

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 2023



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

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
Email: License@Alaska.Gov

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Table of Contents

Identification of the Board	Page 1
Identification of the Staff	Page 2
Narrative Statement	Page 3
Budget Recommendations	Page 4
Proposed Legislative Recommendations	Page 10
Regulatory Recommendations	Page 11
Goals and Objectives	Page 12
Sunset Audit Recommendations	Page 16

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Dr. Erin Johnson Psychologist, Board Chair	Anchorage	March 1, 2019	March 1, 2027
Dr. Bradley McConnell Psychologist	Anchorage	March 1, 2020	March 1, 2024
Sherri Scott Psychological Associate	Anchorage	January 15, 2021	March 1, 2024
Bernard Gatewood Public Member	Fairbanks	March 1, 2020	March 1, 2024

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Identification of Staff

Logan Bugayong – Licensing Examiner

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2550

Jeanne Pace – Program Coordinator I

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2550

Johsua Hardy & Jasmine Bautista – Investigators

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3567
(907) 269-8160

Jenni Summers – Senior Investigator

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3567
(907) 269-8160

Greg Francois – Chief Investigator

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3567
(907) 269-8160

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Narrative Statement

The FY 2023 report of activities is based on the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners meetings held between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. During that time, the board held four quarterly meetings on August 15-16, December 22, February 17, and June 1-2 with one additional meeting held on July 20, 2022.

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 licenser as Psychologists and Psychological Associates, facilitated the State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE) four times virtually, and monitored continuing education requirements. One Board member attended the ASPPB annual meeting in person (October 2022) and the Board Chair attended the mid-year meeting (April 2023) with updates provided to all board members.

In the past year, the board has continued to evaluate telesupervision requirements, meet with stakeholders, and had worked on rebuilding the State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE) test bank. The board drafted edits to the continuing education credit requirements, telepsychology requirements, the Licensed Psychological Associate Supervisor requirements, and examined avenues for a “retired” license status. The board has had ongoing discussions regarding changes to the national exam (i.e., the addition of a second portion of the EPPP), which has been adopted by seven of 64 jurisdictions in the United States and Canada. By January 1, 2026, it will be a mandatory part of licensing requirements for all jurisdictions using the EPPP.

Challenges

At least one board seat has remained vacant over the past several years which has caused delays in processing complaints and put strain on the current four board members. The turnover of Investigators and Licensing Examiners was also challenging but we are happy to work with our new licensing examiners.

Ongoing Tasks

In the coming year, the board plans to continue updating the 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.

The board continues to build the SLEE test bank, address the regulatory changes needed for the new EPPP, and discuss the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) regarding telepsychology practice (enacted by 40 states as of June 2, 2023).

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

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 17-18, 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 (Please Specify):			\$ 430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 2,130.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
November 2-3, 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 (Please Specify):			\$ 430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 2,130.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
January 4-5, 2024	Juneau	5	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 1,850.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 2,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			\$ 430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 4,480.00

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
April 18-19, 2024	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 (Please Specify):			\$ 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 (Please Specify):

Total Estimated Cost:

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

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
September 27-October 1, 2023	Cleveland, OH	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 licenser, 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 2024 is important. Attending this conference helps to inform the Board as we seek to remain on the forefront of best practices in the field of Psychology, associated practitioners, and the protection of the public.

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

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

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

#2 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
March or April 2024	TBD	5	1

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

ASPPB annual and mid-year meetings provide valuable training, resources, and support. Board members have the opportunity to remain informed about key issues relating to licenser, 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 2024 is important as we seek to remain informed about best practices in the field of Psychology, associated practitioners, and the protection of the public.

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

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (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 began in FY 2023, yet developing test questions is a very large project and requires specialized expertise. Work on this project needs to continue in FY 2024.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 600.00			\$ 600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$ 800.00			\$ 800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$ 300.00			\$ 300.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
<input checked="" 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

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (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 2024 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

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

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:

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 2.
 - 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.

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

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 actively reviews and updates regulations as needed.

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives

Part I

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

1. To enforce the Psychology Practice Act by:

a. Holding 4 quarterly meetings for FY 2023 and teleconference meetings as deemed necessary.

The board held 4 regular meetings in FY 2023. 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 2023 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 2023.

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.

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I

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

- 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, in person, and provided information to all board members.

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

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. To enforce the Psychology Practice Act by:

- a. Holding 4 quarterly meetings during FY 2023 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 2024.
- 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 2024: 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 2024.

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 2024: 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 2024.
- 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.

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report**

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:

- c. Hold a two-day in-person work session in FY 2024 dedicated to improving and adding to the test bank of questions for the State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE).**

Area of Growth: Project will continue in FY2024.

- 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 2024: 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 2024.

- b. Maintaining board knowledge of issues and licensing.**

Area of progress and growth for FY 2024: 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 2024.

- 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 meet as needed and continue good working relationships and positive communications with the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the State of Alaska government. These activities are expected to continue in FY 2024.

Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2023 Annual Report

Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 7/15/2021

Board Sunset Date: 6/30/2028

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.

Complete : No Yes **If yes, date completed:** 7/1/2019

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.

Complete : No Yes **If yes, date completed:** 9/15/2017