

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Alaska Board of Professional Counselors

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
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**Board of Professional Counselors
FY 2022 Annual Report**

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**Board of Professional Counselors
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Alice Baum Board Chair, Professional Counselor	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2018	Mar 1, 2022
Janece Richard Vice Chair, Professional Counselor	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2018	Mar 1, 2022
Dorene Hagen Board Chair, Professional Counselor	Homer	Mar 1, 2021	Mar 1, 2025
Sammie O'Neal Vice Chair, Professional Counselor	Eagle River	Mar 1, 2021	Mar 1, 2025
Eleanor Vinson Public Member	Juneau	Oct 26, 2016	Mar 1, 2024
Teresa Cotton Professional Counselor	Bethel	May 25, 2022	Mar 1, 2026

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Identification of Staff

Logan Bugayong - Licensing Examiner

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Greg Francois - Chief Investigator

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**Board of Professional Counselors
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Narrative Statement

The Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 22) Report of Activities is based on activity of the Board of Professional Counselors (PCO) between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. During this period, the board held four regular meetings, Aug 2021 (via zoom), Dec 2021 (in person), Feb 2022 (via zoom), and Apr 2022 (via zoom). The board met for an additional meeting to review and discuss SB 21 on Dec 2021 (via zoom), a new regulation section that establishes expedited temporary courtesy license for an active duty military member or spouse of an active duty military member of the armed forces of the United States who meets the requirements of the regulations to practice as a professional counselor. This board has worked hard at each board meeting towards reviewing regulations that are outdated or ineffective, and implementing changes needed, in order to remove unnecessary barriers to licensing, while ensuring safety and best practice standards for clients served. In addition to the board meetings, the board worked to review between 20-30 applications monthly, perform investigations- each board member reviews 1-3 allegations of misconduct per month, researching between meetings, updates on counseling compacts, and meeting with legislation regarding proposed statute changes. The board also reviewed audit renewal applications to monitor compliance with the continuing education requirements.

Board members have not attended in-person conferences due to limited financial resources, but members attended the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) conference, and American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA) via teleconference (Zoom).

“The express purpose of the board is to protect the public by regulating the profession of Professional Counseling. The board accomplishes this by reviewing applications for licensure to ensure minimal professional competence and fitness for licensure, investigating allegations of misconduct on the part of licensees and upholding the rules of code pertaining to licensure, of which those rules and code are meant to ensure the protection of the public.” (AASCB Annual Conference 2018). The Alaska Board of Professional Counselors helps the public identify professionals who have willingly met the standards set by the counseling profession.

Reviewing applications for licensure: During this past fiscal year, the board has reviewed all applications received in a timely manner, including completed applications for Professional Counselor licensure by examination and by credentials, approved Supervisor Certification, continuing education units (CEU’s), seminar and class approvals, license reinstatements, requests for alternate supervision, and extensions of examination time. The board utilizes the online platform of OnBoard, which allows the board to review the above mentioned in batches bi-monthly. This platform enables applicants’ applications to be processed in a timely manner and facilitates a quick pathway toward licensure. Reviewing the applications outside of the board meetings has also allowed the board to focus its board meeting time on additional matters pertaining to the board, such as investigation review training, regulation review and revisions, and specific amendments. The board agrees that reviewing applications at in-person meetings reduces mistakes and misinformation.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Narrative Statement (continued)

Investigating allegations of misconduct: Individual board members have worked collaboratively with the board investigators to review cases involving jurisdictional questions, and to give guidance on need for further review and/or disciplinary sanctions. The investigations department has provided very helpful training during meetings, to assist board members in their role in the investigative process. The investigations department has provided the board with comprehensive and timely updates regarding investigative matters. The Investigations Unit has done an exceptional job working collaboratively with our board to ensure public safety. According to the investigations department, twenty-two cases are opened, and thirty-two cases have been closed.

Regulation Management: The board continues to evaluate the necessity, clarity, and effectiveness of the PCO regulations. The board recommended regulation revisions to enhance professionalism and ensure protection of the public in FY21-22. Current completed regulations are listed here as well. These revisions will reflect the board's high expectations of training and excellence.

Regulation Revisions in progress:

- Amend 12 AAC 62.400. Distance Professional Services. (h) Strike "During a disaster emergency declared by the governor"
- Amend 12 AAC 62.100 and strike (d) and (e) to make the lifespan of an application congruent to the Division's standards.
- Amend 12 AAC 62.310.(a) to read:
"A licensee applying for renewal of a professional counselor license must complete the number of continuing education contact hours set out in this section; at least three of the contact hours must be in professional ethics, at least three of the contact hours must be in telehealth, at least three of the contact hours must be regarding suicidality, and at least three of the contact hours must be in cultural competency."
- Amend 12 AAC 62.310 and add a section stating that no more than 12 credit contact hours may be acquired in one day.

Regulation Revisions completed:

- 12 AAC 62.135 Temporary military courtesy license to practice as a professional counselor. COMPLETED
- (Effective 2/20/22)
12 AAC 62.130(5)
Changed to require that 20 of the 40 required continuing education credits be through attendance/synchronous courses.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Narrative Statement (continued)

- (Effective 2/20/22)
12AAC 62.200L(a)(4) Amended to require that in order to be accepted as a supervisor of professional counselors, one must submit documentation of completed at least 25 contact hours of continuing education related to the supervision of professional counselors withing the preceding two years. Twelve of those hours must be through attendance/synchronous. It also listed what would be accepted/approved.
- The board clarified that they would like Board of Professional Counselors to have a chapter wide definition of “synchronous”, instead of having the term apply to a specific section, 12 AAC 62.310(g).
- In addition, instead of having “face-to-face” defined as synonymous to synchronous in 12 AAC 62.220(f), the board would like “face-to-face” to be defined as “happening precisely at the same time during which the instructor and attendee are able to communicate in real time.”
- The board specified that in their amended draft of 12 AAC 62.220(e), the board does intend to remove prerequisites and prior approval before conducting distance supervision. The board plans to meet with legislators in their upcoming February meeting and will work to address the statutory supervision requirements in this meeting.
- (Effective 2/20/22)
12 AAC 62.220. Supervised Experience
Changed to state that an applicant must accumulate a minimum of one hour of face to face supervision per month.
- (Effective 2/20/22)
Changed AMHCA Code of ethics from 2010 to 2015, 2020.

Reflecting back on FY 21-22, we celebrate the following highlights: The board was able to work collaboratively and efficiently to review all applications in a timely manner. The board was also able to work on regulation projects and work collaboratively with the investigations unit in order to provide greater safety and professionalism to the industry of professional counseling. We were grateful for the loyal service and experience Alice Baum provided as a Board Chair from Mar 2021-Mar 2022 and the experience Janece Richard brought to the board as a member from Mar 2018-Mar 2022. The board elected a new board chair, Dori Hagen. We are grateful to the staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing for assisting us with budget reports, and administrative services to be able to accomplish the aforementioned. We are especially grateful for the licensing examiners and supervisors, and investigators that worked directly with our board.

As we look forward to FY22, we are hopeful that there will be a return to board meetings being held in person, as the collaborative benefit of being able to work in person with each board member as we collectively deliberate over matters that affect this profession is invaluable. In addition, we are hopeful that all conference travel requests will be approved so that our state will be represented at each prioritized conference and that each board member will have the opportunity to grow professionally as a board member, and to network with other state boards to glean valuable wisdom in discerning best practices for our state board.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Narrative Statement (continued)

The board continues work on the following:

1. Reaching out to our legislators to help introduce the board's desired changes to statutes.
2. Right Touch Regulations-The board will continue to examine all statutes and regulations to identify any outdated, inefficient, or barriers to licensing of professional counselors.
3. Counseling Compact- The board continues discussion about participating in the Counseling Compact which is an interstate compact, or a contract among states, allowing professional counselors licensed and residing in a compact member state to practice in other compact member states without need for multiple licenses.
4. Board travel – The board will continue to prioritize 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.
5. Future board meetings: Considering the budget, the board intends to continue to hold the majority of meetings via telehealth (Zoom), with one of the meetings being in person in the fiscal year.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board's fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt-supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as "other" so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
September 15-16 2022	Anchorage	3	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 1,200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$ 650.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,000.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
December 8-9, 2022	Anchorage	3	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 1,200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$ 650.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,000.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February	Juneau	4	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 1,600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$ 650.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,500.00

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (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:

- Airfare:
- Hotel:
- Ground:
- Conference:
- Other:

Total Estimated Cost: \$ 0.00

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

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

- Airfare:
- Hotel:
- Ground:
- Conference:
- Other:

Total Estimated Cost: \$ 0.00

Board of Professional Counselors

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	TBD	2	1

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

The board has adopted the AMHCA’s code of ethics as its code of ethics that governs ethical decision making for AK licensed professional counselors. Attendance at this conference enables board representatives to network with representatives of AMHCA, as well as other licensed professional counselors, in order to stay abreast of best practices and ensure quality professional counseling in the state of AK.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$800.00			\$800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other				\$0.00
Describe “Other” (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 800.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 800.00

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

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

#2 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
January 26/28, 2023	Nashville, TN	2	

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 type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,600.00			\$1,600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$900.00			\$900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00			\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$800.00			\$800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$700.00			\$700.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,100.00

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

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

#3 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
August 3-5, 2022	Philadelphia, PA	2	0

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

Protecting the Public & Propelling the Profession are themes woven through this year's Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit. The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) bring you the 2022 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit. The summit is intended to expand learning and networking opportunities for state licensure board regulators. We hope you leave the summit energized and equipped with new knowledge to lead.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$900.00	\$900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$100.00	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:			\$800.00	\$800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other				\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400.00

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

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

#4 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	TBD	2	

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

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, network with other state board members to glean helpful ideas to enhance our board service, and give Alaska voice in national decisions affecting Alaska LPCs.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,600.00			\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$900.00			\$900.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00			\$100.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$800.00			\$800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$700.00			\$700.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,100.00

Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

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

#5 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	TBD	2	1

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

The American Counseling Association (ACA) – ACA is a non-for-profit, professional and educational organization that is dedicated to the growth and enhancement of the counseling profession. Attendance at this conference would help board members glean valuable information in how to continue to grow in fostering qualified professional counselors.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,600.00			\$1,600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$900.00			\$900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00			\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$890.00			\$890.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$600.00			\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 4,090.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,490.00

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

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

#6 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
September 14-17, 2022	Louisville, KY	2	1

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,600.00			\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$900.00			\$900.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$100.00			\$100.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$890.00			\$890.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other				\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 3,490.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,490.00

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (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

- Not Applicable

Cost Per Event:

Number of Events:

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

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

Summary of FY 2023 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$9,500.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$19,380.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$900.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	- \$ 3,400.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$26,380.00

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2023

No Recommendations

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

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

Sec 08.29.210 – Supervisor Requirements

Specify “5 years post-master’s counseling experience”

4 year renewal period

6 supervisory ce’s each renewal period – remove (b) to remove perpetuity of certification (Sec. 08.29.140 license renewal)

Sec 08.29.110 – Qualifications for Licensure

(a) remove "submits two letters of recommendation from professional counselors who are familiar with the applicant's practice of professional counseling"

(a)(6) remove “because of the remote location of the counselor”

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2023

No Recommendations

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

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

12 AAC 62.400.Distance Professional Services.(h)

Strike “During a disaster emergency declared by the governor”

Amend 12 AAC 62.310.(a) to read:

“A licensee applying for renewal of a professional counselor license must complete the number of continuing education contact hours set out in this section; at least three of the contact hours must be in professional ethics, at least three of the contact hours must be in telehealth, at least three of the contact hours must be regarding suicidality, and at least three of the contact hours must 155 be in cultural competency.”

Amend 12 AAC 62.310 and add a section stating that no more than 12 contact hours may be acquired in one day.

Amend 12 AAC 62.100(d) to read an application submitted under this section is considered abandoned one year after the date of the application and to strike section (e) from the regulation.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2022'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 FY21. In addition, the board submitted proposed regulations to the regulation specialist with regards to telehealth, continuing education requirements, and the number of education credits that can be met in one day.

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 On-Board'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 20.

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

- The American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) – 2 board members attended via zoom.
- Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Annual Forum - ?
- The American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA) – a board member attended via zoom.
- The America Counseling Association (ACA) Conference – no members attended as conference was in person and travel funds were not available.

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. According to the investigations department, twenty-two cases are opened, and thirty-two cases have been closed.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I (continued)

FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:

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

A regulation change has been implemented as of February 20, 2022: 12AAC 62.200L(a)(4) Amended to require that in order to be accepted as a supervisor of professional counselors, one must submit documentation of completed at least 25 contact hours of continuing education related to the supervision of professional counselors within the preceding two years. Twelve of those hours must be through attendance/synchronous. It also listed what would be accepted/approved.

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

7. The board will monitor the activity of the Alaska Counseling Association (AKCA) should one be restarted by professional counselors, and will consider support of any legislation put forward by a new state counseling association.

The Alaska Counseling Association (AKCA) association continues to be inactive.

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

9. The board will monitor issues of portability.

The board believes that AK has a and timely pathway toward licensure for licensees holding equivalent licenses out of state. The board was able to have two board members attend the American Association for State Counseling Regulatory Boards (AASCB) annual meeting via zoom, where issues of portability were further discussed among varying state attendees.

10. The board will continue to meet quarterly.

The board was approved for one face to face meeting and three teleconference meetings. The board met in person at the December 2021 meeting, and met teleconference via zoom on August 2021, February 2022 and April 2022. As mentioned previously, the board feels that it can conduct its most effective work during in person meetings.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2023'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 will monitor the potential impact that the statutes and regulations may have on military families and will work to foster smoother, clearer, faster pathways to licensure. The board plans to continue reviewing relevant 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 credential and examination, for Approved Counselor Supervisors, and audits for continuing education.

For the protection of the public, it is imperative that the board closely review applications for licensing Professional Counselors and for approving Counselor Supervisors.

3. The board will continue to send delegates to national conferences and/or trainings in FY 2022.

The board has listed the beneficial conferences in order of priority.: a. The American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) b. Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Annual Forum (#2) c. The American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA) (#3) d. The America Counseling Association (ACA) Conference (#4) 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, with our Division Investigations section, will continue to monitor and be involved in disciplinary actions.

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.

**Board of Professional Counselors
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II (continued)

FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

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

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, whether by exam or by credentials will continue to be reviewed individually and thoroughly to ensure public safety.

7. 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.

8. The board will monitor issues of portability.

However, there are many questions to be addressed that past Boards did not find to be advantageous for Alaska. Some of these dealt with the questions of which state Board would pay for Investigations if the Counselor was licensed in another state, not Alaska; how to pay for staff and administration, etc.

9. The board will continue to meet quarterly and finds it detrimental to not meet face to face.

The board will continue to meet quarterly to proceed efficiently with processing all forms of applications; address issues pertaining to regulations; monitor the budget in conjunction with the Department; address issues related to investigations; and address issues that may arise regarding profession licensing for Counselors; with the goal of ensuring smooth and efficient licensing and monitoring of the practice in the profession of counseling, while ensuring public safety.

Board of Professional Counselors
FY 2022 Annual Report

Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 01/01/2018

Board Sunset Date: 01/01/2026

Audit Recommendation:

The board received no new recommendations.

Action Taken:

N/A

Next Steps:

N/A

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed: