

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2016

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS



**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
FY 2016 Annual Report**

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**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Date Appointed	Term Expires
<p>Anne Brainerd Marko, Chair Licensed Professional Counselor Fairbanks, Alaska</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2013</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2017</p>
<p>Debra Hamilton Licensed Professional Counselor Soldotna, Alaska</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2013</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2017</p>
<p>Lyn Tashea Licensed Professional Counselor Anchorage, Alaska</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2014</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2018</p>
<p>Stephanie Johnson Licensed Professional Counselor</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2014</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2018</p>
<p>Lillian Mitchell Public Member Anchorage, Alaska</p>	<p>Aug 08, 2008</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2016</p>
<p>VACANT Public Member</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2016</p>	<p>Mar 01, 2020</p>

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
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Identification of Staff

Renée Hoffard – Licensing Examiner

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

FY 2016 Annual Report

Narrative Statement

Include an overview of the board's activity, industry trends in licensure, public protection challenges, and other information useful to Alaska stakeholders in understanding your work during FY15.

The FY 2016 report of activities is based on meetings of the Board of Professional Counselors held between July 2015 and June 2016. During this period, the Board held three meetings for a total of six days. Meetings were held in Anchorage on September 24th & 24th, 2015; January 21st & 22nd, 2016; and April 28th & 29th, 2016. At the request of the Division, what would have been our first July 2015 meeting was moved to June in order to discuss fee schedules for FY 2016. The Board intentionally has held all meetings in Anchorage to try to minimize travel costs.

The Board continues with the goal and purpose of protection of the public by ensuring the public of continued competency of licensed professional counselors, that care is offered by professionally qualified persons, and that qualified counseling professionals are available. The Board has approved applicants for licensure as Licensed Professional Counselors, has approved applicants as Approved Supervisors, as well as monitored continuing education requirements.

During FY 16, the Board accomplished the following:

- After again voting to increase fees at the June 2015 meeting, the Board continued to study budget reports prepared by the accounting staff of the Division of Occupational Licensing and to discuss these reports with Division personnel, including the Director and Operations Manager.
- In an effort to increase oversight of supervisors and continuing education while also increasing revenue, the Board agreed we should change Statutes and Regulations in order to allow us to require renewal applications for Approved Supervisors as well as fees for the Board to review and approve Continuing Education providers and classes. However, with the Alaska Counseling Association currently being defunct we have no organization to put forth the needed statute changes. As a result, the Board has appointed a subcommittee to approach legislators about recommending Statute changes to the legislature.
- Studied and responded to correspondence as appropriate under the Board's authority.
- Reviewed investigation reports at meetings and acted on cases brought forward for determination. One party completed probation. Another party was offered a Consent Agreement and will begin a two-year probation starting July 1, 2016.
- Individual Board members worked collaboratively with the Board Investigator to review cases involving jurisdictional questions and to give guidance on need for further review and/or disciplinary sanctions.
- Reviewed all applications received, including applications for Professional Counselor licensure, Approved Supervisor Certification, continuing education units (CEU's), seminar and class approvals, license reinstatements, requests for alternate supervision, and extensions of examination time.
- Our Alaska Counseling Association Liaison tried diligently to work with the Alaska Counseling Association, which held no formal meetings during this past year. Despite that, both the Liaison and the Board Chair reached out, via email and personal letter, respectively, to encourage Alaska Counseling Association members to attend our meetings to help foster rebirth of the association. No AkCA members ever attended our meetings.
- Responded to a request from the "Building Blocks to Portability Project" requesting adoption of a standardized Licensure Scope of Practice by reviewing and adopting the same, thus moving another step closer toward licensure portability for counselors across the United States. The Board will now approach legislators to make this a statute change.

FY 2016 Narrative Statement (continued)

Regulations

1. The Board's top priority at this time is to meet the requirements of the SB74 Implementation Guide so that Regulations are in place for distance counseling and the use of technology in practicing professional counseling. It is notable that the Board anticipated this law and voluntarily approached experts in technology and counseling who offered us training (via teleconference and Skype) during regularly scheduled meetings.
2. The Board is working on changing 12 AAC 62.320(2) such that it does not name specific approved CEU providers, who often legally change the name of their entities, rather generalizes approval to refer to an "updated list on the Board's website." This will prevent the costly and time-consuming efforts needed to make a Regulation change when continuing education provider legally changes its business name.

Membership

In March 2016, the tenure of our public member, Lillian Mitchell, ended. Her place on the Board has yet to be filled.

Investigations

Ms. Lipker attended each of our board meetings in person and provided comprehensive and timely updates regarding investigative matters. The Department has done an outstanding job working collaboratively with our Board to ensure public safety.

The Board continues work on the following:

1. Drafting Regulations to meet the requirements of SB74 while ensuring the highest level of professionalism and protection of the public are safeguarded.
2. Supervisor renewal and accountability including request for statute change regarding the number of years of professional practice required prior to making application to become an Approved Counselor Supervisor. The Board has appointed a subcommittee to reach out to legislators in hopes of them sponsoring a bill.
3. Requirement for Approved Supervisors to pursue – and pay for - biannual renewal, including Continuing Education Units in Counselor supervision over and above the requirements to retain the LPC license.
4. Provisional Certification for licensure applicants in order to ensure quality of supervision as well as Board oversight in cases of reportable violations of statutes and/or regulations.
5. Prioritizing 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

In an effort to keep costs as low as possible, the Board will continue to meet in Anchorage – the most centralized location for all of our members.

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2017

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Jul 20, 2016	Anchorage	4	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$1,175.80
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$863.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$250.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$656.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$2,945.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Oct 13, 2016	Anchorage	5	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$1,200.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$860.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$250.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$650.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$2,960.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Jan 19, 2017	Anchorage	5	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$1,200.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$860.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$250.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$650.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$2,960.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Apr 20, 2017	Anchorage	5	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$1,200.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$860.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$250.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$650.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$2,960.00

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2017 (continued)

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

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

<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

Total Estimated Cost: **\$0.00**

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

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Jan 13, 2017	New Orleans, LA	1	1

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

American Association of State Counseling Boards Annual Conference: 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; and give Alaska voice in national decisions affecting Alaskan Licensed Professional Counselors. Chair Marko has been asked to participate in two plenary sessions at the 2017 Conference.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,300.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$870.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$700.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:	\$870.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:	\$0.00

Net Total Estimated Cost: **\$2,100.00**

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2017 (continued)

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

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
May 24, 2017	TB	2	0

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

National Board of Certified Counselors 2016 Symposium: Provides training and information regarding the NCE and the NCMHCE exams, a requirement for licensure in Alaska. Attendance also allows us to keep current with ongoing issues between counselors and CACREP requirements, which become mandatory in 2022.

<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:	\$4,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:	\$500.00

Net Total Estimated Cost: **(\$5,000.00)**

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

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Sep 14, 2017	Portland, Oregon	2	0

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

Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation: Provides training for members focusing on compliance and discipline; testing and exam issues; entry to practice issues; and administration, legislation and policy.

<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
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:	\$0.00

Net Total Estimated Cost: **\$0.00**

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2017 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
Membership Dues	AASCB Board Members	\$2,600.00

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

The American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) is the alliance of governmental agencies responsible for the licensure and certification of counselors throughout the United States. AASCB collects, interprets, and disseminates information on legal and regulatory matters affecting professional counselors and also works to further cooperation among individuals, associations, and state Board members involved in providing and managing services to the public.

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

- Not Applicable

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
		\$0.00

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

Summary of FY 2017 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings	\$11,825.00
Travel for Exams	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel	(\$2,900.00)
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training, Teleconferences	\$2,600.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets	\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$11,525.00

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
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Recommendations for Proposed Legislation for FY 2017

- No Recommendations**
The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

- Recommendations**
The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

The Board of Professional Counselors has begun work to add a Telehealth section to the Regulations, in accordance with the passing of House Bill 234.

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
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Regulation Recommendations for FY 2017

- No Recommendations**
The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

- Recommendations**
The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

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Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2016's goals and objectives, and how they were met:

The Board adopts regulations to carry out laws governing the practice professional counseling in Alaska. It makes final licensing decisions and takes disciplinary actions against people who violate licensing laws. The board offers a public comment period at each meeting. Meeting agendas are available from the licensing examiner.

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. The Board has discussed and even drafted four (4) different regulations changes addressing (1) continuing education approval; (2) changing the application process for Supervisor certification such that, like our licenses, practitioners will be required to complete continuing education in supervision as well as renew their licenses to ensure completion of that continuing education; (3) Supervisor renewal; and (4) instituting a "Professional Counselor Intern" certificate so that those who are not yet licensed can be monitored while under supervision so that if any violations of statutes, regulations or ethics occur, the Board has a way to step in and protect the public. That is a right we currently do not have.

2. The Board will continue to review applications for licensing Professional Counselors by credentials and examination and for Approved Counselor Supervisors.

The Board continued to review applications for licensing Professional Counselors and for approving Counselor Supervisors both at meetings and by secure-portal ballots between meetings. This is critical to ensure public safety.

3. The Board will continue to send delegates to National Conferences and/or trainings in FY 2016. Such as (in order of the Board's priorities):

- The American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) (#1)
- American Mental Health Counselors Association Conference (AMHCA) (#2)
- CLEAR (Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation) Conference (#3)

With budget restrictions in mind, the Board voluntarily chose to reduce its travel to three conferences (down from five in previous years). The Board sent one member to the Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation meeting in Boston, Massachusetts in September 2015. In May 2016, two members attended the National Board of Certified Counselors Symposium in Washington, D.C. The Board Chair and Board Examiner attended the AASCB conference in January 2016, which actually has dual tracks for Board members and Examiners. The knowledge and information shared with the Board by our members following their meeting attendance was invaluable. We are especially grateful that our Board Examiner had the opportunity to meet other State Examiners and glean a wealth of knowledge.

4. The Board will continue to liaise with the Alaska Counseling Association and encourage AkCA's members to attend Board meetings.

Unfortunately, it appears the Alaska Counseling Association is defunct. Our Board has a dedicated liaison who telephoned into the one "meeting" the Association had, however, the Association members never actually went on the record and produced no minutes. Our liaison, Lyn Tashea, reached out by phone to the Association President but received no information regarding meetings, structure, etc. The Board Chair wrote personally to the Association President inviting her to attend our meetings but never heard back.

5. The Board will consider support of any legislation put forward by the Alaska Counseling Association.

There have been no meetings and, therefore, no legislation put forth by the Alaska Counseling Association. The Board has reached out to the Association several times to no avail.

6. The Board will continue to monitor disciplinary actions.

The Board Investigator has done an outstanding job of working on complaints, closing complaints, and keeping the Board apprised. Between May 27, 2015 and April 5, 2016, the Division opened twenty-five (25) matters and closed twenty-four (24) matters. As of April 5, 2016, there were six (6) matters ongoing and under review. Two of those matters had been sent to the Attorney General's Office for litigation. In collaboration with our Investigator, the Board has continued to monitor disciplinary actions to ensure that all terms of the action are completed. As of this writing, one counselor completed probation; another is set to start probation July 1, 2016.

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I

FY 2016's goals and objectives, and how they were met:

7. The Board will continue work to add additional requirements for renewal of Approved Counselor Supervisors.

The Board actively discussed this matter and came up with proposed Statute wording and requirements to institute a biannual renewal for Approved Supervisors to include required CEUs in Counselor supervision as well as payment of fees. This proposal was forwarded to the Alaska Counseling Association for review and discussion. However, with the Association being defunct, the Board now must try to keep the proposed statute alive by approaching a legislator for sponsorship. A subcommittee has been established to start this process.

8. The Board will collaborate with the Licensing Examiner to ensure continued updating of Approved Counselor Supervisors on the Board's website.

The publishing of an Approved Counselor Supervisors list on our website has been outstanding and especially has helped new, unlicensed clinicians to ensure to choose their licensure supervisor wisely so as to ensure that all supervised hours count towards their licensure.

9. The Board will move toward statute and regulation change regarding supervisor accountability.

Statute must be changed before we can do anything about this. Again, we are at a grave disadvantage with the apparent dissolution of the Alaska Counseling Association. Even so, however, the Board has established a subcommittee to approach legislators about sponsoring a statute change.

10. The Board will continue to work for consistency in licensing by credential under 08.29.120.

The Board has continued to review all applications, utilizing the Alaska Statutes and Regulations as the basis for its decisions. Each application has been reviewed individually and thoroughly to ensure public safety.

The Board would like to formally adopt the "Licensure Scope of Practice" as set forth by the American Association of State Counseling Boards in order to ease the transition for clinicians moving into Alaska as well as help to standardize professional counseling across the nation. This, again, must be done through statute.

The Board will monitor licensing fees for LPC applications and renewals.

The Board looked closely and carefully at our budget and at our licensing fees. In collaboration with the Division, the Board again made the difficult decision to raise licensing fees in order to be assertive in trying to rebalance our budget (the current Board inherited a deficit of over \$100,000). All fees were increased (application fee, licensing fee, renewal fee, approved supervisor fee) in hopes of balancing our budget by 2017.

11. The Board will continue to monitor the Department of Defense's requirement for CACREP accreditation to determine what training is needed in order for a counselor to be reimbursed for services by Tricare or employed by the Federal Government in Veterans Affairs or ASAP programs.

12. In November 2015 President Obama signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 which modified TRICARE provider standards, expanding independent practitioner status from only those who had graduated from a CACREP-accredited program to add graduates who have masters or doctoral degrees from ten (1) additional TRICARE recognized graduate programs. In addition, it gave such graduates an additional four (4) years to apply for TRICARE independent practice. This has greatly reduced the fear and pressure put on counselors who graduated from non-CACREP accredited schools, which has been the case for all programs in Alaska.

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I

FY 2016's goals and objectives, and how they were met:

- 13.** The Board will liaise with the University of Alaska Fairbanks as it explores and pursues CACREP accreditation.

The Board made this a standing agenda item and has met with UAF staff telephonically at all of our meetings this past year. This has been a grand success in that we have been kept abreast of the Counseling Department's hard work towards becoming the only CACREP accredited school in Alaska, and the Board has been able to offer insight and advice into how the accreditation standards interact with our licensure requirements. This is a collaboration that will continue throughout the entire accreditation process.

- 14.** The Board will continue to monitor applicable statutes and regulations and consider special needs of the active military and spouses.

The Board put forth a Regulation change that specifically addressed the special needs of our active military and spouses. However, we were later informed by the Department of Law that we did not have statutory authority to put forth such a Regulation.

- 15.** The Board will monitor issues of portability.

Board members have worked collaboratively with other states through attendance at national conference in order to foster as well as to stay abreast of the latest discussions and legislation related to licensure portability. This will continue to be an ongoing issue.

- 16.** The Board will continue to meet quarterly.

Meeting quarterly has allowed the Board to work more efficiently and has greatly reduced the hours of time Board members were having to spend between meetings.

- 17.** The Board will begin to address technology in counseling.

In preparation for beginning Regulation changes, the Board did a web-meeting with Dr. Michelle Wade, ACA's Ethics Specialist, and with Roy Huggins, LPC, NCC. Mr. Huggins is the author of the Zur Institute's core courses on security and privacy in mental health practice and a renowned expert on mental health practice technology, security and privacy, and the HIPAA Security Rule. He acts as Technology Chair for the Oregon Counseling Association and advises its members on ethical and legal issues surrounding technology. Based on that meeting and in conjunction with the passing of SB 74 expanding telehealth, the Board is actively working on Regulation changes to ensure telehealth practice by practitioners is conducted the safest and most ethical manner to protect the public.

- 18.** The Board will work to raise awareness among licensees of the Board's mission and goals.

The Board is accomplishing this goal through our website as well as through publishing of minutes. In addition, when licensees verbalized upset on the Alaska Psychology Association listserv about the increase in licensure fees, the Board Chair worked with Sara Chambers, Division Operations Manager, to post an open letter reinforcing our mission and goals and explaining the importance of having a balanced Board budget. There was very, very little complaint thereafter.

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

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Goals and Objectives

Part II

FY 2017'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 any changes.

The Board plans to continue reviewing relevant Alaska Statutes and Regulations and to discuss and work on changes as deemed necessary.

2. The Board will continue to review applications for licensing Professional Counselors by credentials and examination and for Approved Counselor Supervisors.

For the protection of the public, it is imperative that the Board closely review applications for licensing Professional Counselors and for approving Counselor Supervisors. It is our duty to make certain we evaluate each application file thoroughly to ensure the applicant is qualified as per the Statutes and Regulations of our State and per the high standard of excellence we expect from the clinicians of our State.

The Board will continue to send delegates to National Conferences and/or trainings in FY 2017. Being conscious of budget restrictions, the Board has chosen only three conferences (listed in order of priority):

- The American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) (#1)
- National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) Licensure Board Training (#2)
- CLEAR (Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation) Conference (#3)

3. 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 our efforts to try to liaise with the Alaska Counseling Association and encourage AkCA's members to attend Board meetings.

The Board will continue to have a designed liaison to attend any meetings held by the Alaska Counseling Association and to encourage the Association's members to attend Board meetings in order to foster a mutual and cooperative exchange of information regarding issues affecting Counselors in the State of Alaska.

5. The Board will consider support of any legislation put forward by the Alaska Counseling Association.

Through our Board-appointed Liaison to the Alaska Counseling Association, the Board will receive and consider any legislation put forth by the Association and make recommendations on the same.

6. The Board will continue to monitor disciplinary actions.

The Board monitors disciplinary actions, ensuring that all terms of the action are completed. These activities are done by utilizing the resources provided by the Department, such as the Board Investigator and reports.

7. The Board will move toward statute and regulation change regarding supervisor accountability.

The Board will continue to work on applicable Statute and Regulation changes necessary to ensure counselor supervisors keep up with the latest research regarding supervision of counselors.

8. The Board will move toward a complete overhaul of statute and regulations in order to ensure the highest level of excellence and efficiency.

Through various Statute and Regulation changes throughout the year, we have developed a set of laws that has become piecemeal and muddy. It is the Board's hope that by the end of our tenure we will be able to put forth a clean, comprehensive package of Statutes and Regulations for approval to the legislature and Governor that will meet national benchmarks while continuing to ensure the high standards we have come to expect of our Licensed Professional Counselors.

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2017's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

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

- 9.** The Board will consider to work for consistency in licensing by credential under 08.29.120.
The Board will continue to review all applications, utilizing the Alaska Statutes and Regulations as the basis for its decisions. Each application will continue to be reviewed individually and thoroughly to ensure public safety.
- 10.** The Board will monitor licensing fees for LPC applications and renewals.
The Board will continue to monitor bi-annual licensing fees – whether they are reasonable and affordable for Alaska counselors as well as how the fees are able to address the budgetary shortfall that was discovered as a result of the Division's internal audit in 2013. The Board's review(s) of dues will be shared with the Division.
- 11.** The Board will continue to liaise with the University of Alaska Fairbanks as it explores and pursues CACREP accreditation.
The Board will continue to meet telephonically with members of the UAF faculty to keep abreast of their progress in pursuing CACREP accreditation for the counseling program as well as to offer insight into how the accreditation standards interact with licensure requirements.
- 12.** The Board will monitor issues of portability.
The Board will send members to national conferences in order to stay abreast of the latest discussions and legislation related to licensure portability.
- 13.** The Board will continue to meet quarterly.
The Board will continue to meet quarterly in order to ensure the highest level of practice in the profession of counseling so as to ensure public safety.
- 14.** The Board will work on and adopt Regulations in relation to SB 74 to ensure the highest level of ethical practice in telehealth and the use of technology with counseling.
The Board will draft Regulations and guidelines as required in SB74 in order to ensure a smooth implementation of the SB74 while ensuring ethical practice and protection of the public.
- 15.** The Board will work to raise awareness among licensees of the Board's mission and goals.
The Board will work to increase awareness and knowledge of our mission and goals among licenses while working collaboratively to respond to pertinent issues.

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 9/30/2009
Board Sunset Date: 6/30/2018

Audit Recommendation: The Division's professional licensing administration officers should take steps to improve administrative support.

Action Taken: The Division is aware of this problem and has taken steps to address this issue.

Next Steps: The Division has given the Board on-going reports through the budget reports.

Date Completed:

Audit Recommendation: The Division's Chief Investigator should establish procedures to ensure investigators consistently enter information into the case management system and should take steps to ensure complaints/cases are investigated timely.

Action Taken: The Division is aware of this problem and has taken steps to address this issue.

Next Steps: The Board has noted its cases are handled in a timely manner by the investigators.

Date Completed:

Sunset Audit Recommendations (continued)

Audit Recommendation:	The Division's professional licensing supervisors should take steps to ensure salient investigative information is forwarded to the investigative section.
Action Taken:	The Division is aware of this problem and has taken steps to address this issue.
Next Steps:	
Date Completed:	

Audit Recommendation:	The Office of the Governor should take steps to make the necessary appointments to keep the BPC at full membership.
Action Taken:	The Board has one vacancy and is awaiting the governor's office to appoint new members.
Next Steps:	
Date Completed:	