

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020

**BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE EXAMINERS**



**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.

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
FY 2020 Annual Report**

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**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Allen Levy Board Chair, Psy. Associate	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2012	Mar 1, 2020
Dr. Erin Johnson Psychologist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2019	Mar 1, 2023
Dr. Bradley McConnell Psychologist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2024
Dr. Christina Durham Psychologist	Anchorage	Jan 29, 2020	Mar 1, 2021
Bernard Gatewood Public Member	Fairbanks	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2024
Dr. Matthew Dammeyer Psychologist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2019	Aug 31, 2019
Susan Dutson Public Member	Juneau	Sept 9, 2016	Aug 27, 2019
Dr. Joel Wieman Psychologist	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2012	Mar 1, 2020

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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Identification of Staff

Lacey Derr – Licensing Examiner

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2550

Fannie Renee Hoffard, Andy Khmelev – Records & Licensing Supervisor

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Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Post Office Box 110806
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(907) 465-2550

Billy Homestead – Investigator

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567
(907-269-8437

Greg Francois – Chief Investigator

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Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners FY 2020 Annual Report

Narrative Statement

The FY 2020 report of activities is based on the Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners Board meetings held between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. During that period, the board held four quarterly meetings for a total of eight days on August 29-30, December 5-6, March 5-6 and April 30-May 1. In addition, the board held seven emergency meetings on March 26 & 31, April 10, 17, and 24, and May 8 & 29 in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, Board Chair Allen Levy participated in weekly meetings of medical and health related board chairs as part of the Administration's overall COVID-19 response. All regular meetings were held in Anchorage. The emergency meetings made use of distance technology in order to get the work done while adhering to the Governor's mandates.

The board continues with the goals and purposes of protection of the public; ensuring the public of continued competency of licensed psychology professionals; ensuring psychological care is offered by professionally qualified persons; and ensuring qualified psychology practitioners are available. The board has approved applicants for licensure as Psychologists and Psychological Associates, as well as monitored continuing education requirements.

Board member Dr. Erin Johnson attended the ASPPB Annual Meeting in October 2019 in Minneapolis, MN. The board processed all applications in a timely manner, offered the State Law and Ethics Exam four times and graded all exams in a timely manner.

FY 2020 proved to be a period of great accomplishment and productivity for the board.

The board faced a number of challenges in this year and rose to the occasion each time effectively and efficiently. In the first half of FY 2020 the board experienced unexpected turnover in members that left it with the minimum needed for a quorum. The second half of FY 2020 presented the board with a perilous challenge—all but one of the remaining board members' terms were set to expire. The remaining board member had barely a year experience. This would have left the board with all new members and no experience and no institutional memory. Alerting Director of Boards and Commissions Gina Ritacco and Director Sara Chambers to the problem, it was agreed to delay replacing Board Chair Levy in order to provide a smooth transition and training to the new board members.

By March all new board members were seated and training commenced. Also, in March the COVID-19 outbreak had effectively shut down travel and normal operations. Previously approved travel to the ASPPB Mid-Year Meeting as well as the approved travel to Juneau for a quarterly board meeting had to be cancelled. It is hoped that these travel approvals can be rolled into FY 2021.

The COVID-19 outbreak presented problems and challenges to which the Board responded promptly and effectively. The Board met on March 26 in the first of seven emergency meetings responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. Under authority granted by SB 241, the Board implemented an Emergency Courtesy License to meet the needs of the public and create a streamlined process for temporary licensure of psychologists. The Board revised policies on supervision and provided advice and guidance to university training programs in the state. The Board revised the manner of delivery of the State Law and Ethics Exam. Occupational Licensing Examiner Lacey Derr developed sound and effective protocols for delivering and proctoring the exam in compliance with the Governor's Mandates. The Board actively monitored the impact and effectiveness of its responses. The Board coordinated its actions with the overall state response through Board Chair Levy's participation in the weekly Board Chairs Meetings conducted by the department.

The Board also coordinated and communicated with psychology boards in other jurisdictions through meetings set up by ASPPB. OLE Lacey Derr participated in those meetings. The Board found itself in the position of frequently being ahead of other boards locally and nationally and provided examples to those boards that were followed in their responses to the COVID-19 outbreak. It needs to be noted that the Board could not have accomplished all it did without the coordination and support of the Department of Commerce under the leadership of Director Sara Chambers. Looking at other states, Alaska was less severely impacted by COVID-19. It is clear that leadership of the current administration created an atmosphere of cooperation and coordination between all branches and levels of government that protected Alaskans and made for a successful response to the pandemic.

FY 2020 Narrative Statement (continued)

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak the Board achieved a major accomplishment. The University of Alaska Anchorage was considering eliminating the Master of Science in Clinical Psychology program. Cutting this valuable program would have had long and short-term negative impacts on the state. The Board wrote a position letter to the UAA Board of Regents and Board Chair Levy spoke at a public meeting on the matter. The psychology program was spared from elimination. The UAA Psychology Department thanked the Board and said that its actions played a significant role in saving the Clinical Psychology program.

Membership

As previously stated, the Board experienced significant turnover in FY 2020. As of now the Board is fully staffed and is stronger than it has been in years. Three new members were seated in March. The COVID-19 outbreak presented the new members with a trial by fire. The series of seven emergency meetings proved to be a golden opportunity for training and team building. The Board-particularly the new members rose admirably to the occasion. Board Chair Levy and OLE Derr used every board action as a training opportunity. By the end of FY 2020 the new board members had received the equivalent of two years of training and experience in four months. That being said, the learning curve for being a Psychology Board member is steep and there is still much to learn. For that reason, travel and training remain high priorities in FY 2021. It is essential that as many board members as possible attend the Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings of the ASPPB in FY 2021.

Investigations

Investigator Billy Homestead is now the Board's investigator. He has attended board meetings, either in person or by phone, and has provided comprehensive and timely updates regarding investigative matters. Investigators actively sought consultation and advice on matters that came before them. Investigative matters appear to have been handled effectively and efficiently. Investigations also provided a board training on the investigative process at the March meeting.

Testing and Test Items

The State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE) is an essential tool in the board's mission of protecting the public and assuring a qualified pool of psychology practitioners. The board has been delayed in the process of rebuilding the lost SLEE exam due to unexpected turnover in board members. Restrictions on face to face meetings also delayed progress in this effort. The COVID-19 outbreak provided an unprecedented challenge to which the Board responded effectively. The Board implemented procedures and protocols for remote delivery and proctoring of the exam over secure internet link. Special credit goes to OLE Lacey Derr for the success of this effort. Even with COVID-19, all scheduled tests were successfully administered.

Statute and Regulation Changes

The board is engaged in an ongoing process of updating its regulations. In the fall of 2015, the board received training and consultation from the ASPPB lawyer, Alex Siegel. Dr. Siegel pointed out areas in the regulations that were in need of being updated. The board has continued the process of updating and reviewing its regulations. The board has also set a goal of getting legislation authorizing background checks of applicants. Further legislative action is needed to authorize the board to create licensing statuses—such as retired and inactive. Another legislative change is the need to retitle the Psychological Associate License so that it more accurately reflects scope of independent practice. A regulatory change raising the passing score of the LPAs on the national exam is also in order.

Future Board meetings

The board is mandated to hold at least three meetings per year. The board's workload requires four meetings per year. Restrictions on face to face meetings due to fiscal policy and responses to the COVID-19 outbreak have challenged the board. Problems with technology have occurred from time to time but overall, the Board has succeeded in carrying out its business in the face of these challenges. That being said, some of the board's work requires the physical presence of all members and the OLE in one room. This is especially true in regard to work sessions developing questions for the SLEE test bank.

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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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
August 2020	Anchorage	5	1
<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
Total Estimated Cost:			\$2,130.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
November 2020	Anchorage	5	1
<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
Total Estimated Cost:			\$2,130.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
January/February 2021 (3 days)	Juneau	5	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$1,850.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$3,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$5,480.00

Budget Recommendations for FY 2021 (continued)

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
April/May 2021 (3 days)	Anchorage	5	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$1,600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$450.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$645.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$3,295.00

Travel Required to Perform Examinations			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable			
Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
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

Budget Recommendations for FY 2021 (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	
October	New York, NY	5	1	
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:				
ASPPB Annual Meeting: ASPPB 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 2021 is mission critical due to the total turnover in board membership.				
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):				
Net Total:	\$8,010.00	\$2,295.00	\$0.00	\$10,305.00

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

#2 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
March/April 2021	To Be Announced	5	1	
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:				
ASPPB Mid-Year Meeting: ASPPB 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 2021 is mission critical due to the total turnover in board membership.				
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):				
Net Total:	\$10,305.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,305.00

Budget Recommendations for FY 2021 (continued)

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

#3 Rank in Importance

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
To Be Determined	Anchorage	5	1	
<p>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</p> <p>A 1-2 day work session dedicated to developing test questions for the SLEE Test Bank. This is an essential board function. Attention to this matter was necessarily suspended due to unexpected and turnover in board membership and the COVID-19 outbreak. Work on this project needs to resume in FY 2021.</p>				
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):				
Net Total:	\$2,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,650.00

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Examinations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
ASPPB Annual Membership Dues	Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)	\$1,100.00
<p>Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</p> <p>Essential to maintain nation's organizational membership.</p>		

Budget Recommendations for FY 2021 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Examinations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
		\$0.00

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

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 2021 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$13,035.00
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
Total Requested:	\$35,100.00

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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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:

- 1) Authorization to conduct criminal background checks of applicants.
- 2) Authorization to create licensing categories/types (e.g., retired, inactive)
- 3) **Currently under review by the board**
 - a) 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 or not to pursue this legislation.

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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Regulation Recommendations Proposed 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:

The Board has a regulations project underway to review and update regulations as needed.

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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Goals and Objectives

Part I

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

1) To enforce the Psychology Practice Act by:

- a) Requesting to hold meetings for FY 2020 and to hold teleconference meetings as deemed necessary.

The Board held four regular meetings and seven emergency meetings in FY 2020. All meetings held a quorum. During regular meetings, the board evaluated and approved license applications, conducted evaluations, and proposed regulatory changes consistent with the growing and changing needs of the public.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak the Board held a series of seven emergency meetings from March 24-May 29. The board revised policies; implemented new testing procedures (remote administration and proctoring of the State Law and Ethics Exam); created an 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. The Board's actions were effective and timely. In many instances this Board found itself leading by example other boards in this state and in other jurisdictions.

- 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 2020 were positive and productive.

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

All applications received by the Board were reviewed and acted on, consistent with current statutes and regulations. The Board worked to improve forms and applications.

- e) To continue 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 2020.

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I (continued)

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

2) To ensure continued competency of licensed psychology professionals by:

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

The Board conducted the required CE Audit of the 2019 renewal applicants. No regulation changes in the area were identified.

- 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.

- b) Maintaining board knowledge of issues and licensing.

4) To ensure the public that qualified psychology providers are available by:

- a) Continuing to review applications for licensure and issue licenses in accordance with statutes and regulations.

All applications were processed and reviewed by the Board in a timely manner in accordance with statutes and regulations. The Board is making good use of ONBOARD to review applications. In general, that is working, but there have been applications with unique circumstances that needed extra scrutiny or attention—better addressed in a face to face meeting.

- b) Conducting four jurisprudence examinations for FY 2020.

This is an area of remarkable achievement for the Board. The Covid-19 outbreak threatened the delivery of this examination in the fourth quarter due to restrictions on face-to-face meetings. The Board implemented procedures and protocols for administration and proctoring of the exam over secure internet links. Special credit for the success of this effort goes to OLE Lacey Derr.

PART 4 CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I (continued)

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

- c) Conducting four jurisprudence examinations for FY 2020.

This is an area of remarkable achievement for the Board. The COVID-19 outbreak threatened the delivery of this examination in the fourth quarter due to restrictions on face-to-face meetings. The Board implemented procedures and protocols for administration and proctoring of the exam over secure internet links. Special credit for the success of this effort goes to OLE Lacey Derr.

- d) Maintaining good relations and professional relationships with training programs and professional associations.

This was an area of remarkable achievement. The Board held a series of productive discussions with representatives from the Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) about the model practice act they were planning to put forward as legislation.

The Board was approached by professors from the UAA Psychology Department in March. The Master of Science in Clinical Psychology program was on the chopping block due to massive budget cuts. The loss of this valuable training program would have had long-term negative impacts across the state. This program was a vital source for meeting the need for mental health services in Alaska. The Board sent a position paper to the University in opposition to cutting the program. Board Chair Al Levy spoke at a listening session in March addressing the need for this program. The result of the Board's efforts were the MS Clinical Psychology program was saved. Professors from UAA's psychology department gave credit to the Board's intervention on this matter.

Activity #1:

To send as many board members as possible and the licensing examiner to ASPPB annual and midyear conferences.

Restrictions on travel, turnover in board membership and the Covid-19 outbreak limited the Board's ability to meet this goal. Only one member attended the ASPPB Annual Meeting in October 2019. The ASPPB Mid-Year Meeting in 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19. Nevertheless, the Board is doing its best to stay current on national issues that directly impact the practice of psychology in Alaska: 1. PLUS (Psychology Licensing Universal System (PLUS) – The Board has implemented the PLUS system as an option for new applicants. So far, the system is working. 2. PSYPACT - ASPPB's interstate compact is active in several states. The board is reviewing PSYPACT in order to decide whether or not to participate. Continued attendance at ASPPB Conferences is essential in this process. 3. EPPP 2 - The EPPP 2 is replacing the old EPPP - the national licensing exam used by Alaska to qualify for a psychologist or psychological associate license. Board members need training and information on the impact of the new test on licensing and practice of psychology. 4. Antitrust issues - The 2014 Supreme Court ruling in the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission put all licensing boards on notice to be paying attention to antitrust and unfair restriction of trade. New and old board members need training on this issue as an on-going process.

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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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) To enforce the Psychology Practice Act by:

- a) Hold four quarterly meetings during FY 2021 and additional meetings in response to identified needs.

Strength: The Board is fully staffed. The Board has received valuable experience and training in the last half of FY 2020 in the course of its response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Board is in better shape than it has been in a number of years. That being said, the Board is still new and the learning curve is steep. The Board will need to avail itself of every training opportunity in order to keep pace with the demands of the job.

- 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: Although the Board has experienced a near complete turnover in membership in FY2020 it is in good shape to meet this goal. The current investigator, Billy Homestead, works well with the Board and is very good at his job.

- c) Requesting that the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Investigative Section, continued 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, although new, have processed all applications, including the new E-Courtesy Licenses, promptly and in accordance with statute and regulation. There is every reason to believe this will continue into FY 2021.

- 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 2021: 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.

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II (continued)

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

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

a) 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 2021: 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. Progress is expected to continue in this area as AK-PA's leadership has been more frequently attending board meetings.

- c) Hold a one to two-day work session in FY 2021 dedicated to improving and adding to the test bank of questions for the State Law and Ethics Exam (SLEE).

Strength & Opportunity: The Board is fully staffed and is ready to embrace this project.

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.

Area of progress and growth for FY 2021: 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) Maintaining board knowledge of issues and licensing.

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.

PART 4 CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II (continued)

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

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

b) Educating the public regarding the practice of psychology and the purpose of the Board by:

Activity #1:

- Advertising meetings of the Board.
- All meetings of the Board are publicly noticed according to law.

Activity #2:

- Including public comment on agendas at the board meetings.
- Time for public comment is included on the agenda in every meeting.
 - Even the emergency meetings included opportunity for public comment.

Activity #3:

- Holding public hearings to consider regulatory changes.
- The Board complies with the all statutes and regulations regarding public comment

c) Maintaining good relations and appropriate distinctions between the State Medical Board, Board of Clinical Social Work Examiners, the Board of Marital and Family Therapy, the Board of Professional Counselors, and other boards as appropriate; to work on areas of mutual interest by participating in joint meetings as appropriate.

Board Chair Al Levy participated in the weekly Board Chair meetings of medical and health related board as part of the administration's response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

d) Maintaining good relations and ongoing communications with the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the State of Alaska government.

The Board's annual meeting in Juneau was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Nevertheless, the Board effectively communicated and interacted with other branches and departments of state government as needed.

**Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners
Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report**

Sunset Audit Recommendations

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

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

Audit Recommendation:	Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing’s director should develop procedures to ensure courtesy licensees comply with monthly reporting requirements.
Action Taken:	Improved reporting and tracking procedures have been implemented.
Next Steps:	Maintain Compliance
Date Completed:	Fall 2017