

# *Annual Report*

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# *Fiscal Year 2021*

**Board of Professional Counselors**



**Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development**

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**Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing**

This annual performance report is presented in accordance with  
Alaska statute AS 08.01.070(10).

Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the  
past and present needs of the licensing program.

**Board of Professional Counselors  
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**Identification of the Board**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Duty Station</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Alice Baum</b> Board Chair, Professional Counselor	Anchorage	Mar 01, 2018	Mar 01, 2022
<b>Janece Richard</b> Vice Chair, Professional Counselor	Anchorage	Mar 01, 2018	Mar 01, 2021t
<b>Dorene Hagen</b> Professional Counselor	Homer	Mar 01, 2021	Mar 01, 2025
<b>Sammie O'Neal</b> Professional Counselor	Eagle River	Mar 01, 2021	Mar 01, 2025
<b>Eleanor Vinson</b> Public Member	Juneau	Oct 26, 2016	Mar 01, 2024

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**Identification of Staff**

**Lyda Rees – Licensing Examiner**

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Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
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**Greg Francois- Chief Investigator**

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Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
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# Board of Professional Counselors FY 2021 Annual Report

## Narrative Statement

The Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 21) Report of Activities is based on activity of the Board of Professional Counselors (PCO) between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. During this period, the board held three regular meetings via video conference (Zoom) in Sept 2020, Feb 2021, and April 2021 and two COVID-19 related meetings via video conference (Zoom) in Aug 2020 to adopt the additions in Emergency Amendment of 12 AAC 62.400 to permanency and Nov 2020 to adopt Emergency Courtesy Licensing for Professional Counselors outside of Alaska. The board adapted to and was continuously focused on the increased mental health needs unique to Alaskans during the COVID-19 pandemic, all the while living through the most challenging year of their professional lives as they paralleled many experiences of their clients. This board worked to identify the needs and expanded mental health care access to all Alaskans. The board has stood up to the challenges of this pandemic by creating emergency courtesy licenses, allowing flexibility in continuing education, and focusing on removing unnecessary obstacles to safe, effective licensure.

The board looks forward to meeting in-person again since the collaboration in these meetings are the most productive, efficient and effective to accomplishing the significant work of the board. In addition to the board meetings, the board worked diligently to review between 25-30 applications monthly, perform investigations- each board member reviews on 2-3 allegations of misconduct per month, and any task necessary to accomplish for the board meetings, i.e., contacting legislators, research and gathering data... Due to COVID-19 restrictions, board members have not attended in-person conferences, but members attended the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) business meeting via teleconference (Zoom).

*“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, requests for alternate supervision, extensions of examination time, and approved emergency courtesy licenses. The board utilizes the online platform of OnBoard, which allows the board to review the above mentioned on a monthly basis, making it most convenient for board members. This platform enables applicants’ applications to be processed in a timely manner and facilitates a quicker 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 due to COVID-19, although 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 need for further review and/or disciplinary sanctions. The investigations department has provided very helpful training during meetings, and through a flowchart visual aide, 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, twenty-four cases were opened, and thirteen cases have been closed.

**Regulation Management:** The board continues to evaluate the necessity, clarity, and effectiveness of the PCO regulations. The board recommended five regulation revisions to enhance professionalism and further protect the public in FY20-21 and met with the regulation specialists to facilitate the progress of these revisions. These revisions will reflect the board’s high expectations of training and excellence. The board also met during emergency meetings to make specific amendments and changes to regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## FY 2021 Narrative Statement (continued)

The board also developed task forces to review additional regulation revisions. This is an on-going priority as the profession progresses.

### **The 5 regulation revisions are:**

1. Supervisor competency – The board has drafted a regulation revision regarding increasing training requirements from 6 CEU's to 25 CEU's for becoming an Approved Counselor Supervisor.
2. Licensing by credential- The board drafted an amendment to update the continuing education credit requirements for licensure by credential to practice professional counseling.
3. Supervised experience- The board drafted an amendment to update the supervised experience requirements.
4. Code Ethics- The board drafted an amendment to adopt by reference the updated AMHCA Code of Ethics.
5. Synchronous definition- The board drafted an amendment to add a definition for "synchronous."

**Conference Travel:** Due to COVID-19, the board was unable to travel and attend conferences. Two board members did attend the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) business meeting via teleconference (Zoom).

As we reflect back on FY 20-21, we celebrate the following highlights: All seats of the board were filled and the board was able to work collaboratively and efficiently to review all varying applications in a timely manner. The board was also able to oversee regulation projects and work collaboratively with the investigations unit in order to provide greater safety and professionalism to the industry of professional counseling. The board continued to operate with great fiscal health. We were grateful for the loyal service and experience Debbie Hamilton provided as a Board Chair from Mar 2013-Mar 2021 and the experience Laura Patin brought to the board as a member from Mar 2020-Mar 2021. We were pleased to welcome Dori Hagen and Sammie O'Neal and look forward to their contributions to the profession. The board elected a new board chair, Alice Baum, and vice-chair, Janece Richard. We are also 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.

As we look forward to FY21, we are hopeful that there will be a return to all meetings being held in person. As shared in prior reports, 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. While the video-conferencing format provides an immensely improved forum over teleconferences, it does not provide the same level of collaborative engagement as meeting face to face in the same room.

In addition, we are hopeful that all conference travel requests will be approved 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. While we understand that our state has suffered incredible financial loss due to the pandemic, the professional counseling board is not funded by state revenue, but rather is funded by the professionals for whom we oversee. The revenue to cover board expenses, including travel, is generated by the fees that we collect from license and supervisor applications. As our financial reports indicate, the Board of Professional Counselors continues to maintain a solvent reserve in order to sustain its operations at a professional level. Since the funding does not come from the state budget, we are hopeful that the travel requests for conferences and in person face to face board meetings in FY 21-22 will be prioritized and approved.

### **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 will begin discussions 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. *The Compact will help many Alaskans by improving continuity of mental health care when clients or counselors travel or relocate.*
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.

**Future board meetings:** Considering the budget, the board intends to continue to hold the majority of meetings in Anchorage, but may plan to hold a meeting in Juneau during legislative session if regulations require legislative involvement.

**Board of Professional Counselors  
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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022**

The 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
December 2-3, 2021	Anchorage	3	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$1,200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$900.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$250.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$650.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$3,000.00</b>

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February 18, 2022	Juneau	4	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$1,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$250.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$650.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$3,500.00</b>

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$0.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (continued)**

**Travel Required to Perform Examinations**

Not applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):			
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

**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	
February 2022	TBD	1	1	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>				
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:	\$3,400.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$7,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$1,400.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$2,800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$1,000.00	\$700.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,700.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$9,900.00</b>	<b>\$5,250.00</b>	<b>\$5,550.00</b>	<b>\$20,700.00</b>



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

#2 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
November 1-5, 2021	Virtual	2	1	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b> 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 type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Describe “Other” (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>

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

#3 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
April 7-10, 2022	Atlanta, GA	2	1	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b> The American Counseling Association (ACA) – <i>ACA is a non-for-profit, professional and educational organization that is dedicated to the growth and enhancement of the counseling profession.</i> Attendance at this conference would help board members glean valuable information in 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:	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Describe “Other” (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$4,100.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,100.00</b>

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

#4 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
January 27-30, 2022	Forth Worth, TX	2	0	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>				
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:	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$4,100.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,100.00</b>

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

#5 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
September 13-24, 2021	Virtual	2	0	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>				
The 2021 Annual Educational Conference for the Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR), will focus on compliance and discipline, testing and examinations, entry to practice and beyond and administration, legislation and policy. CLEAR promotes regulatory excellence through conferences, educational programs, webinars, seminars and symposia. The organization provides networking opportunities, publications, and research services for those involved with, or affected by, professional and occupational regulation.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$890.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$890.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$890.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$890.00</b>

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (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**

**Cost Per Event: \$0.00**

- Not Applicable

**Number of Events: 0**

Product or Service	Provider	Total Cost
		\$0.00

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

**Summary of FY 2022 Fiscal Requests**

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$6,500.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$30,590.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$900.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	-\$10,800.00
Other:	\$0.00
<b>Total Requested:</b>	<b>\$27,190.00</b>

**Board of Professional Counselors  
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**Legislation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022**

**No Recommendations**

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

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

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**Regulation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022**

**No Recommendations**

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

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

1. Update the Code of Ethics to reflect the latest edition – 2010 – 2015.
2. Modify regulations related to Approved Supervisor qualifications and increase required training to become an approved supervisor from 6 hours to 25 hours of CEU's with 12.5 being synchronous.
3. Modify regulation to accept hours of supervised experience by a non-certified supervisor once the supervisor becomes approved as an approved supervisor.
4. Modify required supervision to have a minimum of 1 hour/month of approved supervision.
5. Modify regulation regarding supervision to be synchronous.

# Board of Professional Counselors Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report

## Goals and Objectives

### Part I

#### FY 2021'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 FY19. In addition, the board met for emergency meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and evaluated regulations that may pose a hindrance to services and proposed emergency regulations to increase accessibility and provision of services during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

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 will continue to send delegates to national conferences and/or trainings in FY 22.**

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

- (1) American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB)
- (2) American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA)
- (3) American Counseling Association (ACA)
- (4) Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB)
- (5) Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR) Annual Conference
- (6) National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)

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 need for further review and/or disciplinary sanctions. The board receives investigation reports at each meeting and reviews any pending consent agreements.

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

In an effort to increase professionalism and protection for the public, the board has proposed a regulation change that will increase the required CEU training in order to become an Alaska approved supervisor. The board reevaluated this regulation change during FY21 meetings and determined that the proposed 40 CEUs required (currently, the requirement was 6 CEUs) was not what board discussion and public comment was still in agreement with. This requirement was changed to requiring 25 CEUs, with half required to be synchronous.

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

The board proposed a regulation revision that would bring consistency between CEU's required for licensing renewal for Alaska licensees and applicants for Licensing by Credential. The board will continue to review all applications, utilizing the statutes and regulations as the basis for its decisions. Each application will continue to be reviewed **individually** and thoroughly to ensure public safety.

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**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part I (continued)**

**FY 2021's goals and objectives, and how they were met:**

**7. The board will monitor the activity of the Alaska Counseling Association (AKCA) should one be restarted by professional counselors.**

The board is hopeful professional counselors in Alaska will unite to form a new counseling association. In the event that happens, we will readily assign a liaison to attend any meetings, will encourage the association's members to attend board meetings, and will work to foster a mutual and cooperative exchange of information regarding issues affecting counselors in Alaska.

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

The board will continue to monitor biannual licensing fees – whether they are reasonable and affordable for Alaska 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.

**9. The board will monitor issues of portability.**

The board believes that Alaska has a timely process for licensure for licensees who hold equivalent licenses from other states. The board continues to expedite any military/military spouse applications.

**10. The board will continue to meet quarterly.**

Because of COVID-19, the board did not have any in-person meetings. All meetings were held by teleconference. The board continues to advocate for in-person meetings. The board will continue to meet quarterly in order to progress efficiently with processing all forms of applications, address issues pertaining to regulations, monitor the budget, address issues related to investigations, and to address issues that may arise regarding the counseling profession to ensure the highest level of practice in the profession of counseling and ensure public safety.

# Board of Professional Counselors Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report

## Goals and Objectives

### Part II

#### FY 2022'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 plans to continue reviewing relevant statutes and regulations and to discuss and work on changes as deemed necessary. This year, the board made an emergency amendment which was proving to be a well-received change, permanent. This permanent amendment change allows distance delivery of supervision.

2. **The board will continue to review applications for licensing Professional Counselors by credential and examination, for Approved Counselor Supervisors, in addition to conducting audits of continuing education.**

Always with the thought of protecting of the public, the board closely reviews applications. The board ensures that each application is in accordance with the statutes and regulations of our state. It is considered imperative that licensed professional counselors continue to develop and refine their skills by completing continuing education. The board conducts audits to insure the continued competency of our professional counselors.

3. **The board will continue to send delegates to national conferences and/or trainings in FY 22.**

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

- (1) American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB)
- (2) American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA)
- (3) American Counseling Association (ACA)
- (4) Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB)
- (5) Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR) Annual Conference
- (6) National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)

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.**

The board receives investigations reports at each quarterly meeting. The board reviews consent agreements, determining if they will be accepted or changed according to previous, related agreements (according to precedents set previously, to ensure fairness.) Through the Investigative Unit, the board monitors disciplinary actions, ensuring that all terms of the action are completed.

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

The board will continue to monitor the proposed regulation changes necessary to ensure competency and professionalism in Alaska approved counselor supervisors. The board will stay in contact with our Regulations Specialist.

6. **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 its decisions. Each application will continue to be reviewed individually and thoroughly according to statutes and regulations, to ensure safety for the public and fairness to all applicants.



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**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part II (continued)**

**FY 2022's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

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

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

The board will continue to be fiscally responsible in order for the biannual licensing fees to remain reasonable and affordable for Alaska counselors, while monitoring the solvency of our board. This work is done in cooperation with the division.

**8. The board will monitor issues of portability.**

While the board has always highlighted a safe, but expedited licensure process, it will send members to national conferences in order to stay abreast of the latest discussions and other states' legislation related to licensure portability and how it affects the Alaska professional counselors.

**9. The board will continue to meet quarterly.**

The board will continue to meet quarterly in order to progress efficiently with processing all forms of applications, address issues pertaining to regulations, monitor the budget, address issues related to investigations, and to address issues that may arise regarding the counseling profession; all while ensuring public safety and striving for the highest level of professionalism with our licensed professional counselors. The board will strive to have face-to-face meetings in the future.

**Board of Professional Counselors  
Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report**

**Sunset Audit Recommendations**

**Date of Last Legislative Audit: 2018**  
**Board Sunset Date: 2026**

**Audit Recommendation:** The board received no new recommendations

**Action Taken:** N/A

**Next Steps:** N/A

**Date Completed:** N/A