

**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:

- 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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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