

# ***Annual Report***

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# ***Fiscal Year 2020***

## **BOARD OF NURSING**



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

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

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

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

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**Identification of the Board**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Duty Station</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Danette Schloeder</b> <b>RN, MSN, RNC- OB</b> RN member -Chair	Anchorage, AK	Mar 01, 2019	Mar 01, 2023
<b>Wendy Monrad</b> <b>APRN, MSN, CRNA</b> APRN member	Anchorage, AK	Jan 25, 2019	Mar 01, 2024
<b>Emily Shubert</b> <b>LPN</b> LPN member	Anchorage, AK	Feb 15, 2019	Mar 01, 2024
<b>Shannon Connelly</b> Public member	Palmer, AK	Jan 25, 2019	Mar 01, 2022
<b>Julie Tisdale</b> Public member	Anchorage, AK	Mar 01, 2019	Mar 01, 2023
<b>Lena Lafferty</b> <b>RN, BSN</b> RN member	Anchorage, AK	May 24, 2019	Mar 01, 2022
<b>Catherine Hample</b> <b>RN, BSN, MSN, CCRN, MHA, MBAHCA</b> Educator member	Wasilla, AK	May 24, 2019	Mar 01, 2021

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**Identification of Staff**

**Marianne Murray DNP, MSN, RN, CHSE – Executive Administrator**

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567  
Phone: (907) 269-8161

**Joan Green RN– Nurse Consultant**

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567  
Phone: (907) 269-8161

**Lisa Maroney – Records and Licensing Supervisor**

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567  
Phone: (907) 269-8161

**Madeleine Henderson – Licensing Examiner**

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567  
Phone: (907) 269-8161

**Danielle Curry – Licensing Examiner**

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567  
(907) 269-8161























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**Legislation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2021**

**No Recommendations**

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

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

The Board proposes to move ahead with the Nurse Licensure Compact Legislation to join the Nurse Licensure Compact Commission along with the other 39 states already in the compact.

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**Regulation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2021**

**No Recommendations**

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

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

- The Board of Nursing will be working on regulation projects that will be focused on the PDMP and on nursing education.
- If legislation is passed that supports the nurse licensure compact significant regulation changes will be necessary.



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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part I**

***FY 2020's goals and objectives, and how they were met:***

FY 2020 goals were related to the sunset audit of 2018-2019. The sunset audit recommendations and regulation changes implemented this year are in the last few pages of this annual report.

In August this new board decided that one of the primary goals for the BON was to survey the licensees and explore the desire of these nurses to join the Nurse Licensure Compact. This survey was created in part with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and mirrored a similar survey sent out in 2014. The results from the survey established that 92% of the 3,500 Alaska licensed nurses that responded to the survey were in favor of joining the national Nurse Licensure Compact. With this new information the board proceeded to work with the CBPL/ DEC Division and evaluate possible legislation. Governor Dunleavy submitted governors bills in both the Senate and the House. Unfortunately, both bills were not successful in making it out of committee, but the Board hopes that the Nurse Licensure Compact will be brought to the legislature again in the 2000-2021 session and that the NLC have renewed attention.

The new board received extensive board training from Director Sara Chambers. This training was instrumental in guiding the board in pursuing multiple regulation update projects not related to COVID-19 such as:

- 12 AAC 44.446 Loss of Prescriptive Authority
- 12 AAC 44.770 HIPAA
- 12 AAC 44.945 Herbal and Non-Herbal Medications and Supplements
- 12 AAC 44.858 Nurse Aide Training Regulations
- 12 AAC 44.610 3(b) Continuing Education requirements
- 12 AAC 44.319 (d) Fingerprint information for Examination
- 12 AAC 44.321 Review of Application repealed- checklist
- 12 AAC 44.990 Definitions
- 12 AAC 44.305 (H) License by Endorsement Non-English taught programs
- 12 AAC 44.440 6 Controlled substance prescription database
- 12 AAC 44.800 2(e) Nurse Aide Certification
- 12 AAC 44.805 4 (a)(b) English Proficiency test
- 12 AAC 44.610 3(b) Continuing Education List of Accrediting Agencies "remove maintained by board"

Chair Danette Schloeder and board member Catherine Hample are part of National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) NCLEX Examination Committee and the Executive Administrator has been taking Regulatory Courses through NCSBN at the International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS).

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**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part I (continued)**

**VALUES**

*The Alaska Board of Nursing endorses the following values for application within all Board activities and decisions, including those delegated to staff and themselves:*

- **Integrity:** Doing the right thing for the right reason through informed, open and ethical debate.
- **Accountability:** Taking ownership and responsibility for board processes and outcomes.
- **Quality:** Pursuing excellence and continuous improvement in all aspects of board work.
- **Vision:** Using the power of imagination and creative thought to foresee potential future nursing practice innovations.
- **Collaboration:** Forging solutions through appropriate partnerships, examining all sides of issues.
- **Leadership:** Providing positive direction for safe nursing practice in Alaska.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

*The board follows these Guiding principles*

**Protection of the public:**

- Nursing regulation exists to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public as they receive nursing services.
- Involvement of nurses in collaboration with the public in nursing regulation.
- Nursing education programs must meet statutory and regulatory requirements

**Competence of all nurses and nurse aide regulated by the Alaska Board of Nursing:**

- Nursing regulations define licensure and certification requirements for all levels of nursing practice.
- Competence is validated at initial Alaska licensure/certification/authorization and biannually.

**Due process and ethical decision-making:**

- Nursing regulation ensures due process rights for all nurses and nurse aides regulated by the Board of Nursing.
- All nurses and nurse aides regulated by the Alaska Board of Nursing are accountable for conduct based on legal, ethical and professional standards.

**Shared accountability and collaboration:**

- The Board of Nursing collaborates with individuals and agencies in the interest of public protection, patient safety, and the education of nurses.
- The Board of Nursing is committed to transparency in its deliberations and functions.

**Evidence-based regulation:**

- The Board of Nursing commits to being educated regarding current evidence-based standards of practice.
- Nursing regulation integrates current evidence-based standards of practice, advances in technology, and demographic and social research in its mission to protect the public.

**Responses to the marketplace and healthcare environment:**

- Nursing regulation requires timely and thoughtful responsiveness to the evolving marketplace and healthcare environment.
- Implements updating of nursing regulations allows clarity of scope of practice and congruence with evidence-based nursing standards and the state's changing needs for nursing care.

**Response to globalization of nursing:**

- Nursing regulation requires fair and ethical practices and policies to address the social, political and fiscal challenges of globalization.
- The Board of Nursing is committed to maintaining evidence-based standards of practice when considering the challenges of globalization.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part II**

**FY 2021's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

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

**BON SWOT ANALYSIS**

***Strengths***

The 2020 Board of Nursing has engaged new board members who are deeply committed to their profession and to ensuring they are following the values and principles of the board. The members have demonstrated that during a disaster they can come together and create regulatory measures to ensure Alaskans have access to healthcare.

***Weakness***

The vast numbers of the daily inquiries to the BON plus the sheer number of programs and licensees can cause backlog in responding to applicants, moving ahead with projects, and maintaining efficiencies. The Executive Administrator is often pulled into multiple different projects at the same time which can sometimes cause delays in other projects and shifting priorities. The new board continues to navigate the political landscape in regards to legislation regarding the nurse licensure compact and understand who may be allies and adversary.

***Opportunities***

The nurse licensure compact will streamline our boards licensing processes and decrease the application and licensing burden. This will allow for attention to be focused on community stakeholder engagement and new product lines and possible licenses. Further process improvement can occur by widening the role of the Nurse Consultant from chiefly CNA focused to engaging in more of the day to day activities such as answering scope of practice questions for RN and LPN and assisting with the creation of FAQ pages. An establishment of an education page on the website will decrease repetitive questions from Colleges and Universities related to licensure requirements of out of state applicants and the NLC would decrease inquires significantly as well. The licensing and records supervisor has opportunity to gather data on monthly license application submission types and trends and finalize online application project and complete with all nursing applications being available online. The Board has opportunities in creating legislation to join the NLC, regulations to meet the PDMP standards, and completing a regulation clean up of the education standards. Through NCSBN the Board has unlimited access to gather data on other umbrella nursing boards to look for best practices.

***Threats***

Preparing for disaster. The Board needs to be well equipped for the next disaster and have regulations constructed now, ready to support licensee's, without having to create emergency regulations. The Board mission, vision, values and strategic plan have not been updated for over a decade. This lack of currency could threaten the current Board's vision to be leaders in evidenced based practice in nursing. For such a large board, there is a relatively small number of board members and staff to complete all of the required. Without embracing the most current practices, the Board could remain antiquated in procedure and this will slow infrastructures considerably. Finally, the board needs to diversify revenue sources and look at other umbrella nursing boards throughout the nation to evaluate if there is potential revenue streams that are being missed and opportunities to incorporate these in Alaska.

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**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part II (continued)**

**FY 2021's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

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

**FY 2021 Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) Continue legislative quest to become a member of the national Nurse Licensure Compact.
- 2) Stay current with national board of nursing regulatory and licensure trends through active membership in National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS).
- 3) Review and update mission, vision and values statements and update current strategic plan if required. Create a strategic plan dashboard to monitor progress toward the goals.
- 4) Continue to engage with licensees through webinars, attending conferences, guest speaking in Alaska at events, participating in joint ventures with the Department of Health and Social Services, create a quarterly newsletter that will highlight the history and success of Alaskan nurses and be available to answer questions in a timely fashion for licensees. Post communications on BON webpage.
- 5) Complete PDMP multiple regulation projects to be in compliance, and support evidenced based practice and update APRN applications to coincide with new PDMP regulations.
- 6) Create a military education pathway for military medics to qualify to take the NCLEX-PN in compliance with Alaska LPN educational requirement-research and discussion phase by the Board with anticipated regulation changes.
- 7) Ensure all nursing applications are online.
- 8) Update the board advisory opinions and create a FAQ page on BON website for each license type so that answers to commonly asked questions can be found in a timely fashion.
- 9) Gather concise data from investigations related to number and type of cases opened, closed and average length of time for cases to be completed.

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**Sunset Audit Recommendations**

**Date of Last Legislative Audit:** 4/27/2018  
**Board Sunset Date:** 6/30/2025

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	The board should adopt regulations to address the distance delivery of nursing services through technology.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	<b>AAC 44.925. Standards of practice for telehealth.</b> (a) The guiding principles for telehealth practice in the American Telemedicine Association (ATA), Core Operational Guidelines for Telehealth Services Involving Provider-Patient Interaction, dated May 2014, and the American Psychiatric Association (APS) and the American Telemedicine Association (ATA), Best Practices in Videoconferencing-Based Telemental Health, dated April 2018, are adopted by reference as the standards of practice when providing treatment, rendering a diagnosis, prescribing, dispensing, or administering a prescription or controlled substance without first conducting an in-person physical examination under this section.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	These regulations are out for public comment and should be made permanent at the next board meeting.
<b>Date Completed:</b>	May 6, 2020

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	The board should take steps to ensure the appropriate entities are notified when a licensee’s prescriptive authority is suspended, revoked, or surrendered.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	Created- 12 AAC 44.446. LOSS OF PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY. The chief investigator for the division shall notify the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) of any final decision revoking or suspending prescriptive authority for a person licensed under AS 08.68. The chief investigator shall notify the board’s executive administrator when notification to the DEA and PDMP has been completed.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	Ensure follow up with chief investigator.
<b>Date Completed:</b>	August, 2020

## Sunset Audit Recommendations (continued)

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	The DCBPL chief investigator should ensure nurse investigations are adequately documented and performed timely.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	Presently, the board is receiving a report on how many cases and which types of cases are in progress and a closed quarterly.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	Ensure board chair and members are reviewing the reports.
<b>Date Completed:</b>	May, 2020

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	The board chair should take steps to ensure the required certified nursing aid (CNA) on-site training program reviews and self-evaluations are conducted prior to reapproving the programs.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	12 AAC 44.858 Nurse Aide Training Regulations
<b>Next Steps:</b>	The nurse consultant Joan Green has coordinated with all of the CNA training programs and set up annual program self evaluations and program reviews this year.
<b>Date Completed:</b>	June 6, 2020