licensure, of which those rules and code are meant to ensure the protection of the public." (AASCB Annual Conference 2018). The Alaska Board of Professional Counselors helps the public identify professionals who have willingly met the standards set by the counseling profession.

Reviewing Applications for Licensure:

During this past fiscal year, the board has reviewed all applications received in a timely manner, including completed applications for professional counselor licensure by examination and by credentials, approved supervisor certification, continuing education units (CEU's), seminar and class approvals, license reinstatements, and extensions of examination time. The board utilizes the online platform OnBoard, which allows the board to review the above-mentioned in batches bi-monthly. This platform enables applications to be processed in a timely manner and facilitates a quick pathway toward licensure. Reviewing the applications outside of the board meetings has also allowed the board to focus its board meeting time on additional matters pertaining to the board, such as investigation review training, regulation review and revisions, and specific amendments. The board agrees that reviewing applications at in-person meetings reduces mistakes and misinformation.

Investigating Allegations of Misconduct:

Individual board members have worked collaboratively with the board investigators to review cases involving jurisdictional questions, and to give guidance on needs for further review and/or disciplinary sanctions. The investigations department has provided very helpful training during meetings, to assist board members in their role in the investigative process. The investigations department has provided the board with comprehensive and timely updates regarding investigative matters. The Investigations Unit has done an exceptional job working collaboratively with our board to ensure public safety. According to the investigations department, 14 cases were opened, and 12 cases have been closed.

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Narrative Statement (continued)

Regulation Management:

The board continues to evaluate the necessity, clarity, and effectiveness of the PCO regulations. The board recommended statute and regulation revisions to enhance professionalism and ensure protection of the public in FY22-23. Current completed regulations are listed here as well. These revisions will reflect the board's high expectations of training and excellence.

Regulation Changes in Process:

The board has had multiple discussions over the past fiscal year and has voted to amend 12 AAC 62.400 to allow for supervisees to deliver service through distance technology.

The following Regulations were adopted April 27, 2023:

12 AAC 62.110(d) is amended to read:

(d) An [EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN 12 AAC 62.100(e), AN] applicant who has passed an examination specified in (a) or (b) of this section must retake the examination if the applicant has not been issued an initial license within three years of passing the examination. For good cause shown, the board may grant an extension of up to two years of use of the examination.

The introductory language of 12 AAC 62.310(a) is amended to read:

12 AAC 62.310. Continuing education requirements. (a) A licensee applying for renewal of a professional counselor license must complete the number of continuing education contact hours set out in this section. At [; AT] least three [OF THE] contact hours must be in professional ethics, at least three contact hours must be in suicidality, and at least three contact hours must be in cultural competency.

12 AAC 62.310 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(h) Not more than 12 contact hours in a 24-hour period may apply to the total number of continuing education contact hours required for renewal of a license under this section.

Reflecting back on FY 22-23, we celebrate the following highlights: The board was able to work collaboratively and efficiently to review all applications in a timely manner. The board was also able to work on regulation projects and work collaboratively with the investigations unit in order to provide greater safety and professionalism to the industry of professional counseling. We were grateful for the service and experience Teresa Cotton provided from May 2022-June 2023. This last fiscal year the board welcomed new board member Rachel Buddin-Young and elected a new vice chair, Sammie O'Neal. We are grateful to the staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing for assisting us with budget reports, and administrative services to be able to accomplish the aforementioned. We are especially grateful for the licensing examiners and supervisors, and investigators that worked directly with our board.

We are grateful that there has been a return to board meetings being held in person once a year, as the collaborative benefit of being able to work in person with each board member as we collectively deliberate over matters that affect this profession is invaluable. We are grateful for the conference travel requests that have been implemented this past fiscal year, and we are hopeful that all conference travel requests will be approved this coming fiscal year so that our state will be represented at each prioritized conference and that each board member will have the opportunity to grow professionally as a board member and to network with other state boards to glean valuable wisdom in discerning best practices for our state board.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Narrative Statement (continued)

The board continues work on the following:

1. Reaching out to our legislators to help introduce the board's desired changes to statutes.
2. Right Touch Regulations: The board will continue to examine all statutes and regulations to identify any outdated, inefficient, or barriers to licensing of professional counselors.
3. Counseling Compact: The board continues discussion about participating in the Counseling Compact which is an interstate compact, or a contract among states, allowing professional counselors licensed and residing in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states without need for multiple licenses.
4. Board travel: The board will continue to prioritize board member travel to conferences and training in order to affect the most efficient use of budgetary funds without compromising the purpose and mission of the board.
5. Future board meetings: Considering the budget, the board intends to continue to hold the majority of meetings via telehealth (Zoom), with one of the meetings being in person in the fiscal year.

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board’s fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt- supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as “other” so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
August 24-25, 2023	Videoconference		
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 0.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
December 7-8, 2023	Anchorage	5	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			\$ 800.00 \$ 1,225.00 \$ 200.00 \$ 0.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 2,225.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February 2024	Juneau	5	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			\$ 1,200.00 \$ 450.00 \$ 100.00 \$ 0.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 1,750.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
April 2024	Videoconference		
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			
			Total Estimated Cost: \$ 0.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
June 2024	Videoconference		
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			
			Total Estimated Cost: \$ 0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

- Airfare:
- Hotel:
- Ground:
- Conference:
- Other (Please Specify):

Total Estimated Cost:

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel

(Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	TBD	2	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

The board has adopted the AMHCA’s code of ethics as its code of ethics that governs ethical decision making for AK licensed professional counselors. Attendance at this conference enables board representatives to network with representatives of AMHCA, as well as other licensed professional counselors, in order to stay abreast of best practices and ensure quality professional counseling in the state of AK.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 2,500.00			\$ 2,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$ 0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 800.00			\$ 800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:				\$ 0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): Click or tap here to enter text.				
Net Total:	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,300.00

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#2 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	TBD	2	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Regulatory Boards: The FARB Forum is educationally driven and includes sessions related to administering professional licensing boards. It provides a critical forum for information exchange between regulatory boards to help solve the mutual problems of participating associations as well as engage in activities to improve the standards of professions, the delivery of services, and the services of regulatory boards themselves.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$ 0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:				\$ 0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,000.00

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#3 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
January 7, 2009	Tucson, AZ	1	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

AASCB is an alliance of governmental agencies responsible for the licensure and certification of counselors throughout the United States. Attendance at this meeting allows us to keep current with issues on the national level, work collaboratively toward license portability, network with other state board members to glean helpful ideas to enhance our board service, and give Alaska voice in national decisions affecting Alaska LPCs.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$ 0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:				\$ 0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,000.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#4 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	TBD	1	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Protecting the Public & Propelling the Profession are themes woven through this year's Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit. The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) bring you the 2023 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit. The summit is intended to expand learning and networking opportunities for state licensure board regulators. We hope you leave the summit energized and equipped with new knowledge to lead.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$ 0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:				\$ 0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#5 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
September 27-30, 2023	Salt Lake City, UT	1	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

CLEAR's 2023 Annual Educational Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah - September 27-30, 2023. Content is developed by and for members of the regulatory community, with one aim: to promote regulatory excellence.

Track sessions are focused on four distinct areas of inquiry:

- Regulatory Administration and Governance
- Compliance, Discipline, and Enforcement
- Testing and Examinations
- Entry to Practice Standards and Continuing Competence

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$ 0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:				\$ 0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,000.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#6 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	TBD	2	0

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

The American Counseling Association (ACA) – ACA is a not-for-profit, professional and educational organization that is dedicated to the growth and enhancement of the counseling profession. Attendance at this conference would help board members glean valuable information on how to continue to grow in fostering qualified professional counselors.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$ 0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:				\$ 0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,000.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
AASCB Membership Dues	American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB)	\$ 900.00

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

This membership type is appropriate for counseling licensure boards and their appointed board members. The membership fee of \$900 includes membership for the Board Administrator and two appointed board members, a subscription to the organization's newsletter, The Liaison, invitations to AASCB programs and meetings, 2 delegate votes (one can be by the Board Administrator) at the Annual Business Meeting, and discounted annual conference fees.

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

- Not Applicable

Cost Per Event:

Number of Events:

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Summary of FY 2024 Fiscal Requests:

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$ 3,975.00
Travel for Exams:	\$ 0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$ 18,300.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$ 900.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	- \$ 3,000.00
Other:	\$ 0.00
Total Requested:	\$ 20,175.00

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Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2024

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

The Alaska Board of Professional Counselors is actively working to improve the lives and health of Alaskans through advancing opportunities for licensed professional counselors to serve in our state. The board has identified several areas for significant improvement that require statutory changes. These changes started being addressed in the spring of 2023 and are anticipated for approval in the next congressional session in spring of 2024.

Currently Active in the Legislative Process

Proposed Change: New Associate Counselor License Type

The Alaska Board of Professional Counselors would like to create a new license type for pre-licensure candidates: Associate Counselor. This will provide more guidance and support for those working towards licensure and encourage continued growth in the field by simulating national standards.

Under the board's plan, the Associate Counselor (LPC-A) license would be issued after the candidate has completed the education requirements of a full Licensed Professional Counselor. The LPC-A would allow the candidate to complete the required supervised experience and exam under a more structured process than is currently available.

This change would also help align Alaska with national standards for the professional counselor licensing process, which ensures appropriate and adequate supervision is being provided. Currently over 65% of states offer a pre-licensing process that is overseen by the state board. The LPC-A will streamline the steps toward obtaining full licensure, in turn, helping Alaskans obtain the mental health services they need.

Proposed Change: Streamline requirements for Supervisor License

The Alaska Board of Professional Counselors requests the supervisor license requirements in AS 08.29.210 be deleted so they can be more nimbly managed through board regulations. Currently, the board has authority to establish criteria for supervisor certification in AS 08.29.020, and the board will be seeking to update several aspects of the supervisor license to create equivalency with other states' requirements. This change is complementary to the Associate Counselor change requested above.

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Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2024 (continued)

Proposed Change: Update wording and qualifications for Professional Counselor License

Two areas in AS 08.29.110 are outdated:

- Remove “submits two letters of recommendation from professional counselors who are familiar with the applicant's practice of professional counseling” from subsection (a).
This requirement has created an unnecessary roadblock to licensure. This requirement is subjective and sometimes difficult for applicants to comply with, especially if they have been in independent practice.
- Remove “because of the remote location of the counselor” from subsection (a)(6)
This change will open up more opportunities for counselors to appropriately provide telehealth in non-remote locations.
- Remove "during or after earning the master's degree" from subsection (a)(5)(B).

Awaiting Representation

Proposed Change: Adopt the Counseling Compact

The Alaska Board of Professional Counselors is seeking legislative sponsorship for Alaska to enter the Counseling Compact. The compact will address the heightened demand for access to counseling services by allowing licensed professional counselors to obtain a license in their home state, then apply for "privilege to practice" in other states. This will reduce delays in counselors serving Alaskans because they will be “fast tracked” instead of working through the full licensing process in each state where they are practicing.

The Counseling Compact is a legal contract between state legislatures that allows the state board to retain control of scope of practice in the state, including taking action against bad actors. The state will continue to retain control of its initial licensure process.

Benefits for Alaska

- Increases patient access to counseling services
- Expands market opportunities for Alaska counselors
- Supports military families
- Facilitates telehealth
- Eases transport of licensure between states
- Promotes cooperation among compact member states
- Provides consumer protection across state lines
- Retains state control and high standards for licensure
- Keeps costs separate for those who do not participate

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Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2024

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

The board has had multiple discussions over the past fiscal year and has voted to amend 12 AAC 62.400 to allow for supervisees to deliver service through distance technology.

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Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2023's goals and objectives and how they were met:

1. The board will continue to review the statutes and regulations and work on any changes.

The board continued its due diligence of reviewing applicable statutes and regulations, as well as working toward achieving changes deemed necessary in order to improve professionalism and provide greater protection for the public. The board worked with the regulation specialist to facilitate the approval of the proposed regulations of FY22. In addition, the board submitted proposed regulations to the regulation specialist with regards to telehealth, continuing education requirements, and the number of education credits that can be met in one day.

2. The board will continue to review applications for licensing Professional Counselors by credentials and examination, for Approved Counselor Supervisors, as well as audit for continuing education.

The board continued to review applications for licensed Professional Counselors, for approved Counselor Supervisors, and CEU audits in between meetings by secure-portal ballots uploaded onto OnBoard's secure site. This fostered public safety as well as licensure timeliness. The board has continued to review all applications, utilizing the statutes and regulations as the basis for its decisions. Each application has been reviewed individually and thoroughly to ensure public safety.

3. The board has listed the beneficial conferences in order of priority:

The American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA) (#1) b. Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Annual Forum (#2) c. The American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) (#3) d. National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) (#4) Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR) (#5) American Counseling Association (ACA) (#6). The Board will continue to work on prioritizing board travel to conferences and training, reviewing the prioritized list and determining what training is needed and required to enable us to best serve the public as informed members.

4. The board will continue to monitor disciplinary actions.

Individual board members have worked collaboratively with the board investigator(s) to review cases involving jurisdictional questions, and to give guidance on needs for further review and/or disciplinary sanctions. According to the investigations department, 14 cases were opened, and 12 cases have been closed.

5. The board will continue to monitor its proposed regulation changes regarding approved counselor supervisors.

The board regularly monitored the proposed regulation changes necessary to ensure competency and professionalism in Alaska approved counselor supervisors.

6. The board will continue to work for consistency in licensing by credential under 08.29.120.

The board reviewed all applications, utilizing the statutes and regulations as the basis for its decisions. Each application, whether by exam or by credentials will continue to be reviewed individually and thoroughly to ensure public safety.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I

FY 2023's goals and objectives and how they were met:

7. The board will monitor licensing fees for LPC applications and renewals.

The board monitored biennial licensing fees and whether they are reasonable and affordable for Alaska counselors, as well as continued to monitor fiscal efficiency to ensure the solvency of our board. The board's review(s) of dues will be shared with the division.

8. The board will monitor issues of portability.

However, there are still questions that need to be addressed that past boards do not have enough information to determine whether it will be advantageous for Alaska. Some of these continued questions include which state Board would pay for Investigations if the Counselor was licensed in another state, not Alaska, how to pay for staff and administration, etc.

9. The board will continue to meet quarterly and finds it detrimental to not meet face to face.

The board did meet quarterly and efficiently processed all forms of applications, addressed issues pertaining to regulations, monitored the budget in conjunction with the department, addressed issues related to investigations, and addressed issues that may arise regarding professional licensing for counselors with the goal of ensuring smooth and efficient licensing and monitoring of the practice in the profession of counseling while ensuring public safety.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2024's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:

1. The board will continue to review the statutes and regulations and work on revisions that would provide both protection to the public, as well as streamlined and efficient pathways to licensure. The board will continue to monitor the impact that the statutes and regulations have on military families and will work to maintain smoother, clearer, faster pathways to licensure. The board plans to discuss and work on changes as deemed necessary.
2. The board will continue to review applications for licensing professional counselors by credential and examination, for licensed professional counselor-supervisors and audits of continuing education. For the protection of the public, it is imperative that the board closely review applications for licensing professional counselors and for approving counselor supervisors.
3. The board will continue to work for consistency in licensing by credential under 08.29.120. The board will continue to review all applications, utilizing the statutes and regulations as the basis for decisions. Each application, whether by exam or by credentials, will continue to be reviewed individually and thoroughly to ensure public safety.
4. The board will continue to monitor and define the proposed legislative regulation changes necessary to ensure competency and professionalism by licensed professional counselor-supervisors.
5. The board will continue licensure improvements as it has secured sponsorship for a bill that would create a licensed associate counselor license type and allow the board to define the approved supervisor certification in regulation.
6. The board will continue to send delegates to national conferences and/or trainings in FY 2024. The board has listed the beneficial conferences in order of priority:
 - a. The American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA) (#1)
 - b. Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Annual Forum (#2)
 - c. The American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) (#3)
 - d. National Board for Certified Counselors Annual Symposium and Counseling Regulatory Boards Annual Summit (NBCC/CRBS) (#4)
 - e. Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation Annual Conference (CLEAR) (#5)
 - f. The America Counseling Association (ACA) Conference (#6)

The Board will continue to work on prioritizing board travel to conferences and training, reviewing the prioritized list and determining what training is needed and required to enable us to best serve the public as informed members.

7. The board, with our Division Investigations section, will continue to monitor and be involved in disciplinary actions.
8. The board will monitor licensing fees for LPC applications and renewals. The board will continue to monitor biennial licensing fees - whether they are reasonable and affordable for Licensed Professional Counselors, as well as continuing to monitor fiscal efficiency to ensure the solvency of our board. The board's review(s) of dues will be shared with the division.

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2024's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:

9. The board will monitor issues with Interstate Licensure Compacts as other disciplines advance with their legislative efforts. The opportunity here is the ability to anticipate potential issues and possible resolutions before securing the necessary resource of a sponsorship for a bill that would create in legislation an Interstate Licensure Compact for Licensed Professional Counselors.
10. The board will continue to meet quarterly and finds it detrimental to not meet face-to-face. The board will continue to meet quarterly to proceed efficiently with processing all forms of applications, address issues pertaining to regulations, monitor the budget in conjunction with the department, address issues related to investigations, and address issues that may arise regarding profession licensing for counselors with the goal of ensuring smooth and efficient licensing and monitoring of the practice in the profession of counseling, while ensuring public safety.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 1/1/2018

Board Sunset Date: 1/1/2026

Audit Recommendation:

The board received no new recommendations.

Action Taken:

N/A

Next Steps:

N/A

Complete : No Yes **If yes, date completed:**