

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2016

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE LICENSING EXAMINERS



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 PSYCHOLOGIST AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE LICENSING EXAMINERS
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Sarah Angstman, Ph.D Psychologist	Jan 01, 2016	Mar 01, 2019
Kristi H. Fuller Ph.D Psychologist	Mar 01, 2009	Mar 01, 2017
Joel B. Wieman, Ph.D Psychologist	Mar 01, 2012	Mar 01, 2020
Allen (Al) Levy, M.S. LPA Psychological Associate Current Board Chair	Mar 01, 2012	Mar 01, 2020
John DeRuyter, Ph.D Psychologist Term ended	Jun 06, 2007	Dec 31, 2015
Christian Muntean Public Member Resigned position, now vacant	Mar 01, 2012	Feb 01, 2016

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Identification of Staff

Susan Johnson – Licensing Examiner (resigned August 2015)

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

Karl Marx – Licensing Examiner (temporarily appointed, Fall 2015)

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

Randy Brown – Licensing Examiner (assumed role in December 2015)

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

Michelle Wall-Rood – Investigator (transferred fall 2015)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1500
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567
Work: (907) 269-8186

Sonya Lipker – Investigator (appointed fall 2015)

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1500
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567
Work: (907) 269-8186

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Narrative Statement

The FY 2016 report of activities is based on meetings of the Board held between July 2015 and June 2016. During the period the Board held five meetings for a total of 10 days. Meetings were held in Fairbanks on July 30th and 31st 2015, Anchorage on October 28th to the 30th, 2014, Anchorage January 28th – 29th, Anchorage May 6th and Anchorage June 16th and 17th.

The Board continues with the goal and purpose of protection of the public, ensuring the public of continued competency of licensed psychology professionals, that psychological care is offered by professionally qualified persons, and that qualified psychology practitioners are available. The Board has approved applicants for licensure as psychologists and Psychological Associates, as well as monitored continuing education requirements. The Board has continued the focus of obtaining a means to monitor new applicants, as well as renewing license holders, for criminal convictions. This effort is relevant in light of the Board's mission of protection of the public.

Board members and staff attended the Annual Meeting of Delegates for ASPPB, Association of State and Provincial Boards, October 7-11, 2015. Dr. Joel Weiman, Dr. Angstman, Dr. Fuller, Al Levy LPA and Licensing Examiner Randy Brown attended the ASPPB mid-year conference May 5-7, 2016. Attending these conferences is necessary for maintaining the competence of the Board. ASPPB provides valuable training, resources and support. Board members have the opportunity to keep informed about key issues relating to licensure, enforcement, ethics and even Supreme Court decisions that directly impact board functions and responsibilities. Attendance at ASPPB annual and mid-year conferences by all board members in fiscal year 2017 is mission-critical due to the turnover in board members, licensing examiners and investigators this board experienced in FY 2016. This Board cannot afford to lose these valuable training opportunities.

The efficient and effective functioning of this Board has been compromised and disrupted by repeated turnover in the licensing examiners assigned to this Board. The inability of this Board to hold onto and train a licensing examiner has been a serious problem for the past five years. This board understands and accepts the circumstances that contributed to this instability, nevertheless this frequent turnover in licensing examiners has resulted in a loss in institutional memory, added costs and serious delays and disruptions in critical functions of this board. Grading of the State Law and Ethics Exam, evaluating and approving license applications have taken two to four times longer to complete. Testing protocols were significantly violated which led to the total invalidation of regularly scheduled exam. The examinee had to retake the test at added inconvenience as well as added cost to the state.

The Board's progress in achieving identified goals was significantly impacted by turnover in licensing examiners, the untimely resignation of our public member and the replacement of one of the psychologist board members. Work on passing background check legislation, moving ahead with the proposed board summit and making regulation changes all had to be suspended and put on hold.

FY 2016 Narrative Statement (continued)

Membership

There have been significant changes to the board membership in FY 2016. John DeRuyter's term expired and he was replaced by Sarah Angstman PhD from Bethel. She is showing herself to be an active and effective member; but she needs more training. Public member Christian Muntean resigned in February 2016 due to a conflict of interest. His seat remains vacant. His replacement will also need training.

Investigations

Ms. Wall-Rood was replaced by Sonya Lipker in fall 2015. Ms. Wall-Rood continued part time with this board in order to close out a complex investigation. She did a good job of training Ms. Lipker. She has attended each of our board meetings either in person or by phone and has provided comprehensive and timely updates regarding investigative matters. Ms. Lipker has actively sought consultation and advice on matters that came before her. She was able to close out a series of complaints effectively and efficiently.

Testing and Test Items

The state law and ethics exam is an essential tool in the Board's mission of protecting the public and assuring a qualified pool of psychology practitioners. The Board is continuing its on-going work of updating, revising and evaluating test items as well as creating new items in order to keep the state exam valid and relevant to current psychological practice. The board was setting aside time at each meeting in order to accomplish this high priority task. However, this work is currently on hold while the board focuses on training its new licensing examiner and new psychologist member. The inexperience and lack of training of the new licensing examiner contributed to testing protocols being violated and one applicant's test being invalidated. This required some expense and inconvenience in providing the applicant the opportunity to retake the examination. This incident is included here in order to highlight the importance of continuity and training of the licensing examiner. It is not intended to cast blame on the examiner, the department or any other individual or group. The intent is to emphasize the importance of stability, continuity and experience in the effective, proper and efficient operations of this board.

Statute and Regulation Changes

The Board is engaged in an ongoing process of updating its regulations. In fall of 2016 the board received training and consultation from the ASPPB lawyer Alex Siegel. Mr. Siegel pointed out areas in the regulations that were in need of being updated. The board has initiated the process of updating and reviewing its regulations. For years the Board has been frustrated by its lack of statutory authority to conduct background checks of new psychology applicants. In January 2015 Senator Giessel sponsored Senate Bill 41 granting the Board the authority to conduct criminal background checks on psychology applicants. The bill met with unexpected resistance from the Alaska Psychological Association, the guild representing the interests of psychologists in Alaska. It is important to note the difference between the board's mission and the guild's.

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2017

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Nov 3-4, 2016	Anchorage	5	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$600.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$800.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$300.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$2,130.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Feb 02, 2017	Juneau	5	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$1,850.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$3,000.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$200.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$5,480.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Jun 01, 2017	Tele/Video conference	5	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$100.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$100.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Nov 01, 2017	Tele/Video Conference	5	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$0.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$100.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$100.00

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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
Oct 19, 2016	Baltimore, MD	1	1
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:			
Annual conference essential for new staff/board member. National organization meets with other jurisdictions to offer resources, training and partake in decision-making actions.			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$2,000.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$1,600.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$140.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:		\$630.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$483.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:		\$0.00
Net Total Estimated Cost:			\$4,853.00

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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
Apr 27, 2017	Memphis, TN	1	1

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

Mid year meeting; essential for new board/staff training.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$2,200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$120.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$315.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:	\$0.00

Net Total Estimated Cost: \$4,835.00

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

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

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
ASPPB Annual Membership Dues	ASPPB	\$1,000.00

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:
Essential to maintain national organization membership

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

- Not Applicable

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

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

Summary of FY 2017 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings	\$7,810.00
Travel for Exams	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel	\$9,688.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training, Teleconferences	\$1,000.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets	\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$18,498.00

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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. *Subject and Proposed Language (include intent and statutory reference)*
SB 41 requires national background checks for all individuals applying for licensure as psychologist or psychological associate in Alaska.
2. *Explain the benefits the proposed legislation would provide.*
The passage of legislation requiring these background checks would significantly strengthen the Board's ability to protect the public from applicants who have previously been convicted of behaviors or actions inconsistent with the professional standards of Psychology and are likely to be harmful to the public
3. *Explain the consequences, if any, of not implementing the proposed statutory change.*
Individuals who have a history of harming people might be licensed as Psychologists or Psychological Associates and put in a position to harm or exploit vulnerable populations in Alaska.
4. *Describe any potential negative impacts of this legislation and how they would be minimized.*
No negative impacts have been identified.
5. *Who do you anticipate will support the bill and why? Include municipalities, groups, etc...*
Any individuals, groups or agencies with interests or missions dedicated to protecting vulnerable populations in Alaska.
6. *Who do anticipate will oppose the bill and why?*
Individuals and groups with strong philosophical beliefs based on limiting governmental intrusion into people's lives or limiting the power and authority of government.
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?*
No other departments are likely to be impacted
8. *Identify and describe any previous state or federal legislation or similar efforts in other states which affect or relate to this proposal.*
A majority of jurisdictions across the nation and many licensing boards or professions require background checks for applicants seeking professional licensure.
9. *Has this bill topic been previously introduced in the legislature? If so, what was the final outcome and why?*
This bill was introduced in January by Senator Giessel as Senate Bill 41 (SB 41). The bill is working its way through various committees. It is expected that SB 41 will be taken up again when the legislature reconvenes in January 2016.
10. *In the event questions should be raised during review of this request, please indicate below which board member should be contacted:*
Allen Levy, LPA

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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:

If legislation granting authority to perform background checks is passed and signed into law, the Board will have to enact regulations regarding conducting background checks. There is a minor regulatory housekeeping issue that is being addressed.

12 AAC 60. ETHICS AND STANDARDS. (a) specifies that psychologists and psychological associates must adhere to the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. The regulation specifies that it is the June 2003 edition of that ethical code that must be followed. The APA has made important revisions to the code of ethics since 2003 and the regulations need to require adherence to the latest edition of the code of conduct. The Board is considering adopting practice standards of its own in order to avoid the problem of making regulation changes every time the APA amends its ethical principles.

The passage of SB 74 requires the Board to verify its regulations are in compliance with the provisions of that bill.

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Goals and Objectives

Part I

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

1. Enforcing the psychology practice act in order to protect the public.
2. Ensuring the public of continued competency of licensed psychology professionals;
3. Ensuring the public that psychological care is offered by professionally qualified persons;
4. Ensuring the public that qualified psychological practitioners are available;
5. Promoting high professional standards of psychological practice.

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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. Enforcing the psychology practice act in order to protect the public.
2. Ensuring the public of continued competency of licensed psychology professionals;
3. Ensuring the public that psychological care is offered by professionally qualified persons;
4. Ensuring the public that qualified psychological practitioners are available;
5. Promoting high professional standards of psychological practice.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 2010
Board Sunset Date: ???

Audit Recommendation: Administrative officer should take steps to ensure courtesy licensees comply with reporting requirements.

Action Taken: Determine which courtesy licenses are non-compliant.

Next Steps: Contact licensees and notify in writing their "NON-COMPLIANT" status.

Date Completed: Ongoing.

Audit Recommendation: Administrative officer should take steps to improve administrative support – unqualified staff and a lack of documented procedures led to several deficiencies in division administrative support.

Action Taken: None yet.

Next Steps: Establish division maintained training/desk manual, to be updated on a regular basis by both assigned staff person and his/her supervisor.

Date Completed: Ongoing.

Sunset Audit Recommendations (continued)

Audit Recommendation:	Board and staff within the Office of the Governor should work together to increase the pool of qualified applicants available for board appointments to ensure full representation.
Action Taken:	Unaware
Next Steps:	Unaware
Date Completed:	Ongoing