

# *Annual Report*

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# *Fiscal Year 2021*

## **Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners**



**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.

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners  
FY 2021 Annual Report**

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**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners  
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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>Dr. Erin Johnson</b> Board Chair, Psychologist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2019	Mar 01, 2023
<b>Dr. Bradley McConnell</b> Psychologist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 01, 2024
<b>Bernard Gatewood</b> Public Member	Fairbanks	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2024
<b>Dr. Sherri L. Scott</b> Psychological Associate	Anchorage	Jan 15, 2021	Mar 1, 2024
<b>Allen Levy</b> Former Board Chair, Psy. Associate	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2012	Nov 6, 2020
<b>Dr. Christina Durham</b> Former Board Chair, Psychologist	Anchorage	Jan 29, 2020	Nov 6, 2020

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**Identification of Staff**

**Logan Bugayong – Licensing Examiner**

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
Post Office Box 110806  
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**Joshua Hardy – Investigator**

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**Billy Homestead – Investigator**

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**Greg Francois – Chief Investigator**

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# Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners FY 2021 Annual Report

## Narrative Statement

The FY 2021 report of activities is based on the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners meetings held between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. During that time, the board held three quarterly meetings on August 13-14, November 5-6, and April 22. The two-day meeting scheduled for January 2021 was cancelled due to the dispute regarding the Governor's board appointments.

The board continues with the goals of 1) protection of the public, 2) ensuring the public of continued competency of licensed psychology practitioners, 3) ensuring psychological care is offered by professionally qualified persons, and 4) ensuring qualified psychology practitioners are available. The board has approved applicants for licensure as Psychologists and Psychological Associates, offered and graded the State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE) four times virtually, and monitored continuing education requirements. Board member Dr. Erin Johnson attended the ASPPB annual (October 2020) and mid-year (April 2021) meetings virtually and provided updates to all other board members.

The board faced several challenges in FY 2021. Work was impacted by the Legislature and Governor's office regarding board appointees; one board meeting was cancelled, review of investigations was largely placed on hold, and approval of licensees was delayed. The recent resignation of many licensing examiners has also impacted work, delaying swift action of the board. Despite the need for the board's Occupational Licensing Examiner (OLE) to manage additional boards, assist all of their respective licensees, and assist in training new examiners, OLE Lacey Derr ensured the essential functions of the board continued. As the vacancy rate of examiners continues to be relatively high, we anticipate this to be an ongoing challenge. Board member turnover also continued. All the while, the board continued to address the ever-changing landscape of regulating and ensuring public safety during the pandemic.

Despite these challenges, the board continued to meet its goals. The list of the board accomplishments include continuing to provide the SLEE exam virtually four times per year and continuing to approve Emergency Courtesy Licenses (ECL), developed at the onset of the pandemic. The board has approved 62 ECLs with 51 being issued in FY 2021.

### **Membership**

The board has continued to experience turnover in this fiscal year. Previous board Chair, Allen Levy, graciously extended his expected tenure to assist in navigating COVID-19 emergency matters and aid in educating and supporting new members. As the majority of current board members were appointed during the COVID-19 pandemic, training opportunities have been significantly limited. For this reason, training-related travel (e.g., ASPPB Annual and Semi-Annual meetings) is a high priority for the board.

### **Investigations**

Investigator Josh Hardy was appointed to this board in early 2020. Mr. Hardy has attended all non-emergency board meetings to provide updates and participate in trainings for new board members. He has provided timely consultations and managed investigations in a thorough and timely manner. While the dispute regarding the Governor's appointees delayed review of cases by board members, Mr. Hardy continued to work diligently to ensure members were able to review cases upon the court's decision.

## FY 2021 Narrative Statement (continued)

### **Testing and Test Items**

The State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE) is administered four times per year and is crucial to ensuring potential practitioners are qualified to provide services and help the board in its mission to protect the public. Rebuilding the SLEE test bank has been delayed since 2016 due to turnover of board members and travel restrictions related to government mandates (2019-2020) and the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2021). Prior to the pandemic, the SLEE was administered face-to-face in Anchorage. Thanks primarily to OLE Lacey Derr, protocols were swiftly developed and the SLEE has successfully been administered remotely. The board continues to explore remote delivery as a permanent change in an effort to ease the financial burden of applicants and decrease barriers to licensure.

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) has developed a second part to the required Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP). As of May 2021, nine of 64 jurisdictions have adopted the EPPP Part 2, with other jurisdictions (including Alaska) monitoring and investigating the potential impacts of administration in Alaska.

### **Statute and Regulation Changes**

The board continues to review regulations and obtain information regarding national trends that may require regulation changes in Alaska. The board is actively examining Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT), the Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists, and the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) Part 2, which are being implemented in other states and Canadian Provinces. In addition, the board has the goal of reviewing the regulations related to continuing education, supervision, fees, and creating new license statuses (e.g., retired, inactive).

### **Future Board Meetings**

While the board is required to meet three times per year, four meetings per year are necessary to adequately address workload. Given COVID-19-related travel restrictions, board member turnover, and previous state-mandated travel restrictions, only two of the four current members have been involved in face-to-face meetings. The board members look forward to the return of face-to-face meetings as future business will require this format (e.g., development of SLEE questions).

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022**

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
August 2021	Anchorage	4	2
<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
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$2,130.00</b>

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
November 2021	Anchorage	4	2
<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
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$2,130.00</b>

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February 2022	Juneau	4	2
<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
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$5,480.00</b>

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (continued)**

**Travel Required to Perform Examinations**

Not applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>			
<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):			
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

**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 2021	Cleveland, OH	4	1	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>				
ASPPB Annual Meeting provides valuable training, resources, and support. Board members have the opportunity to remain 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 as many board members as possible in FY 2022 is critical due to turnover in board members.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$2,600.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$170.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$170.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$1,740.00	\$295.00	\$0.00	\$2,035.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$8,010.00</b>	<b>\$2,295.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,305.00</b>



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

#2 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
March or April 2022	TBD	4	1	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>				
ASPPB Mid-Year Meeting provides valuable training, resources, and support. Board members have the opportunity to remain 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 as many board members as possible in FY 2022 is critical due to turnover in board members.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$170.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$170.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$2,035.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,035.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$10,305.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,305.00</b>

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

#3 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
TBD	Anchorage	4	1	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>				
A 2-day work session dedicated to developing test questions for the SLEE test bank, which is an essential board function. Development of the test bank was suspended due to unexpected turnover of the board membership and the COVID-19 pandemic. Work on this project needs to resume in FY 2022.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$2,650.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,650.00</b>

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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
ASPPB Annual Membership Dues	The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)	\$1,100.00

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

Essential to maintain nation’s organizational membership.

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable                       Resources                       Examinations  
 Membership                       Training                       Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
Training by ASPPB lawyer	Alex Siegle, JD, PhD	\$0.00

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

Given board turnover, training/consultation provided by ASPPB’s legal counsel is warranted to ensure board members put forth appropriate regulations

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable                       Resources                       Examinations  
 Membership                       Training                       Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
		\$0.00

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

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (continued)**

<b>Other Items with a Fiscal Impact</b>		<b>Cost Per Event:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable		<b>Number of Events:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Product or Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	
		\$0.00	
 <b>Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>  			

<b>Other Items with a Fiscal Impact</b>		<b>Cost Per Event:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable		<b>Number of Events:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Product or Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	
		\$0.00	
 <b>Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>  			

<b>Summary of FY 2022 Fiscal Requests</b>	
Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$9,740.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$23,260.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$1,100.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	-\$2,295.00
Other:	\$0.00
<b>Total Requested:</b>	<b>\$31,805.00</b>

**Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners  
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**Legislation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022**

**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:

1. Authorization to create license categories/types (e.g., retired, inactive)
2. Authorization to conduct criminal background checks of applicants
3. Currently under review by board:
  - a. The American Psychological Association's (APA) Model Act for State Licensure: The APA has developed an exemplar for drafting local statutes and regulations. The board is still considering whether to propose drafting statutes and regulations based on this new APA-developed model.
  - b. Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT): ASPPB has developed an interstate compact that facilitates providing telehealth services across state lines. Participation in PSYPACT will require legislative action. The Board is still considering whether to propose participation in PSYPACT.

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**Regulation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022**

**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 actively reviews and updates regulations as needed.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part I**

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

**1. To enforce the Psychology Practice Act by:**

- a. *Holding four quarterly meetings for FY 2021 and holding teleconference meetings as deemed necessary.*

The board held three regular meetings in FY 2021. All meetings held a quorum. During regular meetings, the board evaluated and approved license applications, conducted evaluations, and discussed regulatory changes consistent with the growing and changing needs of the public. Voting on urgent matters continued between meetings.

In continued response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the board revised policies; implemented new testing procedures (remote administration and proctoring of the State Law and Ethics Exam) developed in FY 2020; continued approving the Emergency Courtesy License under the authority of SB 241; responded to requests for guidance from the public, licensees, and university training programs; supported allied boards; coordinated and communicated with boards in other jurisdictions, and actively participated in the Governor's overall COVID-19 response.

- b. *Maintaining board activity and involvement in review of investigative matters, regarding the practice of psychology. Maintaining an annual update of the list of expert witnesses that the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Investigative Section, may use for investigative matters.*

The board received an investigative report during each meeting. The board assured that the investigator had convenient and timely access to qualified board members to review data collected during the investigative process. The Board is prepared to provide the investigator with appropriate referrals to well qualified Psychologists, should their expertise be required.

- c. *Requesting that the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Investigative Section, continue to provide statistics reflecting the number of cases investigated, provide a projected cost of those investigations, provide the Department of Law expenses so that the board can be aware of the project expenses, and advised annually of the projected cost with updates given quarterly.*

Communication and cooperation with the Investigations Unit during FY 2021 were positive and productive.

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**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part I (continued)**

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

- d. *Adhering to statutes and regulations in awarding licenses to applicants.*

All applications received by the board were reviewed and addressed, consistent with current statutes and regulations.

- e. *Continuing to review AS. 08.86.204 – grounds for imposition of disciplinary sanctions and to recommend statutes or regulations as deemed necessary.*

The board did not find a need to recommend statutory or regulatory changes related to imposition of disciplinary sanctions during FY 2022.

**2. To ensure continued competency of licensed psychology professionals by:**

- a. *Continuing to review and update as needed regulations regarding continuing education.*

The board remained updated on potential regulation changes and reviewed the practice of other jurisdictions.

- b. *Continuing to encourage the Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) to communicate matters of interest or concern with the board regarding competency, licensing, continuing education or other information relevant to the practice of psychology in the State of Alaska.*

The board made time at each meeting for public comment and invited an AK-PA representative to attend. In addition, the board responded positively to AK-PA's requests to be placed on the agenda for engaging in discussions with the board on matters of mutual interest and concern.

**3. To assure the public that persons offering psychological care throughout the State of Alaska are professionally qualified by:**

- a. *Reviewing AS 08.86.130 (licensing requirements) and recommend statutory or regulation changes as deemed necessary.*

The board reviewed AS 08.86.130 and associated regulations on an ongoing basis while reviewing applications for new licenses. The board also implemented 12 AAC 60.036. (Emergency Courtesy License) to allow the issuance of Emergency Courtesy Licenses to psychologists in urgent situations that require an increased availability of psychologists.

- b. *Maintaining board knowledge of issues and licensing.*

A representative of the board attended the ASPPB mid-year and annual meetings and provided information to all board members.

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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. To enforce the Psychology Practice Act by:**

- a. *Holding four quarterly meetings during FY 2022 and additional meetings in response to identified needs.*

**Strength:** The board has received valuable experience and training in the course of responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. Board turnover continues and the learning curve for new members is steep. The board will need to avail itself of every training opportunity in order to keep pace with the demands of the position.

- b. *Maintaining board activity and involvement in review of investigative matters regarding the practice of psychology. To maintain an annual update of the list of expert witnesses that the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Investigative Section, may use for investigative matters.*

**Strength:** Despite board turnover and necessary pauses in application reviews, board members and investigators have continued to work together to complete reviews and resolve complaints.

- c. *Requesting that the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Investigative Section, continue to provide statistics reflecting the number of cases investigated, provide a projected cost of those investigations, provide the Department of Law expenses so that the board can be aware of the project expenses, and advised annually of the projected cost with updates given quarterly.*

**Strength:** The Division has been consistently supportive and has always provided the information necessary for the Board to carry out its duties.

- d. *Adhering to statutes and regulations in awarding licenses to applicants.*

**Strength:** The board members have processed all applications, including the new Emergency Courtesy Licenses, promptly and in accordance with statute and regulation. There is every reason to believe this will continue into FY 2022.

- e. *Continuing to review AS. 08.86.204 – grounds for imposition of disciplinary sanctions and to recommend statutes or regulations as deemed necessary.*

**Area of progress and growth for FY 2022:** Reading law and regulation is a technical skill that comes with training and experience. It is imperative that as many board members as possible and the licensing examiner attend both the ASPPB Annual and Midyear conferences in FY 2022.



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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:**

**2. To ensure continued competency of licensed psychology professionals by:**

- a. *Continuing to review and update as needed regulations regarding continuing education.*

**Area of progress and growth for FY 2022:** Reading law and regulation is a technical skill that comes with training and experience. It is imperative that as many board members as possible and the licensing examiner attend both the ASPPB Annual and Midyear conferences in FY 2021.

- b. *Continuing to encourage the Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) to communicate matters of interest or concern with the board regarding competency, licensing, continuing education or other information relevant to the practice of psychology in the State of Alaska.*

**Strength:** The board has been and will continue to build a healthy and appropriate relationship with AK-PA.

- c. *Hold a two-day work session in FY 2022 dedicated to improving and adding to the test bank of questions for the State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE).*

**Strength & Opportunity:** Despite continued board turnover, the board is now fully staffed and anticipates addressing this project in FY 2022.

**3. To assure the public that persons offering psychological care throughout the State of Alaska are professionally qualified by:**

- a. *Reviewing AS 08.86.130 (licensing requirements) and recommend statutory or regulation changes as deemed necessary.*
- b. *Maintaining Board knowledge of issues and licensing.*

**Area of progress and growth for FY 2022:** Reading law and regulation is a technical skill that comes with training and experience. It is imperative that as many board members as possible and the licensing examiner attend both the ASPPB Annual and Midyear conferences in FY 2022.

**4. To promote high professional standards of psychology practice by:**

- a. *Assessing the impact of continuing education requirements for the license renewal process. This work is ongoing and is generally a part of the discussions in every meeting.*
- b. *Educating the public regarding the practice of psychology and the purpose of the board by:*
- Advertising meetings of the board.
  - Including public comment on agendas at the board meetings.
  - Holding public hearings to consider regulatory changes.
  - Ensuring the board complies with all statutes and regulations regarding public comment.

All meetings of the board are publicly noticed according to law. Time for public comment is included on the agenda in every meeting.

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**Sunset Audit Recommendations**

**Date of Last Legislative Audit: 2018**  
**Board Sunset Date: June 30, 2026**

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	The Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing in consultation with the board, should reduce fees.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	The board has implemented a fee reduction for psychologists and psychological associates effective in the next renewal period – July 1, 2019.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	Continue evaluating fees and budget surplus to maintain fees at an appropriate level.
<b>Date Completed:</b>	July 1, 2019

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	Division of Corporation, Business, and Professional Licensing’s Director should develop procedures to ensure courtesy licensees comply with monthly reporting requirements.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	Improved reporting and tracking procedures have been implemented.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	Maintain compliance
<b>Date Completed:</b>	Fall 2017