

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020

STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD



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

**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	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Jennifer Carlson Chair, Physical Therapist	Fairbanks	March 1, 2017	March 1, 2021
Keith Poorbaugh Physical Therapist	Willow	May 26, 2017	March 1, 2022
Robert Calhoon Occupational Therapist	Anchorage	March 1, 2018	March 1, 2022
Enlow Walker Secretary, Physician	North Pole	May 17, 2018	March 1, 2021
Lisa Radley Physical Therapist	Anchorage	March 1, 2020	March 1, 2024
Nathan Missler Occupational Therapist	Anchorage	June 26, 2020	March 1, 2024
Ruth Kostik Public Member	Juneau	March 1, 2013	March 1, 2020
James Parietti Physical Therapist	Chugiak	March 1, 2013	March 1, 2020
Mari Margaret Celeste Tydingco Occupational Therapist	Sitka	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2020

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Identification of Staff

Connie Petz – Licensing Examiner

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Chelsea Childress – Records and Licensing Supervisor

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Erika Pricksat – Investigator III

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Narrative Statement

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the Board held one in-person meeting on 10/3-4/2019; a half day videoconference 3/26/20 as well as and two noon video conferences 1/7/20 and 4/24/20.

The Board issued a combined total of 213 new licenses:

117 Physical Therapist

20 Physical Therapy Assistant

ZERO 120-day limited permits issued for any Physical Therapist or Physical Therapy Assistant

70 Occupational Therapist

6 Occupational Therapist Assistant

ZERO 120-day limited permits issued for any Occupational Therapist or Occupational Therapist Assistant

The Board was chaired by Ruth Kostik, Public Member with James Parietti, Physical Therapist, as secretary until their terms expired on March 1, 2020. At that point Jennifer Carlson, Physical Therapist began her role as Chair of the board and Enlow Walker, Physician Member, his role as Secretary. Current board members are posted on the Board's website with their appointed, reappointed and expiration dates. Three veteran members left the board on March 1, 2020. The public member board seat has yet to be filled. The board recognizes the value of integrating new board members with more experienced members.

One regulatory project which the Board had worked on for several years was successfully enacted on September 29, 2019.

There was some language changed for clarity and key changes were:

- Physical therapy examination applicants may be approved by the board to take the national examination prior to graduation if their school provides the board with documentation that they are anticipated to meet graduation requirements.
- Foreign educated graduates and their preceptor will now use a national performance evaluation tool approved by the board.
- NBCOT recertification is now accepted for occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant continuing education.
- Telerehabilitation no longer requires the Alaska licensed therapist to be in the state of Alaska at the time they are providing therapy services to a resident in the state of Alaska.

A major priority of the board has been statutory changes which require enactment by the Alaska State Legislature. The Board considers this a 'clean up' bill for outdated terminology and clarification in the statutes. It has been introduced two times by Senator Giessel. Most recently as SB47 which made it to the House side with one modification initiated by the chiropractic community as they sought and successfully removed the international term of physiotherapy for physical therapists. That modification delayed the bills progress. Then due to the COVID crisis, SB47 did not make it through this session. The Board will attempt to have new legislation introduced in January 2021.

The Board approved a recommendation by the Division for a license fee decrease and that regulation was enacted on March 13, 2020. Physical and occupational therapist license fees were reduced by \$40.00. Physical therapy and occupational therapy assistant fees were reduced by \$45.00.

FY 2020 Narrative Statement (continued)

The Board worked with other state agencies in dealing with the Covid-19 crisis impact on scope of practice. Guidelines were created indicating what types of conditions and procedures were considered Emergent/Urgent during this crisis. Licensees were directed to stay informed with the State of Alaska health mandates. The Board also voted to waive the continuing competency requirements and audits for the June 2020 license renewal cycle due to the Covid-19 disruptions and per authority of SB241.

The Board continues to:

- Publish meeting minutes on the Board's web site and a link is provided to the annual report.
- Discuss PT licensure compact and track how the compact is working for currently participating states. Also following developments and progress toward a possible compact for OT.
- Work towards updating continuing competencies.
- State that therapists are trained to work in their scope of practice and the Board will not create a laundry list of what a therapist can and cannot do.
- Review applications for licensure and examination, review audits, disciplinary actions and respond to all correspondence.
- Train new Board members and members continue to gain understanding in reading statutes and regulations.
- Work with national and state organizations, including APTA, FSBPT, AOTA, NBCOT, AKOTA and AKPTA.
- Attend national conferences each year if 3rd party paid.
- Work on what qualifies a person to re-enter practice.
- Utilize the OnBoard program for voting and board business.
- Adapt to ZOOM meetings versus in person meetings due to budgetary constraints.

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2021

The 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
October 1-2, 2020	Anchorage	7	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$1,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: M&IE, and cab fare/parking (which may be out of pocket)			\$700.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$3,500.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Spring 2021	Juneau	7	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Zoom Meeting			\$0.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$0.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
As needed	Teleconference, Juneau		
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$0.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2021 (continued)

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
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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

Describe "Other" (break out all sections):

Total Estimated Cost: **\$0.00**

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
October 22-24, 2020	California	2	1

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 (FSBPT) 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.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):		M&IE, and cab fare/parking (which may be out of pocket)		
Net Total:	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$6,500.00	\$7,300.00

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

#2 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
2021	TBD	1	1	
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board: 2021 NBCOT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STATE REGULATORY LEADERSHIP FORUM; location and date to be determined. Rob Calhoon or alternate board member and staff Connie Petz to attend.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE, and cab fare/parking (which may be out of pocket)				
Net Total:	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$4,500.00	\$5,300.00

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

#3 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
2021	TDB	2	1	
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board: FEDERATION OF STATE BOARDS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (FSBPT) Regulatory Training for Members and Board Staff on issues for therapists and regulators. Date and location to be determined by FSBPT. Two board members, or alternate board members and staff to attend.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE, and cab fare/parking (which may be out of pocket)				
Net Total:	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$7,200.00	\$7,800.00

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

#4 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
2021	TBD	1		
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board: National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy NBCOT orientation for new OT regulators meeting in 2021. City and dates to be determined by the NBCOT.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):		M&IE, and cab fare/parking (which may be out of pocket)		
Net Total:	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$3,450.00	\$3,850.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2021 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
FSBPT Membership	Federation of Boards of Physical Therapy	\$1,500.00

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

FSBPT informs the board of national issues, offers the national examination, reports on examination scores, disciplinary actions, creates the exam questions and monitors this industry. They also pay for board members and staff to attend trainings and annual meetings.

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:

SumMarchy of FY 2021 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$3,500.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$24,250.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$0.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	-\$24,250.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$3,500.00

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Legislation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2021

No Recommendations

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

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

The board has had legislation introduced two times but has yet to see successful passage of a bill over the past 4 years. They may seek re-introduction for the January 2021 legislative session and this will be discussed at their October 2021 board meeting.

Their goals have been to “clean-up” outdated verbiage and to clarify laws.

Alaska State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board 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.

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Legislation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2021 (continued)

- 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 Proposed Legislation for FY 2021

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

Legislation – SB47 introduced by Senator Giessel was derailed in the 31st Legislative session due to COVID-19. Although the Board had solicited and received letters of support from state and national professional organizations and gave public comment during the Senate hearings.

The Board held meetings which focused on the Governor's COVID 19 - Health Mandates.

March 26, 2020:

- Developed PTOT Emergent/Urgent guidelines for licensees and published to the website.
- Determined waiver of continuing competency for the 2020 license renewal period was necessary.

April 24, 2020:

- Amended PTOT Emergent/Urgent guidelines per new COVID 19 - Health Mandates.
- Per enactment of SB241 adopted Waiver of continuing competency for the 2020 license renewal period.
 - Any licensee under consent agreement was required to meet the license renewal requirements.
- License Renewal applications were amended to allow the option to waive continuing competency.

Overview of meetings held in FY20:

The Board monitored Compact legislation throughout Fiscal year 2020. During the October 3-4 2019 in-person meeting,

The Board reviewed the following webpages:

<https://www.fsbpt.org/Free-Resources/Physical-Therapy-Licensure-Compact> and

<https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/Physical-Therapy-Licensure-Compact/Licensure-Compact-FAQs>

The Board determined that 12 AAC 54.100. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS may need to be viewed differently as more and more states join the compact. Compact legislation: requires digital fingerprinting which seems to be the number one barrier to joining the compact. The Board recognized they do not have the resources to take any legislative action themselves, but made it clear to local entities such as the AKAPTA that the Board is in support of Compact legislation.

The Board reviewed the APTA and FSBPT Joint Communication on Continuing Competence Paper, dated: January 23, 2012 as well as the FSBPT continuing competence model. The Board recognized that this will be an on-going project and will likely require legislation to make the necessary changes.

The Board was limited in attending national conferences secondary to personal schedules and work schedules as well as cancellation of national conferences secondary to COVID-19. These educational opportunities allow Board members and staff to engage with their Board peers while also staying informed with changes on a national level.

The Board continues to work on developing tools for standard operating procedures for Board members.

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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:

- 1) Update FAQs on PT/OT Licensing Board Home page.
- 2) Re-introduce Legislation in the 32nd Legislative Session.
- 3) Track state licensure compact legislation – and continue to monitor states joining the compact. The board is in support of licensure compacts.
- 4) Evaluate Limited Permit use and necessity – they are not being used for the intended purpose but as a stepping-stone to permanent licensure.
- 5) Create Standard Operating Procedures for Board members to review applications, audits, terminology (acronyms) and other Board tips.
- 6) Revise continuing education requirements based on research to expand options for demonstrating continuing professional development.
- 7) Continue to support attendance at national conferences. The Board recognizes it educates Board members and staff as well as keeps them informed of national issues that affect all licensing jurisdictions.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 06/17/2013
Board Sunset Date: 06/22/2022

Audit Recommendation:	DCBPL's Director should continue to improve the investigative case management systems integrity and confidentiality.
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Action Taken:	A task force of investigative staff and IT professionals was formed to identify weaknesses and propose solutions.
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Next Steps:	Not applicable
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Date Completed:	Ongoing monitoring by the Division
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