

State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE EXAMINERS

December 18, 2021

By the authority of AS. 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.64, Article 6, a scheduled board meeting was held via Zoom.

Saturday, December 18, 2021

Agenda Item – Call to Order & Roll Call

Board Chair Erin Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM

Those present constituting a quorum of the board:

Erin Johnson, Chair, Psychologist

Bradley McConnell, Psychologist

Sherri Scott, Psychological Associate

Bernard Gatewood, Public Member

In attendance from the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing were:

Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor

Members of ΛK-PA Present:

Maryo Beguindin – Executive Director

Hannah Ekstrom - MIA Drafter

Robert Lane – MIA Drafter

Mariory Kyle – AK-PA Member

Stephanie Richardson

Stephanie Richardson
John Walsh - Lobbyist

Agenda Item – Review and Approve Agenda

The board reviewed the drafted agenda of the meeting.

In a motion duly made by Bernard Gatewood and seconded by Bradley McConnell, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the agenda as presented.

Agenda Item – Model Licensure Act - AK-PA

44
45 Board Chair Erin Johnson provided a bit of background on the Model Legislation Act (MLA) presented by
46 AK-PA and the request to have a meeting with the drafters of the legislations. This was to help answer
47 board questions and provide clarifying information within the MLA. It was noted the draft being
48 reviewed was version 32-LS0963\A and that the language of 'reciprocity' had been removed. The board
49 began addressing each area of change one by one.

50
51 AS 08.86.070, (4), (9)
52 The first section included an addition of a code of ethics. The board questioned how this came to be
53 added and AK-PA stated it was likely part of a public workgroup and possibly even a suggestion by a
54 former board member. AK-PA explained the requirement for a code of ethics was in regulation and for
55 consistency, adding it broadly to statute was a way to "match things up". The board questioned if
56 during public commentary, had any other code of ethics besides APA been preferred and there were a
57 few suggestions but APA was the strongly preferred choice, matching closely with the intent of the MLA
58 as well. Also questioned was the intent behind the addition of maintaining an active relationship with a
59 national association of psychology boards as the board wanted to ensure their ability to maintain
60 sovereignty. At times, the agenda of national associations may conflict with the boards and it is
61 important to be able to maintain the ability to disagree. Per AK-PA representatives, the inclusion was
62 suggested by previous Alaska Psychology Board members and likely associated with the administration
63 of the national psychology exam (EPPP) and facilitation of score distribution. The language was
64 intended to be broad to support board sovereignty.

65
66 AS 08.86.130(a), (3), (5), (c)
67 Chair Johnson requested AK-PA present some of the thinking behind the suggested changes to (3), then
68 the board could respond with questions. Hannah Ekstrom with AK-PA explained this was largely taken
69 from the APA Model License Act and psychology students are doing a lot more hours and training pre-
70 graduation. The debt associated with these extra hours/training is also compounding. She continued to
71 explain 17 states have already reviewed and adopted by removing the requirement of post-doctoral
72 internship. The language was developed to make it an option for potential licensees who have obtained
73 the hours prior to graduation the ability to obtain full licensure or a combination of predoctoral and
74 postdoctoral internship. Ms. Ekstrom further described how agencies would be able to bill for these
75 licensed providers and allows additional access to mental health services in Alaska. Chair Johnson asked
76 about the 'Temporary License' and if it was removed. The 'Temporary License' is how a potential
77 licensee obtains the postdoctoral hours as described but could not locate the Temporary License
78 language in this draft and asked why it had been removed. Ms. Ekstrom did not have the immediate
79 answer and would look into that change, it could be there was no changes therefore not included in the
80 presented draft. Chair Johnson asked what were the average practical hours AK-PA was finding before
81 people entered pre- and post-doctoral internships. Robert Lane with AK-PA stated there were
82 predicated on 1500 hours of practical and 1500 hours in predoctoral internship. Board member Sherri
83 Scott asked about the parameter set for these hours and it was relayed the hours would be based on
84 APA equivalency standards. The board and AK-PA discussed the potential language confusion of using
85 'practicum' and suggested it be 'practical and internship' with no comma. Section (5) was briefly
86 discussed and was primarily lifted from the APA Model license act to the give board the ability to create
87 forms, this was not a specific AK-PA related suggestion. AK-PA would investigate changing 'brief

88 summary' to 'CV' or similarly related language.

89

90 The board's next question section (c) and what the definition of 'professional sources' meant or what
91 intended audience was for professional sources. Mr. Lane and Ms. Ekstrom indicated this would be
92 something the board could define in regulation. Chair Johnson highlighted the broadness as written
93 could result in letters of reference from anyone who held any sort of professional license and not within
94 a similar licensing field as envisioned. The board also asked why three (3) letters of reference instead of
95 the five (5) as is currently written. Additionally, Chair Johnson addressed what was written on the
96 application and current regulation, they are 'letters of *reference*' not 'letters of *recommendation*'. AK-
97 PA representatives stated this number was not pulled from APA draft language but feedback from
98 workgroups and the language could be made parallel to current regulation if 'letters of
99 recommendation' was not accurate. There were no negatives immediately identified by using the word
100 'recommendation' so no changes were suggested at this time.

101

102 AS 08.86.132

103 Moving onto the section adding AS 08.86.132 – Part-time Licenses – the board asked where twenty (20)
104 years of practice came from. An example was presented by AK-PA for the case of Dr. Paul Craig who had
105 ended traditional practice and consulting to write a textbook. Once he completed this and began
106 presenting his work, providing lectures, and discussing this information, he ran into conflict with the
107 written statute & regulation and calling himself a psychologist. This intermediate area of practice
108 between full practice and retirement is where the Part-time license would apply. In regard to the 20
109 years of practice, AK-PA indicated this is a number where there is significant longevity in the
110 professional confidence of these individuals but this number was an area of concern for drafters as well
111 as it could be seen as discriminatory. Chair Johnson asked about how many psychologists are
112 anticipated to fit into this category as it potentially is making a brand-new license type for 20-30 people.
113 AK-PA stated there were only 5-6 individuals who attended workgroups that would fit into this category.
114 The board did want to identify concern with '20 years of practice' as this could be discriminatory and
115 that they would need to hold additional discussions as a board to address potential issues.

116

117 AS 08.86.150(c)

118 The board briefly wanted to bring attention to the word 'unreasonable' and concerns that word could
119 have for the board. The concern was what does unreasonable mean as it can drastically vary from one
120 person to another. Staffing shortages across the nation affect production and would the board be able
121 to defend that word in court? AK-PA was going to bring it back to their workgroups to identify if that
122 would be the most appropriate statement.

123

124 AS 08.86.155, 08.86.165, & 08.86.168

125 Dr. McConnell questioned section (b)(1) and the 40 CE's completed in the preceding two years and
126 clarifying that of Alaska's CE requirements. The discussion included the difference of in person CE
127 requirements versus jurisdictions where all self-study may be allowed. Chair Johnson agreed and
128 further questioned what the meaning behind the 'inactive license' was. Mr. Lane explained it makes
129 sense to have an inactive license at times for various reasons in life but individuals need a way of getting
130 them back (these are not considered long breaks of practice). If they have taken a short break and kept
131 up on CE's, it is a way to get back to active practice quickly. Section 08.86.165 & 08.86.168 was

132 intended to mirror that of the psychologist, just for psychological associates. There were no further
133 questions on these sections.

134

135 **AS 08.86.180(b)**

136 The board asked for the intent on this section as these would *NOT* be applicable for licensure,
137 specifically the tribal organization verbiage. The board had requested clarification on these private
138 tribal organizations and their fit into the public health, IHS, or other non-state board regulated entity.
139 AK-PA responded that they had not contacted their governmental representative but were going to do
140 so and provide clarification. Ensuring proper licensing (or not) was happening if private village tribal
141 organizations were indeed sovereign to that of state licensing requirements. It was suggested the board
142 define "Tribal Organization" in regulation and the board requested further clarification from appropriate
143 federal government representatives first.

144

145 **Agenda Item – Adjourn**

146 The board thanked AK-PA for taking the time to go line by line and the feelings were
147 reciprocated. The board requested to see the draft revisions made so they could discuss
148 further and identify any additional areas of review.

149

150

151 **In a motion duly made by Bernard Gatewood and seconded by Bradley McConnell, with**
152 **unanimous consent, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 PM.**

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154 **Off Record: 12:21 PM**

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160 **Sara Chambers**

161 **DCCED Boards and Regulations Advisor**

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164 **Erin Johnson**

165 **Erin Johnson**

166 **Board Chair**

3/7/2023

Date