

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2015

**BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

July 2015



**DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**

This Annual Performance Report is presented in accordance with Alaska Statute 08.01.070(1) and Alaska Statute 37.07.080(b). Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the past and present needs of the licensing program.

Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board

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IDENTIFICATION OF BOARD

Alaska Statute 08.84.010: 7 members; 4-year terms.
Shall serve until the Governor appoints successors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Kathleen Lind (Chair) Occupational Therapist	January 29, 2008	March 1, 2016
Mary Melissa Robinson (Secretary) Occupational Therapist	March 1, 2010	March 1, 2018
Valerie Phelps Physical Therapist	March 1, 2011	March 1, 2017
James Parietti Physical Therapist	March 1, 2012	March 1, 2016
Ruth Kostik, Public Member	March 1, 2013	March 1, 2016
Ilona Farr MD, Physician	July 1, 2013	March 1, 2017
Joseph Kennedy, Physical therapist	March 1, 2014	March 1, 2018

Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board

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IDENTIFICATION OF STAFF

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Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT

During Fiscal Year 2015, the board held 2 in person board meetings – September 11-12, 2014 in Anchorage and March 26-27-2015 in Juneau.

Board leadership continued with Kathleen Lind, OT board chair. Mary Melissa Robinson was appointed as the new board secretary. Liaisons to the state organizations remained with Mary Melissa Robinson/AKOTA and Valerie Phelps/AKPTA.

As of August 16, 2014 there were 11 open complaints, 2 open investigations and closed matters 8 complaints closed and 1 investigation closed. For the period of August 7, 2014 through February 28, 2015 there were 9 open matters and 20 closed matters and 2 ongoing.

The Board adopted 4 consent agreements during this fiscal year.

The Board Audited 105 licensees. This was a very successful audit period. Of those submitted only 5 were sent to the paralegal.

The Board discussed the license renewal process and recommended in the future it be paperless. They also supported verification of licensure documentation be both sent and accepted online (digitally).

The Board moved the regulation project with the goal to enact the “Alaska Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Ethics” which focuses on the protection of the public. They also seek to repeal the requirement for OT/OTAs to provide evidence of 24 contact hours of occupational therapy related course work at the initial application process. Subsequent to written public comment, the Board revised the document as “Alaska Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Principles of Practice” moving it back to the regulations specialist to prepare for written public comment.

The Board reviewed and re-evaluated their list of proposed legislative issues and removed items which were no longer a concern or a goal of the board. The Board will be working towards statute change with the remaining items, adding the issue of consistent use of the term Physical Therapist Assistant. The Board contacted a friendly legislator to assist in the introduction of these statutory changes.

The Board continues to monitor national trends on identifying continuing education with new standards of measurements such as ‘continuing competency units’ or CCU’s and ‘professional development units’ or PDU’s. To this end, the Board has invited the FSBPT and NBCOT to present information to the Board during its September meeting. The Board also continues to inform organizations and presenters regarding the documentation required by central regulations for continued competency hours.

PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD

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BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2016

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Rank in order of the board’s priority. Provide the best estimates based on past actuals and seasonal trends in travel, such as summer hotel rooms or increased fuel costs. Calculate on full costs and note any third-party fiscal offsets. Expand the tables below as needed.

Board Meetings

Date	Location	# of Board Members	# of Staff	Total Estimated Cost <small>(total of airline, hotel, mileage, M&IE, parking, rental car, taxi, etc.)</small>
9/2015	Anchorage	7	1	4000.00
2/2016	Juneau	7	1	6000.00

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Date	Location	# of Board Members	# of Staff	Total Estimated Cost <small>(total of airline, hotel, mileage, M&IE, parking, rental car, taxi, etc.)</small>
N/A				
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the board:				
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the board:				

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

Rank in order of the board’s priority. “Reimbursement” refers to payment to the division to cover travel costs. “Direct” refers to an offer by a company to secure travel arrangements on behalf of the board member.

Rank	Date	Location	# of Board Members	# of Staff	Total Estimated Cost		Total Potential Third-Party Offset
					<small>(total of airline, hotel, mileage, M&IE, parking, rental car, taxi, etc.)</small>	Conference Fee	<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct
1	10/2015	Orlando	2	1	9000.00	N/A	8000.00
	Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the board: The annual meeting is an educational opportunity to learn about the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and how they are approaching the issues and concerns for therapists both nationally and internationally. Board members are voting delegates and represent their state and the issues within their jurisdictions						
2	6/2016	Alexandria, VA	1	-0-	2500.00 potential for 2200.00 to be paid directly by FSBPT and the rest reimbursed 3 rd party		<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct
	Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the board:						
3							<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement <input type="checkbox"/> Direct
	Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the board:						
4							<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement <input type="checkbox"/> Direct
	Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the board:						

PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD

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BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2016 CONTINUED

NON-TRAVEL BUDGET REQUESTS

Dues/Memberships/Resources/Online Training/Teleconferences/Examination Contracts

Provide details of the budgetary request. Break down into specific events, where applicable.

Product or service: FSBPT membership dues	Provider: Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy	Cost per event: 1500.00
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the board: FSBPT informs the board of national issues, reports on examination scores, creates the exam questions and monitors the industry as a whole.		
Product or service: Teleconferences as needed	Provider: Staff facilitates from Juneau office	Cost per event: \$100.00
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the board: Teleconferences are held as needed, on average 2 per year for a potential \$200.00 per year.		
Product or service:	Provider:	Cost per event:
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the board:		

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact:

Product or service:	Provider:	Cost per event:
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the board:		
Product or service:	Provider:	Cost per event:
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the board:		

Summary of FY16 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings	10000.00
Travel for Exams	-0-
Out-Of-State and Additional In-State Travel	11500.00
Dues/Memberships/Resources/Online Training/Teleconferences	1700.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offset	10200.00
Other	
Total Requested:	13000.00

Additional information:

Be Sure To Check Your Math

PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD

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ANTICIPATED PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR FY 2016

ALASKA STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION

1. AS 08.84.010 Add (c) This [act] is enacted for the purpose of protecting the public health safety and welfare, and provides for jurisdiction administrative control, supervision, licensure, and regulation of the practice of physical therapy and occupational therapy. It is the legislatures' intent that only individuals who meet and maintain prescribed standards of competence and conduct may engage in the practice of physical therapy and occupational therapy as authorized by this [act]. This [act] shall be liberally construed to promote the public interest and to accomplish the purpose stated herein.
2. AS 08.84.030(a)(1) amended to read: "have graduated from a professional physical therapy education program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the Board".
3. AS 08.84.030(b)(1) be amended to read: "have graduated from a professional occupational therapy education program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the Board".
4. Repealing AS 08.84.030(b)(2)(A) and (B) regarding documentation for occupational therapy fieldwork.
5. AS 08.84.032(a)(3) and (b)(3) be amended to require an English examination only if the degree program was not taught in English.
6. AS 08.84.032 "Foreign Trained" be changed to "Foreign Educated".
7. AS 08.84.032(a)(7) and (b)(7) changing the statute regarding foreign educated PTs and OTs, to be required to "meet qualifications for licensure established in regulations adopted by the board under AS 08.84.010(b)".
8. AS 08.84.075 be amended to clarify that a limited permit is valid for 120 consecutive days and that only one limited permit may be issued in a 12 month period.
9. AS 08.84.032 (a) (1) be amended to read "have completed, to the satisfaction of the board, a resident course of study and professional instruction substantially equivalent to the first professional degree in physical therapy in the United States."
10. AS 08.84.032 (b) (1) be amended to read "have completed, to the satisfaction of the board, a resident course of study and professional instruction substantially equivalent to the first professional degree in occupational therapy in the United States."
11. AS 08.84.190 (6) Add to the definitions in Sec 08.84.190 The term "physiotherapy" shall be synonymous with "physical therapy".
12. AS 08.84.010(a) removal of physician and replace by an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant.
13. AS 08.84.130(a) removal of wording LPT - Licensed Physical Therapist to be replaced with PT - Physical Therapist based on national trends.
14. 08.84 change all references of "physical therapy assistant" to "physical therapist assistant" based on national trends.

**ALASKA STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD
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RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Focus Area (Check all that apply)

- Economic Development
- Government Within Our Means
- Personal Responsibility / Empowering Alaska's Families
- Enhance Public Protection

1. Subject and Proposed Language (include intent and statutory reference)

Goal 1 - Define Legislative Intent regarding "public protection". The board wants it clearly defined in the statute that the role of the board is to place public interest first and foremost. The board may consider changing Statute **08.84.010**.

Creation and membership of board. (b) The board shall control all matters to regulate and control the practice pertaining to the licensing of physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapists, and occupational therapy assistants and the practice of physical therapy and the practice of occupational therapy and to protect and promote the public health, welfare and safety...

2. Explain the benefits the proposed legislation would provide.

Clarifying in the statute the board's role is to protect the public clearly defines the role of the board and eliminates leaving that statute open to interpretation of the boards role.

3 Explain the consequences, if any, of not implementing the proposed statutory change.

Allowing this term to be protected under the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Licensure will decrease confusion and improve public protection.

4. Describe any potential negative impacts of this legislation and how they would be minimized.

None

5. Who do you anticipate will support the bill and why? Include municipalities, groups, etc...

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), Alaska Physical Therapy Association (AKPTA), licensed physical therapists and physical therapy assistants

National Board in Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc (NBCOT), Alaska Occupational Therapy Association (AKOTA), licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

6. Who do you anticipate will oppose the bill and why?

Do not anticipate any opposition at this time.

7. What other state departments will be affected by this legislation? Have you discussed the impact with the affected departments, and if so who and do they support this bill?

None

8. Identify and describe any previous state or federal legislation or similar efforts in other states which affect or relate to this proposal.

Unknown

9. Has this bill topic been previously introduced in the legislature? If so, what was the final outcome and why?

Unknown

10. In the event questions should be raised during review of this request, please indicate below which board member should be contacted:

Kathy Lind, Chair or Mary Melissa Robinson, Secretary; Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy

ALASKA STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Focus Area (Check all that apply)

- Economic Development
- Government Within Our Means
- Personal Responsibility / Empowering Alaska's Families
- Enhance Public Protection

1. Subject and Proposed Language (include intent and statutory reference)

It is the intent of the Board to remove from statute, specific names of organizations. This is related to organizations that no longer have oversight for education or wording that may limit future changes when an organization changes their name or when new qualifying organizations become available.

The proposed changes are considered a housekeeping statute by the board. The Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy recommends:

Goal 2: AS 08.84.030 (a)(1) be amended to read: "have graduated from a professional physical therapy education program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the Board".

Goal 3: AS 08.84.030(b)(1) be amended to read: "have graduated from a professional occupational therapy education program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the Board".

Goal 4: AS 08.84.030(b)(2)(A) and (B) regarding documentation for occupational therapy fieldwork.

2. Explain the benefits the proposed legislation would provide.

"Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association" should be removed as this organization no longer is an oversight body for the education of physical therapy. Removing it will reduce confusion.

The "Committee of Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association" no longer direct the schools of occupational and physical therapy, or regulate the degree of occupational and physical therapy. Removing it will reduce confusion.

Fieldwork is part of the educational requirements and documentation is not required to be submitted for their license.

3. Explain the consequences, if any, of not implementing the proposed statutory change.

Not removing the obsolete organization may create confusion when applicants apply for licensure. Removing requirements that are not part of the licensing process decreases confusion for applicants.

4. Describe any potential negative impacts of this legislation and how they would be minimized.

None

11. Who do you anticipate will support the bill and why? Include municipalities, groups, etc...

Alaska Physical Therapy Association, licensed physical therapists and physical therapy assistants and Alaska Occupational Therapy Association, licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

12. Who do anticipate will oppose the bill and why?

Do not anticipate any opposition at this time.

13. What other state departments will be affected by this legislation? Have you discussed the impact with the affected departments, and if so who and do they support this bill?

None

14. Identify and describe any previous state or federal legislation or similar efforts in other states which affect or relate to this proposal.

Unknown

15. Has this bill topic been previously introduced in the legislature? If so, what was the final outcome and why?

Unknown

16. In the event questions should be raised during review of this request, please indicate below which board member should be contacted:

Kathy Lind, Chair and Mary Melissa Robinson, Secretary

**ALASKA STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Focus Area (Check all that apply)

- Economic Development
- Government Within Our Means
- Personal Responsibility / Empowering Alaska's Families
- Enhance Public Protection

1. Subject and Proposed Language (include intent and statutory reference) The Board recognized there are some statutes which need clarification for foreign educated applicants and the authority of the board clarified.

Goal 5 - AS 08.84.032(a)(3) and (b)(3) be amended to require an English examination only if the degree program was not taught in English.

Goal 6 - AS 08.84.032 "Foreign Trained" be changed to "Foreign Educated".

Goal 7- AS 08.84.032 the addition of a new statute under (a) Physical therapy and (b) occupational therapy insert a new number (7) regarding foreign educated PTs and OTs, to require that they meet the qualifications for licensure established by the Alaska Statute 08.084.010(b)(7) which identifies authority of the board.

Goal 9 - AS 08.84.032 (a) (1) be amended to read "have completed, to the satisfaction of the board, a resident course of study and professional instruction substantially equivalent to the first professional degree in physical therapy in the United States."

Goal 10 - AS 08.84.032 (b) (1) be amended to read "have completed, to the satisfaction of the board, a resident course of study and professional instruction substantially equivalent to the first professional degree in occupational therapy in the United States."

2. Explain the benefits the proposed legislation would provide.

As the statute currently reads all Foreign Educated therapists must take and pass the TOFEL, (Test of English as a Foreign Language, which is costly and time consuming. Even an English speaking American who graduates in a university anywhere outside of the U.S. whose courses are taught in English, must take a TOFEL. If the courses are taught in English, then it is not a foreign education in relation to language.

The connotation of foreign trained is not an accurate reflection of the education and internship required to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

3. Explain the consequences, if any, of not implementing the proposed statutory change.

Allowing education taught in English to be exempt from the TOEFL exam reduces expense for the applicant.

Identifying an applicant as educated versus trained acknowledges they have academic training.

4. Describe any potential negative impacts of this legislation and how they would be minimized.

None

5. Who do you anticipate will support the bill and why? Include municipalities, groups, etc...

Alaska Physical Therapy Association, licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and Alaska Occupational Therapy Association, licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

6. Who do anticipate will oppose the bill and why?

Do not anticipate any opposition at this time.

7. What other state departments will be affected by this legislation? Have you discussed the impact with the affected departments, and if so who and do they support this bill?

None

8. Identify and describe any previous state or federal legislation or similar efforts in other states which affect or relate to this proposal.

Unknown

9. Has this bill topic been previously introduced in the legislature? If so, what was the final outcome and why?

Unknown

10. In the event questions should be raised during review of this request, please indicate below which board member should be contacted:

Kathy Lind, Chair and Mary Melissa Robinson, Secretary

ALASKA STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Focus Area (Check all that apply)

- Economic Development
- Government Within Our Means
- Personal Responsibility / Empowering Alaska's Families
- Enhance Public Protection

1. Subject and Proposed Language (include intent and statutory reference)

Goal 8 - AS 08.84.075 be amended to clarify that a limited permit is valid for 120 consecutive days and that only one limited permit may be issued in a 12 month period.

2. Explain the benefits the proposed legislation would provide. Keeping it clearly stated as consecutive days is direct and specific so it will avoid confusion as to the intent of the law.

3. Explain the consequences, if any, of not implementing the proposed statutory change.

None

4. Describe any potential negative impacts of this legislation and how they would be minimized.

None

5. Who do you anticipate will support the bill and why? Include municipalities, groups, etc...

Alaska Physical Therapy Association, licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and national organizations.
Alaska Occupational Therapy Association, licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and national organizations.

6. Who do anticipate will oppose the bill and why?

Do not anticipate any opposition at this time.

7. What other state departments will be affected by this legislation? Have you discussed the impact with the affected departments, and if so who and do they support this bill?

None

8. Identify and describe any previous state or federal legislation or similar efforts in other states which affect or relate to this proposal.

Unknown

9. Has this bill topic been previously introduced in the legislature? If so, what was the final outcome and why?

Unknown

10. In the event questions should be raised during review of this request, please indicate below which board member should be contacted:

Kathy Lind, Chair and Mary Melissa Robinson, Secretary

**ALASKA STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Focus Area (Check all that apply)

- Economic Development
- Government Within Our Means
- Personal Responsibility / Empowering Alaska's Families
- Enhance Public Protection

3. Subject and Proposed Language (include intent and statutory reference)

Goal 11 - The Board recommends the addition of term protection for "physiotherapy" in the State Statutes. Adding to Sec 08.84.190 (6)(a), the term "physiotherapy" shall be synonymous with "physical therapy" pursuant to this practice act. The proposed changes are considered housekeeping by the board

Explain the benefits the proposed legislation would provide.

"Physiotherapy" is used in the European nations and is synonymous with physical therapy in the United States. The board is in agreement with the FSBPT Model Practice act statement; *"Physiotherapy" and "physiotherapist" are the international terms for physical therapy and physical therapist respectively. These terms are not used by physical therapists in the United States, but they are protected titles and terminology under [cite the specific Use of Titles statute for protected terms] and, therefore, are not to be used in any manner by any other person or organization that could mislead consumers of healthcare and induce the false belief that physical therapy or physiotherapy is being provided by any person not licensed under this [act].* Jurisdictions should consider adopting rules addressing the scope of certain procedures authorized under the practice act"...

4. Explain the consequences, if any, of not implementing the proposed statutory change.

Allowing this term to be protected under the Physical Therapy definitions will decrease confusion and improve public protection.

5. Describe any potential negative impacts of this legislation and how they would be minimized.

None

17. Who do you anticipate will support the bill and why? Include municipalities, groups, etc...

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), Alaska Physical Therapy Association (AKPTA), licensed physical therapists and physical therapy assistants National Board in Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc (NBCOT), Alaska Occupational Therapy Association (AKOTA), licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

18. Who do you anticipate will oppose the bill and why?

Board of Chiropractic Examiners, part of their education includes forms of physiotherapy.

19. What other state departments will be affected by this legislation? Have you discussed the impact with the affected departments, and if so who and do they support this bill?

None

20. Identify and describe any previous state or federal legislation or similar efforts in other states which affect or relate to this proposal.

Unknown

21. Has this bill topic been previously introduced in the legislature? If so, what was the final outcome and why?

Unknown

22. In the event questions should be raised during review of this request, please indicate below which board member should be contacted:

Kathy Lind, Chair and Mary Melissa Robinson, Secretary

**ALASKA STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Focus Area (Check all that apply)

- Economic Development
- Government Within Our Means
- National Regulatory/Industry Changes
- Enhance Public Protection

1. Subject and Proposed Language (include intent and statutory reference)

Goal # 12 - The board seeks replace the requirement for a physician seat on the membership of the board with either an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant under 08.84.010 Creation and membership of the board.

2. Sec. 08.84.010. Creation and membership of board.

(a) There is created the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board, which consists of seven members. The membership consists of ~~one physician licensed to practice medicine in the state~~, three physical therapists licensed in the state or two physical therapists and a physical therapy assistant licensed in the state, ~~three-two~~ occupational therapists licensed in the state or ~~two an~~ occupational therapists and ~~an~~ occupational therapy assistant licensed in the state, and one lay person with no direct financial interest in the health care industry. Members of the board shall be United States citizens domiciled in the state.

3. Explain the benefits the proposed legislation would provide. This would provide a more balanced representation of board members between the physical therapy and occupational therapy professions. The board understands that when the membership of the board was first enacted, physical therapists and occupational therapists were supervised by physicians. Now these professions are independent and many are obtaining doctorates. They also no longer need to be supervised by physicians.

4. Explain the consequences, if any, of not implementing the proposed statutory change.

None.

5. Describe any potential negative impacts of this legislation and how they would be minimized.

None.

6. Who do you anticipate will support the bill and why? Include municipalities, groups, etc...

Physical therapists and occupational therapists – better representation and over site for the professionals by the board.

7. Who do anticipate will oppose the bill and why?

No one.

8. What other state departments will be affected by this legislation? Have you discussed the impact with the affected departments, and if so who and do they support this bill?

None

9. Identify and describe any previous state or federal legislation or similar efforts in other states which affect or relate to this proposal.

Unknown, the board will research if other physical therapy and occupational therapy boards have a physician board member.

10. Has this bill topic been previously introduced in the legislature? If so, what was the final outcome and why?

No.

11. In the event questions should be raised during review of this request, please indicate below which board member should be contacted:

Kathleen Lind, Chair , Mary Melissa Robinson, Secretary

ALASKA STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Focus Area (Check all that apply)

- Economic Development
- Government Within Our Means
- Personal Responsibility / Empowering Alaska's Families
- Enhance Public Protection

1. Subject and Proposed Language (include intent and statutory reference)

Goal 13 - AS 08.84.130(a) removal of wording LPT - Licensed Physical Therapist to be replaced with PT - Physical Therapist based on national trends.

Goal 14 - AS 08.84 change all references of "physical therapy assistant" to "physical therapist assistant" based on national trends.

2. Explain the benefits the proposed legislation would provide.

Keeping up with national trends avoids confusion.

3. Explain the consequences, if any, of not implementing the proposed statutory change.

None

4. Describe any potential negative impacts of this legislation and how they would be minimized.

None

5. Who do you anticipate will support the bill and why? Include municipalities, groups, etc...

Alaska Physical Therapy Association, licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and national organizations.

Alaska Occupational Therapy Association, licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and national organizations.

6. Who do anticipate will oppose the bill and why?

Do not anticipate any opposition at this time.

7. What other state departments will be affected by this legislation? Have you discussed the impact with the affected departments, and if so who and do they support this bill?

None

8. Identify and describe any previous state or federal legislation or similar efforts in other states which affect or relate to this proposal.

Unknown

9. Has this bill topic been previously introduced in the legislature? If so, what was the final outcome and why?

Unknown

10. In the event questions should be raised during review of this request, please indicate below which board member should be contacted:

Kathy Lind, Chair and Mary Melissa Robinson, Secretary

Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
ANTICIPATED REGULATIONS FOR FY 2016

Briefly explain any regulations projects that the board expects to propose this fiscal year.

The Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy began a new regulation project in FY14 and continues with this project. It had been submitted to the regulations specialist and had gone out for written public comment. The Board considered the written comment and a few amendments were made for clarity to the proposed regulations.

The title was changed by changing the words “Code of Ethics” to “Principals of Practice”. An introduction paragraph was added: “This document serves two purposes. It will identify what is expected from a professional therapist and it will also educate the consumer in what they can expect from their therapist”.

The Boards wants to remove the references of the National code of ethics from the regulations and replace them with the “Board of Alaska Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Principals of Practice”.

This project also includes seeking to repeal requiring occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants from submitting 24 continuing education certificates with their initial application for licensure from 12 AAC 54.600(6)(a); 12 AAC 54.610(6)(a); 12 AAC 54.640(4)(a) by removing the wording “and completed at least 24 contact hour of OT related course work”.

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
BOARD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

List of FY15 goals and objectives and how they were met:

Goal #1: Carry out assigned duties of the Board - The Board met this goal as they held 2 in person meetings. Board members work with the investigators when contacted as needed for complaints and cases along with consent agreements prior to full board decisions. The Board revised the jurisprudence questionnaire.

Objective 1: Conduct a minimum of two Board meetings a year, the Board prefers these meetings be face to face in order to promote interaction between Board members. If funding is available hold one Board meeting in Juneau during the legislative session. The Board will hold teleconference meetings as deemed necessary.

Objective 2: Continue to license Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants.

Objective 3: Review investigative reports, monitor disciplinary actions, and provide professional direction to the Division of Occupational Licensing Investigative Staff regarding probation matters and Physical and Occupational therapy practices. Monitor that investigations are done in a timely manner with updates at each meeting. Have State Board web site updated regularly with investigative outcomes.

Objective 4: Revised questions for the jurisprudence questionnaire for licensees.

Goal #2: Continue to provide Board activity information to professionals and the public – The Board met this goal by keeping their website current, posting board meeting minutes, revising application and other forms to guide applicants and the general public. Liaison reports are sent to the state associations. The Board welcomes public participation during public comment at board meetings.

Objective 1: Maintain a website with licensure information and forms; meeting dates and agendas; meeting minutes and regulations as proposed/adopted.

Objective 2: Inform the Alaska Physical Therapy Association and the Alaska Occupational Therapy Association of Board activities by appointing Board member liaisons to provide information to the associations' newsletters, provide copies of the Board agenda to the state associations and if a Board member is present at the AKPTA or AKOTA chapter meetings they will provide an update and answer questions the membership may have regarding Board activities.

Objective 3: Increase professional and public awareness of the Board's functions regarding licensure of Physical and Occupational Therapists and Assistants by providing a public comment period at the Board meetings and exploring opportunities for electronic or telephonic participation.

Goal #3: Review Statutes and Regulations – The Board continues with a regulation project. National trends are discussed at Board meetings and the board is kept informed of industry change. The Board works with the national agencies by reporting license violations and to received exam information for applications for license. The Board will continue to maintain legislative goals and hopes to one day have the opportunity to include these goals in the Divisions omnibus bill.

Objective 1: Continue to review statutes and regulations and suggest changes to allow for more clarity and readability as necessary.

Objective 2: Gather information from State and National regulatory bodies (i.e. FSBPT, NBCOT, and other State Boards) as needed on trends and issues. Maintain contact with regulatory list serves.

Objective 3: Maintain contact with National professional associations including AOTA and APTA regarding licensure trends and issues.

Objective 4: Pursue statutory changes during the 2016 legislative session.

Goal #4: Increase the awareness of Licensing Requirements for Physical and Occupational Therapy – The Board reports licensing violations and maintains a disciplinary action link on the website.

Objective 1: The Board will continue to work towards increasing awareness of Physical and Occupational therapy licensing requirements on the Divisions Professional Licensing website.

Goal #5: Maintain active participation in National Regulatory Agencies –One board member attended the FSBPT annual meeting, one attended the NBCOT annual meeting and one board member attended the FSBPT board member training. They want licensing staff to attend national conference meetings every other year. Membership with the FSBPT continues.

Objective #1: A Board member to attend the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Conference yearly.

Objective #2: A Board member to attend the annual National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc, Annual State Regulatory Workshop to be held. (Expenses to be paid from the boards' budget).

Objective #3: The Licensing Board Examiner/administrator to attend an annual conference every other year.

Objective #4: One board member a year will attend new board member training provided by FSBPT at the headquarters in Alexandria, VA.

Objective # 5: Continue membership in the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

Goal #6: Work towards revising and updating statutory licensing requirements for foreign educated therapists –

Objective #1: The Board is to review the possibility of requesting statute and/or regulation changes.

Objective #2: The Board is to continue to review information from the FCCPT regarding foreign educated therapists.

Objective #3: The Board will review information from NBCOT regarding foreign educated therapists.

Objective #4: Review the inequality for internship requirements between physical and occupational therapy.

Goal #7: Continue full Board membership at all times – The Board has benefited from timely Board appointments and participation by all Board members.

Objective #1: Encourage Physical and Occupational Therapists to apply for positions on the Board at any time, not only when vacancies occur.

Objective #2: Communicate with the Governor's office to request timely appointments.

Objective #3: Board members who wish to be reappointed must notify Boards and Commissions, in writing, at least 6 months before their term is up expressing their interest in reappointment.

The Board met Goal # 8 in completion of their Ethics project, written public comment was received and revisions were submitted to the regulations specialist.

Goal #8: Revision of code of ethics for both Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy – The Board has worked extensively on developing a code of ethics to protect the public and has changed the title to Principals of Practice and this regulation project is in process.

Objective # 1: Review other states current code of ethics.

Objective #2: Seek information from national organizations on code of ethics.

Objective #3: Revise current regulations in Physical Therapy Standards 12 AAC 54.500 and Occupational Therapy Standards 12 AAC 54.800 and to remove references to professional organizations documents.

Goal #9: Review continuing education competency – The Board determined they would seek repeal of submission of 24 contact hours by OT/OTAs at initial licensure, this is part of a current regulation project.

The Board continues to discuss national trends in continued competencies. They have invited representative from the FSBPT (aPTitude) and NBCOT (Navigator) to present their tracking systems at the September 2015 board meeting.

Objective # 1: Review inequality of initial licensing requirements for continuing education.

Objective # 2: Review national organizations on continuing education.

Objective # 3: Review other jurisdictions requirements for continuing education.

Objective # 4: Revise our language to reflect national trends.

Goal #10: Keep up with technology advances – The board recommended the Division develop “paperless” application and renewal for licensing.

Objective # 1: Keep up with national trends of transmission of documentation.

Objective # 2: Accept educational continuing education units electronically.

Objective # 3: Accept online applications and online renewal applications.

Objective # 4: Electronic storage.

BOARD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY16

The below list are for FY16 which are the similar to FY15 as the Board continues to work within their stated goals and objectives. Overall, having itemized goals and objectives give continuity to the work of the Board. It also helps incoming Board members to transition in and sees how the Board maintains their focus and how it stays strong in decision making. The weakness in this process is due to the extensive time it takes to make statutory or regulatory changes and there are times when a board members’ term is over before projects they have been highly engaged are enacted. Another weakness that occurs during board member turnover, the new makeup of the Board may not see the perspective of the prior board member(s) and will remove the prior goals or objective from further consideration by the current board.

Goal #1: Carry out assigned duties of the Board

Objective 1: Conduct a minimum of two Board meetings a year, the Board prefers these meetings be face to face in order to promote interaction between Board members. If funding is available hold one Board meeting in Juneau during the legislative session. The Board will hold teleconference meetings as deemed necessary.

Objective 2: Continue to license Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants.

Objective 3: Review investigative reports, monitor disciplinary actions, and provide professional direction to the Division of Occupational Licensing Investigative Staff regarding probation matters and Physical and Occupational therapy practices. Monitor that investigations are done in a timely manner with updates at each meeting. Have State Board web site updated regularly with investigative outcomes.

Goal #2: Continue to provide Board activity information to professionals and the public

Objective 1: Maintain a website with licensure information and forms; meeting dates and agendas; meeting minutes and regulations as proposed/adopted.

Objective 2: Inform the Alaska Physical Therapy Association and the Alaska Occupational Therapy Association of Board activities by appointing Board member to provide a written recap of the meetings with information to the associations’ newsletters, provide copies of the Board agenda to the state associations and if a Board member is present at the AKPTA or AKOTA chapter meetings they will provide an update and answer questions the membership may have regarding Board activities.

Objective 3: Increase professional and public awareness of the Board’s functions regarding licensure of Physical and Occupational Therapists and Assistants by providing a public comment period at the Board meetings and exploring opportunities for electronic or telephonic participation.

Goal #3: Review Statutes and Regulations

Objective 1: Continue to review statutes and regulations and suggest changes to allow for more clarity and readability as necessary.

Objective 2: Gather information from State and National regulatory bodies (i.e. FSBPT, NBCOT, and other State Boards) as needed on trends and issues. Maintain contact with regulatory list serves.

Objective 3: Maintain contact with National professional associations including AOTA and APTA regarding licensure trends and issues.

Objective 4: Pursue statutory changes during the 2016 legislative session.

Goal #4: Increase the awareness of Licensing Requirements for Physical and Occupational Therapy

Objective 1: The Board will continue to work towards increasing awareness of Physical and Occupational therapy licensing requirements on the Divisions Professional Licensing website.

Goal #5: Maintain active participation in National Regulatory Agencies

Objective #1: A physical therapist board member to attend the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Conference yearly. (Third party reimbursement)

Objective #2: An occupational therapist board member to attend the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Conference as the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc is no longer holding conferences. o be held. (Third party reimbursement)

Objective #3: The Licensing Board Examiner/administrator to attend an annual FSBPT conference every other year. (Third party reimbursement)

Objective #4: One board member a year will attend new board member training provided by FSBPT at the headquarters in Alexandria, VA.

Objective # 5: Continue membership in the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

Goal #6: Work towards revising and updating licensing requirements for foreign educated therapists

Objective #1: The Board is to review the possibility of requesting statute and/or regulation changes.

Objective #2: The Board is to continue to review information from the FCCPT regarding foreign educated therapists.

Objective #3: The Board will review information from NBCOT regarding foreign educated therapists.

Objective #4: Review the inequality for internship requirements between physical and occupational therapy.

Goal #7: Continue full Board membership at all times

Objective #1: Encourage Physical and Occupational Therapists to apply for positions on the Board at any time, not only when vacancies occur.

Objective #2: Communicate with the Governor's office to request timely appointments.

Objective #3: Board members who wish to be reappointed must notify Boards and Commissions, in writing, at least 6 months before their term is up expressing their interest in reappointment.

Goal #8: Revision of code of ethics for both Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy

Objective #1: Regulation project in process seeking to enact an Alaska Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Principals of Practice (Code of Ethics) as part of the Physical Therapy Standards 12 AAC 54.500 and Occupational Therapy Standards 12 AAC 54.800 and to remove references to professional organizations code of ethics.

Goal #9: Review continuing education competency

Objective # 1: Review national organizations on continuing education.

Objective # 2: Review other jurisdictions requirements for continuing education.

Objective # 3: Revise our language to reflect national trends.

Goal #10: Keep up with technology advances

Objective # 1: Keep up with national trends of transmission of documentation.

Objective # 2: Accept educational continuing education units electronically.

Objective # 3: Accept online applications and online renewal applications.

Objective # 4: Electronic storage.

Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy

FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

SUNSET AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Date of last Legislative Audit: June 30, 2015

Board sunset date: June 30, 2022

Audit Recommendation #1: This report makes one new recommendation to the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (DCBPL) to address various deficiencies in its investigations case management system.

Action taken: DCBPL's director should continue to improve the investigative case management system's integrity and confidentiality.
Next Steps:
Date completed:

Audit Recommendation #2:

Action taken:
Next Steps:
Date completed:

Audit Recommendation #3:

Action taken:
Next Steps:
Date completed:

Audit Recommendation #4:

Action taken:
Next Steps:
Date completed: