

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

#4 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
January 27-30, 2021	Forth Worth, TX	2	0	
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:				
Regulatory Boards: The FARB Forum is educationally driven and includes sessions related to administering professional licensing boards. It provides a critical forum for information exchange between regulatory boards to help solve the mutual problems of participating associations as well as engage in activities to improve the standards of professions, the delivery of services, and the services of regulatory boards themselves.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$4,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,100.00

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

#5 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
September 13-24, 2021	Virtual	2	0	
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:				
The 2021 Annual Educational Conference for the Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR), will focus on compliance and discipline, testing and examinations, entry to practice and beyond and administration, legislation and policy. CLEAR promotes regulatory excellence through conferences, educational programs, webinars, seminars and symposia. The organization provides networking opportunities, publications, and research services for those involved with, or affected by, professional and occupational regulation.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$890.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$890.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$890.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$890.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
AASCB Membership Dues	American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB)	\$900.00

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

This membership type is appropriate for counseling licensure boards and their appointed board members. The membership fee of \$900 includes membership for the Board Administrator and two appointed board members, a subscription to the organization's newsletter, The Liaison, invitations to AASCB programs and meetings, 2 delegate votes (one can be by the Board Administrator) at the Annual Business Meeting, and discounted annual conference fees.

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

Cost Per Event: \$0.00

- Not Applicable

Number of Events: 0

Product or Service	Provider	Total Cost
		\$0.00

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

Summary of FY 2022 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$6,500.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$30,590.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$900.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	-\$10,800.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$27,190.00

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Legislation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022

No Recommendations

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

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

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Regulation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022

No Recommendations

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

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

1. Update the Code of Ethics to reflect the latest edition – 2010 – 2015.
2. Modify regulations related to Approved Supervisor qualifications and increase required training to become an approved supervisor from 6 hours to 25 hours of CEU's with 12.5 being synchronous.
3. Modify regulation to accept hours of supervised experience by a non-certified supervisor once the supervisor becomes approved as an approved supervisor.
4. Modify required supervision to have a minimum of 1 hour/month of approved supervision.
5. Modify regulation regarding supervision to be synchronous.

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Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2021's goals and objectives, and how they were met:

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 in order to improve professionalism and provide greater protection for the public. The board worked with the regulation specialist to facilitate the approval of the proposed regulations of FY19. In addition, the board met for emergency meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and evaluated regulations that may pose a hindrance to services and proposed emergency regulations to increase accessibility and provision of services during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

2. The board will continue to review applications for licensing Professional Counselors by credentials and examination, for Approved Counselor Supervisors, as well as audit for continuing education.

The board continued to review applications for licensed Professional Counselors, for approved Counselor Supervisors, and CEU audits in-between meetings by secure-portal ballots uploaded onto OnBoard's secure site. This fostered public safety as well as licensure timeliness. The board has continued to review all applications, utilizing the statutes and regulations as the basis for its decisions. Each application has been reviewed individually and thoroughly to ensure public safety.

3. The board will continue to send delegates to national conferences and/or trainings in FY 22.

The board has listed the beneficial conferences in order of priority:

- (1) American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB)
- (2) American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA)
- (3) American Counseling Association (ACA)
- (4) Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB)
- (5) Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR) Annual Conference
- (6) National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)

4. The board will continue to monitor disciplinary actions.

Individual board members have worked collaboratively with the board investigator(s) to review cases involving jurisdictional questions and to give guidance on need for further review and/or disciplinary sanctions. The board receives investigation reports at each meeting and reviews any pending consent agreements.

5. The board will continue to monitor its proposed regulation changes regarding approved counselor supervisors.

In an effort to increase professionalism and protection for the public, the board has proposed a regulation change that will increase the required CEU training in order to become an Alaska approved supervisor. The board reevaluated this regulation change during FY21 meetings and determined that the proposed 40 CEUs required (currently, the requirement was 6 CEUs) was not what board discussion and public comment was still in agreement with. This requirement was changed to requiring 25 CEUs, with half required to be synchronous.

6. The board will continue to work for consistency in licensing by credential under 08.29.120.

The board proposed a regulation revision that would bring consistency between CEU's required for licensing renewal for Alaska licensees and applicants for Licensing by Credential. The board will continue to review all applications, utilizing the statutes and regulations as the basis for its decisions. Each application will continue to be reviewed **individually** and thoroughly to ensure public safety.

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I (continued)

FY 2021's goals and objectives, and how they were met:

7. The board will monitor the activity of the Alaska Counseling Association (AKCA) should one be restarted by professional counselors.

The board is hopeful professional counselors in Alaska will unite to form a new counseling association. In the event that happens, we will readily assign a liaison to attend any meetings, will encourage the association's members to attend board meetings, and will work to foster a mutual and cooperative exchange of information regarding issues affecting counselors in Alaska.

8. The board will monitor licensing fees for LPC applications and renewals.

The board will continue to monitor biannual licensing fees – whether they are reasonable and affordable for Alaska counselors – as well as continuing to monitor fiscal efficiency to ensure the solvency of our board. The board's review(s) of dues will be shared with the division.

9. The board will monitor issues of portability.

The board believes that Alaska has a timely process for licensure for licensees who hold equivalent licenses from other states. The board continues to expedite any military/military spouse applications.

10. The board will continue to meet quarterly.

Because of COVID-19, the board did not have any in-person meetings. All meetings were held by teleconference. The board continues to advocate for in-person meetings. The board will continue to meet quarterly in order to progress efficiently with processing all forms of applications, address issues pertaining to regulations, monitor the budget, address issues related to investigations, and to address issues that may arise regarding the counseling profession to ensure the highest level of practice in the profession of counseling and ensure public safety.

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Goals and Objectives

Part II

FY 2022'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 revisions that would provide both protection to the public, as well as streamlined and efficient pathways to licensure.**

The board plans to continue reviewing relevant statutes and regulations and to discuss and work on changes as deemed necessary. This year, the board made an emergency amendment which was proving to be a well-received change, permanent. This permanent amendment change allows distance delivery of supervision.

2. **The board will continue to review applications for licensing Professional Counselors by credential and examination, for Approved Counselor Supervisors, in addition to conducting audits of continuing education.**

Always with the thought of protecting of the public, the board closely reviews applications. The board ensures that each application is in accordance with the statutes and regulations of our state. It is considered imperative that licensed professional counselors continue to develop and refine their skills by completing continuing education. The board conducts audits to insure the continued competency of our professional counselors.

3. **The board will continue to send delegates to national conferences and/or trainings in FY 22.**

The board has listed the beneficial conferences in order of priority.:

- (1) American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB)
- (2) American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA)
- (3) American Counseling Association (ACA)
- (4) Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB)
- (5) Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR) Annual Conference
- (6) National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)

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 to monitor disciplinary actions.**

The board receives investigations reports at each quarterly meeting. The board reviews consent agreements, determining if they will be accepted or changed according to previous, related agreements (according to precedents set previously, to ensure fairness.) Through the Investigative Unit, the board monitors disciplinary actions, ensuring that all terms of the action are completed.

5. **The board will continue to monitor its proposed regulation changes regarding approved counselor supervisors.**

The board will continue to monitor the proposed regulation changes necessary to ensure competency and professionalism in Alaska approved counselor supervisors. The board will stay in contact with our Regulations Specialist.

6. **The board will continue to work for consistency in licensing by credential under 08.29.120.**

The board will continue to review all applications, utilizing the statutes and regulations as the basis for its decisions. Each application will continue to be reviewed individually and thoroughly according to statutes and regulations, to ensure safety for the public and fairness to all applicants.

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II (continued)

FY 2022's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

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

7. The board will monitor licensing fees for LPC applications and renewals.

The board will continue to be fiscally responsible in order for the biannual licensing fees to remain reasonable and affordable for Alaska counselors, while monitoring the solvency of our board. This work is done in cooperation with the division.

8. The board will monitor issues of portability.

While the board has always highlighted a safe, but expedited licensure process, it will send members to national conferences in order to stay abreast of the latest discussions and other states' legislation related to licensure portability and how it affects the Alaska professional counselors.

9. The board will continue to meet quarterly.

The board will continue to meet quarterly in order to progress efficiently with processing all forms of applications, address issues pertaining to regulations, monitor the budget, address issues related to investigations, and to address issues that may arise regarding the counseling profession; all while ensuring public safety and striving for the highest level of professionalism with our licensed professional counselors. The board will strive to have face-to-face meetings in the future.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 2018
Board Sunset Date: 2026

Audit Recommendation: The board received no new recommendations

Action Taken: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

Date Completed: N/A