

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

**Board of Psychologists and
Psychological Associate Examiners
Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2022



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
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**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
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**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Dr. Erin Johnson Psychologist, Board Chair	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2019	Mar 1, 2023
Dr. Bradley McConnell Psychologist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2024
Sherri Scott Psychological Associate	Anchorage	Jan 15, 2021	Mar 1, 2024
Bernard Gatewood Public Member	Fairbanks	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2024

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Identification of Staff

Logan Bugayong - Licensing Examiner

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P.O. Box 110806
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(907) 465-2550

Lacey Derr - Records & Licensing Supervisor

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Joshua Hardy & Jasmine Bautista - Investigators

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Greg Francois - Chief Investigator

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**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
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Narrative Statement

The FY 2022 report of activities is based on the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners meetings held between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. During that time, the Board held three quarterly meetings on August 19-20, November 4-5, and May 9-10. Additional, urgent-need meetings on December 18, March 2, and March 18.

Accomplishments

The Board continues with the goals of 1) protecting the public, 2) ensuring the public of continued competency of licensed psychology practitioners, 3) ensuring psychological care is offered by professionally qualified persons, and 4) ensuring qualified psychology practitioners are available. The Board has approved applicants for licensure as Psychologists and Psychological Associates, facilitated the State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE) four times virtually, and monitored continuing education requirements. Several Board members attended the virtual ASPPB annual meeting (October 2021) and the Board Chair attended the mid-year in-person meeting (April 2022) and provided updates to all other Board members. These meetings are no longer offered virtually.

In the past year, the Board has worked collaboratively on several fronts; we have met with representatives of University of Alaska Anchorage's and Alaska Pacific University's doctoral program to address various needs of their doctoral- and master's-level psychology students. We have worked with the Alaska Psychological Association (Alaskan member's guild) and Representative Sponholz's office to ensure HB 276 secured protection of the public while reducing a barrier to maintaining a license in Alaska. The Board also quickly enacted the Military Courtesy License and approved 42 full, temporary, and courtesy licenses.

Challenges

We are seeing an increase in complaints, particularly with unlicensed practice. This put a strain, not only on Board members (with only 4 of the 5 seats filled), but on the Investigators and Licensing Examiners. As is well known, the Boards and Commissions continues to be understaffed, which poses challenges for the Board and the licensees. We appreciate OLE Lacey Derr, who has worked with the Board since 2019. Her historical knowledge continues to prove invaluable.

Ongoing Tasks

While the board is required to meet three times per year, four meetings per year are necessary to adequately address workload. In the coming year, the Board plans to address the challenges to obtaining LPA licensure and updating of the State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE). The SLEE is administered four times per year and is crucial to ensuring potential practitioners are qualified to provide services and help the Board in its mission to protect the public. Rebuilding the SLEE test bank has been delayed since 2016 due to turnover of Board members, travel restrictions, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, the SLEE was administered face-to-face in Anchorage. Thanks primarily to OLE Lacey Derr, the SLEE has successfully been administered remotely since 2020 significantly reducing a large barrier to licensure.

There are also two primary national trends the Board needs to continue to monitor and address as needed: 1) the additional test added to the national Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP Part 2), which has been adopted by seven of 64 jurisdictions in the United States and Canada as of March 2022 and 2) the Psychology Interjurisdictional Company (PSYPACT) regarding telepsychology practice, enacted by 34 states and DC thus far.

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023

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, 2022	Anchorage	5	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$ 430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 2,130.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
November, 2022	Anchorage	5	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$ 430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 2,130.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February, 2023	Juneau	5	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 1,850.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 2,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$ 430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 4,480.00

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

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
May, 2023	Anchorage	5	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 300.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$ 430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 2,130.00

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:

Total Estimated Cost: \$ 0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (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
October, 2022	National Harbor, MD	1	1

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

ASPPB Annual Meeting provides valuable training, resources, and support. Board members have the opportunity to remain informed about key issues relating to licensure, enforcement, ethics, and even Supreme Court decisions that directly impact board functions and responsibilities. Attendance at ASPPB annual and mid-year conferences by as many board members as possible in FY 2023 is important as only one current member has been able to attend an in-person conference.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 4,200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 900.00		\$ 3,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00		\$ 340.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00		\$ 800.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): Per Diem				
Net Total:	\$ 6,770.00	\$ 2,670.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 9,440.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

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

#2 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
March or April 2023	TBD	5	1

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

ASPPB Mid-Year Meeting provides valuable training, resources, and support. Board members have the opportunity to remain informed about key issues relating to licensure, enforcement, ethics, and even Supreme Court decisions that directly impact board functions and responsibilities. Attendance at ASPPB annual and mid-year conferences by as many board members as possible in FY 2023 is important as only one current member has been able to attend an in-person conference.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 4,000.00			\$ 4,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$ 3,600.00			\$ 3,600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$ 170.00			\$ 170.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 2,035.00			\$ 2,035.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): Per Diem				
Net Total:	\$ 10,305.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,305.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

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

#3 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	Anchorage, AK	5	1

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

A 2-day work session dedicated to developing test questions for the SLEE test bank, which is an essential board function. Development of the test bank was suspended due to unexpected turnover of the board membership and the COVID-19 pandemic. Work on this project needs to resume in FY 2023.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$600.00			\$600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$800.00			\$800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$300.00			\$300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$500.00			\$500.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): Per Diem				
Net Total:	\$2,200.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$2,200.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
ASPPB Annual Membership Dues	Psychology Boards (ASPPB)	\$1,100.00

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

Essential to maintain nation's organizational membership and national exam administration.

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
Training by ASPPB Lawyer	Alex Siegal, JD, Ph.D	\$3,500.00

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

Given Board turnover, training/consultation provided by ASPPB's legal counsel is warranted to ensure board members put forth appropriate regulations and understand successes and challenges experienced by other jurisdictions.

Summary of FY 2023 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$10,870.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$21,945.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$4,600.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	- \$ 2,670.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$34,745.00

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Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2023

No Recommendations

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

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

1. Authorization to create license categories/types (e.g., Inactive).
2. Authorization to conduct criminal background checks of applicants.
3. Currently under review by board:
 - a. Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) Part 2: ASPPB has developed a skills-assessment portion of the national exam. Thus far, seven jurisdictions have adopted the EPPP part.
 - b. Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT): ASPPB has developed an interstate compact that facilitates providing telehealth services across state lines. Participation in PSYPACT will require legislative action. The Board is still considering whether to propose participation in PSYPACT.

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Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2023

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 actively reviews and updates regulations as needed.

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Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:

1. To enforce the Psychology Practice Act by:

- a. **Holding 4 quarterly meetings for FY 2022 and teleconference meetings as deemed necessary.**
The Board held 4 regular meetings in FY 2022. All meetings held a quorum. During regular meetings, the Board evaluated and approved license applications, conducted evaluations, and discussed regulatory changes consistent with the growing and changing needs of the public. Voting on urgent matters continued between meetings.
- b. **Maintaining board activity and involvement in review of investigative matters, regarding the practice of psychology. Maintaining an annual update of the list of expert witnesses that the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Investigative Section, may use for investigative matters.**
The Board received an investigative report during each meeting. The Board assured that the investigator had convenient and timely access to qualified board members to review data collected during the investigative process. The Board is prepared to provide the investigator with appropriate referrals to well-qualified Psychologists, should their expertise be required.
- c. **Requesting that the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Investigative Section, continue to provide statistics reflecting the number of cases investigated, provide a projected cost of those investigations, provide the Department of Law expenses so that the board can be aware of the project expenses, and advised annually of the projected cost with updates given quarterly.**
Communication and cooperation with the Investigations Unit during FY 2022 were positive and productive.
- d. **Adhering to statutes and regulations in awarding licenses to applicants.**
All applications received by the Board were reviewed and addressed, consistent with current statutes and regulations.
- e. **Continue to review AS. 08.86.204 - grounds for imposition of disciplinary sanctions and to recommend statutes or regulations as deemed necessary.**
The Board did not find a need to recommend statutory or regulatory changes related to imposition of disciplinary sanctions during FY 2022.

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I (continued)

FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:

2. To ensure continued competency of licensed psychology professionals by:

- a. **Continuing to review and update as needed regulations regarding continuing education.**
The Board remained updated on potential regulation changes and reviewed the practice of other jurisdictions.
- b. **Continuing to encourage the Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) to communicate matters of interest or concern with the board regarding competency, licensing, continuing education or other information relevant to the practice of psychology in the State of Alaska.**
The Board made time at each meeting for public comment and invited an AK-PA representative to attend. In addition, the Board responded positively to AK-PA's requests to be placed on the agenda for engaging in discussions with the Board on matters of mutual interest and concern.

3. To assure the public that persons offering psychological care throughout the State of Alaska are professionally qualified by:

- a. **Reviewing AS 08.86.130 (licensing requirements) and recommend statutory or regulation changes as deemed necessary.**
The Board reviewed AS 08.86.130 and associated regulations on an ongoing basis while reviewing applications for new licenses.
- b. **Maintaining Board knowledge of issues and licensing.**
A representative of the Board attended the ASPPB mid-year and annual meetings and provided information to all Board members.

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

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

1. To enforce the Psychology Practice Act by:

- a. **Holding 4 quarterly meetings during FY 2022 and additional meetings in response to identified needs.**

Strength: Despite having only four of the five seats filled, the Board continues to hold quorum at quarterly meetings and emergency meets as needed.

- b. **Maintaining board activity and involvement in review of investigative matters regarding the practice of psychology. To maintain an annual update of the list of expert witnesses that the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Investigative Section, may use for investigative matters.**

Strength: Board members and investigators have continued to work together to complete reviews and resolve complaints.

- c. **Requesting that the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Investigative Section, continued to provide statistics reflecting the number of cases investigated, provide a projected cost of those investigations, provide the Department of Law expenses so that the board can be aware of the project expenses, and advised annually of the projected cost with updates given quarterly.**

Strength: The Division has been consistently supportive and has always provided the information necessary for the Board to carry out its duties.

- d. **Adhering to statutes and regulations in awarding licenses to applicants.**

Strength: The Board members have processed all applications, including the new Emergency Courtesy Licenses, promptly and in accordance with statute and regulation. There is every reason to believe this will continue into FY 2023.

- e. **Continuing to review AS. 08.86.204 - grounds for imposition of disciplinary sanctions and to recommend statutes or regulations as deemed necessary.**

Area of progress and growth for FY 2023: Reading law and regulation is a technical skill that comes with training and experience. It is imperative that as many board members as possible and the licensing examiner attend both the ASPPB Annual and Midyear conferences in FY 2023.

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II (continued)

FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

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

2. To ensure continued competency of licensed psychology professionals by:

a. Continuing to review and update as needed regulations regarding continuing education.

Area of progress and growth for FY 2023: Reading law and regulation is a technical skill that comes with training and experience. It is imperative that as many Board members as possible and the licensing examiner attend both the ASPPB Annual and Midyear conferences in FY 2023.

b. Continuing to encourage the Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) to communicate matters of interest or concern with the board regarding competency, licensing, continuing education or other information relevant to the practice of psychology in the State of Alaska.

Strength: The Board has been and will continue to build a healthy and appropriate relationship with AK-PA.

c. Hold a two-day in-person work session in FY 2022 dedicated to improving and adding to the test bank of questions for the State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE).

Area of Growth: Project to be started in FY2023.

3. To assure the public that persons offering psychological care throughout the State of Alaska are professionally qualified by:

a. Reviewing AS 08.86.130 (licensing requirements) and recommend statutory or regulation changes as deemed necessary.

Area of progress and growth for FY 2023: Reading law and regulation is a technical skill that comes with training and experience. It is imperative that as many Board members as possible and the licensing examiner attend both the ASPPB Annual and Midyear conferences in FY 2023.

b. Maintaining Board knowledge of issues and licensing.

Area of progress and growth for FY 2023: Reading law and regulation is a technical skill that comes with training and experience. It is imperative that as many Board members as possible and the licensing examiner attend both the ASPPB Annual and Midyear conferences in FY 2023.

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II (continued)

FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

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

4. To promote high professional standards of psychology practice by:

a. **Assessing the impact of continuing education requirements for the license renewal process.**
This work is ongoing and is generally a part of the discussions in every meeting.

b. **Educating the public regarding the practice of psychology and the purpose of the board by:**
- Advertising meetings of the board.
- Including public comment on agendas at the board meetings.
- Holding public hearings to consider regulatory changes.
- Ensuring the board complies with all statutes and regulations regarding public comment.
All meetings of the board are publicly noticed according to law. Time for public comment is included on the agenda in every meeting.

c. **Maintaining good relations and appropriate distinctions between the State Medical Board, Board of Clinical Social Work Examiners, the Board of Marital and Family Therapy, the Board of Professional Counselors, and other boards as appropriate; to work on areas of mutual interest by participating in joint meetings as appropriate.**
Previous and current Board chairs, as well as the OLE, participated in the weekly/bi-weekly board chair meetings of medical and health related board as part of the administration's response to the pandemic.

d. **Maintaining good relations and ongoing communications with the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the State of Alaska government.**
Board members met several times with members of the Labor and Commerce Committee to address HB276.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 07/15/2021

Board Sunset Date: 06/30/2028

Audit Recommendation:

The Division of Corporations, Businesses, and Professional Licensing in consultation with the Board, should reduce fees.

Action Taken:

The Board has implemented a fee reduction for psychologists and psychological associates effective in the next renewal period - July 1, 2019.

Next Steps:

Continue evaluating fees and budget surplus to maintain fees at an appropriate level.

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed: 07/01/2019

Audit Recommendation:

The Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing's Director should develop a procedure to ensure courtesy licenses comply with monthly reporting requirements.

Action Taken:

Improved reporting and tracking procedures have been implemented.

Next Steps:

Maintain Compliance.

Completed: Yes

If yes, date completed: 09/15/2017