

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2016

STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD



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.

**STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Joseph Kennedy, Chair Physical Therapist	Mar 01, 2014	Mar 01, 2018
Mary Melissa Robinson, Secretary Occupational Therapist	Mar 01, 2010	Mar 01, 2018
Valerie Phelps Physical Therapist	Mar 01, 2011	Mar 01, 2017
James Parietti Physical Therapist	Mar 01, 2012	Mar 01, 2020
Ruth Kostik Public Member	Mar 01, 2013	Dec 01, 2020
Ilona Farr Physician	Jul 01, 2013	Mar 01, 2017
Mari-Margaret Tydingco Occupational Therapist	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 01, 2020
Kathleen Lind Occupational Therapist	Jan 29, 2008	Mar 01, 2016

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Identification of Staff

Connie Petz – Licensing Examiner

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
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(907) 465-2580

Sher Zinn – Licensing Supervisor

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Sonia Lipker – Investigator

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Michele Wall-Rood – Investigator

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Jun Maiquis – Regulations Specialist

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Narrative Statement

During Fiscal Year 2016, the board held 2 in person board meetings – September, 24-25, 2015 in Anchorage and February 11-12, 2016 in Juneau. A telephone conference meeting was held April 20, 2016.

The Board issued a combined total of 408 new licenses

- 230 physical therapists and 42 physical therapy assistants
- 101 occupational therapists and 18 occupational therapy assistants
- A combined total of 17 limited permits

Board leadership continued with Kathleen Lind, OT board chair until the end of her second term when Joe Kennedy was elected chair. Mary Melissa Robinson OT, continued as board secretary. Liaisons reports to the state organizations were discontinued as posting of meeting minutes is available on the boards' web site: www.ProfessionalLicense.Alaska.Gov/PhysicalTherapyOccupationalTherapy

For the period of March 2, 2015 through August 26, 2015 the division opened 21 matters and closed 22 matters. A total of Zero (0) matters remain ongoing and under review. Regarding probation matters, 2 cases are still open. For the period of August 26, 2015 to January 8, 2016 there were 6 matters opened with 1 matter remaining open and ongoing

The Board accomplished the "Principles of Practice" which focuses on the protection of the public. They were also successful in repealing the requirement for OT/OTAs to provide evidence of 24 contact hours of occupational therapy related course work at the initial application process. A fee regulation was enacted and increased the non-refundable application fee from \$70.00 to \$150.00 effective June 16, 2016.

The Board reviewed and re-evaluated the list of proposed legislative issues and removed items which were no longer a concern or a goal of the Board. The Board then sent the proposed 15 items for statute changes to a friendly legislator.

The Board revised the jurisprudence questionnaire to ensure focus on regulation changes in anticipation of the license renewal.

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.

Two Board members and one staff member attended the annual meeting of the Federation of Boards in Physical Therapy in October 2015. One Board member and one staff member attended the NBCOT Leadership Forum in May 2016. Both meetings were funded by the national organizations.

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2017

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Oct 06, 2016	Anchorage, AK	7	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$1,400.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$1,000.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$200.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$768.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$3,368.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Feb 23, 2017	Juneau	7	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$2,034.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$1,920.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$350.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$992.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$5,296.00

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board: Annual conference – third party reimbursed			
	<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
Oct 14, 2016	Columbus, OH	1	0

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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$400.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:	\$550.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:	\$1,800.00

Net Total Estimated Cost: \$0.00

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

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Jun 01, 2017	Alexandria, VA	1	0

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

Board member training – third party reimbursed an educational opportunity to learn about the role of a board member and how the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy approaches issues and the national examination.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$400.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:	\$550.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:	\$1,800.00

Net Total Estimated Cost: \$0.00

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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	FSBPT	\$1,500.00

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.

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

- Not Applicable

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
Teleconferences	GCI	\$300.00

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

Average of 2 teleconferences per year at the cost of about 150.00 each.

Summary of FY 2017 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings	\$8,664.00
Travel for Exams	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel	\$0.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training, Teleconferences	\$1,500.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets	\$0.00
Other:	\$300.00
Total Requested:	\$10,464.00

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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:

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) 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. AS 08.84 change all references of "physical therapy assistant" to "physical therapist assistant" based on national trends.
15. AS 08.84.120 include for clarity for disciplinary actions, revising title, adding in (a) and adding #9

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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:

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Goals and Objectives

Part I

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

- Goal #1** Carry out assigned duties of the Board - As mandated by state law, conducted two Board meetings face to face in order to promote interaction between Board members and held one teleconference. Issued licenses and reviewed investigative reports, monitor disciplinary actions, and provided professional direction to the Division of Occupational Licensing Investigative Staff regarding probation matters and Physical and Occupational therapy practices. Monitored investigations were done in a timely manner with updates at each meeting. Kept State Board web site updated regularly with investigative outcomes.
- Goal #2** Continue to provide Board activity information to professionals and the public - Maintained a website with licensure information and forms; meeting dates and agendas; meeting minutes and regulations as proposed/adopted. All meetings are public noticed per state law and open to the public per the open meetings act.
- Goal #3** Review Statutes and Regulations - Continue to review statutes and regulations and suggest changes to allow for more clarity and readability as necessary. Gathered information from State and National regulatory bodies (i.e. FSBPT, NBCOT, and other State Boards) as needed to keep up on trends and issues. Maintained contact with National professional associations including AOTA and APTA regarding licensure trends and issues. The board began pursuing statutory changes during the 2016 legislative session by submitting legislative goals to a friendly legislator.
- Goal #4** The Board continues to work towards increasing awareness of Physical and Occupational therapy licensing requirements on the Divisions Professional Licensing website by posting new items on web site and posting meeting minutes.
- Goal #5** Maintain active participation in National Regulatory Agencies – Two board members (one OT and one PT) and one staff member attended the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Conference October 2015 which was 3rd party reimbursed. One occupational therapist board member attended and one staff member attended the NBCOT May 2016 annual meeting which was 3rd party reimbursed. Generally, one board member a year will attend new board member training provided by FSBPT at the headquarters in Alexandria, VA. This did not occur in FY16, the board hopes to send one board member FY17. The board continues membership in the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.
- Goal #6** Work towards revising and updating licensing requirements for foreign educated therapists - The Board included requesting statute changes with their proposed Legislative goals. They continue to review information from the FCCPT regarding foreign educated therapists and accept the educational credentials reviewed using the FCCPT course work tool.
- Goal #7** Continue full Board membership at all times – The board encourages Physical and Occupational Therapists to apply for positions on the Board at any time, not only when vacancies occur. Board members who wish to be reappointed 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 – The board successfully implemented the 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 removed references to professional organizations code of ethics.
- Goal #9** Review continuing education competency - Reviewed national organizations on continuing education, has reviewed some other jurisdictions requirements for continuing education gathered additional information at NBCOT meeting. The board began working towards revising language to reflect national trends by requesting statute change to include use of Physio therapist.
- Goal #10** Keep up with technology advances - Keeping up with national trends of transmission of documentation, accepting educational continuing education units electronically, accepted the first online renewal application for June 30, 2016 license renewal period. They review applications for licensure via secure electronic storage.

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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:

The Board reviewed their accomplishments for the year to date and determined they needed to develop a strategic plan. They created a list of potential goals for a 5 year strategic plan which will be developed further at the fall board meeting.

1. Track different states licensure compact legislation
2. Track different states Telehealth
3. Monitor NBCOT and FSBPT for acceptance of required continuing certificate documentation
4. Modify Limited Permit
5. Does our current practice act (statutes) limit our practice
6. Look at other states boards and other Alaska boards to be aware of what they are doing and being in collaboration.
7. Create Standard Operation Procedure forms and board packet info; tips
8. Occupational Therapy compensation versus volunteerism with regard to work history
9. Expanding the requirements for continuing competency
10. Review Foreign Educated inequality for internship requirements
11. The Board is in support of attending national conferences. They recognize it educates board members and staff as well as keeps them informed of national issues which impact all licensing jurisdictions.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 6/30/2015
Board Sunset Date: 6/30/2022

Audit Recommendation: 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: