



Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners

Minutes of the meeting Feb 17, 2023

By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, 8 Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners originated via Zoom.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Dr. Erin Johnson, chair; Bernard Gatewood, Sherri Scott, Dr. Bradley McConnell

Staff: Sara Chambers, DCCED Boards and Regulations Advisor; Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager; Jasmin Bautista, Investigator; Jenni Summers, Senior Investigator; Logan Bugayong, Licensing Examiner; Jeanne Pace, Program Coordinator

1. Call to Order and Administrative Business

The chair called the roll, and all members were present. Ms. Scott read the board's mission statement.

Motion by Dr. McConnell to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Gatewood and unanimously approved.

All members said they had no potential ethical conflicts to disclose.

Motion by Mr. Gatewood to approve the draft minutes from February 10-11, 2022; March 2, 2022; March 18, 2022; and December 2, 2022 with minor edits suggested by the chair. Seconded by Ms. Scott and unanimously approved.

The board received an update from Examiner Bugayong on the number of courtesy licenses issued.

Ms. Chambers introduced the division's behavioral health Program Coordinator, Jeanne Pace, who recently joined the team.

2. Investigative Report

Investigator Jasmin Bautista presented the current investigative report showing 12 open cases and 3 closed cases. Since the predominant complaint is about ethical or unprofessional misconduct, Chambers recommended investigators create a list of any ethical issues that are trending. The board may find it beneficial to issue additional communication to licensees to attempt to ward off violations before they happen. Chair Johnson requested this information.

Next steps: Investigator Bautista will provide a list of the types of complaints she is receiving.

3. Division Update

Melissa Dumas, division Administrative Operations Manager, provided the program's latest fiscal report reflecting an ending annual deficit of \$46,153 and cumulative surplus of \$195,997 at the end of the 2nd Quarter. She also showed the board where to find various reports on the division's reporting web page.

The board took a quick break from 9:50-10:05

4. Administrative Business:

- The board reviewed the FY22 Annual Report, which had been drafted and submitted but never formally approved by the board.

Motion by Ms. Scott to approve with one minor edit, unanimously approved. Ms. Scott will take the lead on the 2023 annual report with Chair Johnson's help.

Next steps:

Chair Johnson will see if she can attend the ASPPB meeting April 27-30 in Denver and let Ms. Chambers know so travel can go through the approval process timely. Ms. Scott indicated she could serve as backup.

5. **Public Comment** was noticed, but no participants joined the meeting.

6. Distance Supervision Discussion

The board discussed the distance supervision requirements in regulation, which has been a topic at the last few board meetings. Chair Johnson summarized that supervisees, supervisors, and clients generally like distance supervision, particularly when it is done well. Concerns remain about ethics complaints and client satisfaction in this space. Dr. McConnell and Chair Johnson reiterated that the data is not available on this information.

Next steps:

- Ms. Scott had assembled information about telesupervision previously and will resend to the board the chart she created.
- Chair Johnson requested that board members log into ASPPB to see what has been updated on this topic since they are collecting data. Ms. Chambers requested that Ms. Pace contact ASPPB to ensure all members could log in and follow up with the board.
- Once she gains access to the ASPPB web site, Chair Johnson said she would find the information and ensure it is sent to board members for review and consideration. She will also ask ASPPB for any complaint/violation data. This will be scheduled for review at the next meeting or at a special meeting.

7. PsyPact:

Ms. Chambers stated that compact legislation is gaining interest among legislators. The board will likely be asked for their opinion on joining PsyPact. McConnell has the PsyPact credential, and he doesn't feel Alaska is appropriate for this kind of teletherapy service because Outside practitioners are unlikely to understand the nuances with rural and Alaska Native populations. He also registered concern, that only licensees who have obtained their education in an accredited program can qualify, and APU is not accredited. Board members had many outstanding questions about the impact of compact licensing: Will

it impact state licensing? Who bears the cost and responsibility for investigation? How do prescription privileges issued in other states impact licensees who practice here?

Next steps: Ms. Chambers offered to gather information and encouraged board members to do the same to prepare for a future meeting. Ms. Chambers will reach out to South Carolina and ask why they pulled out of PsyPact. This will be scheduled for review at the next meeting or at a special meeting.

8. Regulations Projects

Regulations Specialist Alison Osborne joined the meeting. She and Ms. Chambers explained the state's new regulations process.

Ms. Chambers reviewed the courtesy license section. Ms. Scott said ASPPB had equivalency tools available to assist the board in this determination. These are available to board members and staff online.

Motion by Ms. Scott to amend 12 AAC 60.035(c)(4) as shown below. Unanimously approved.

(4) provide verification of a current license in good standing to practice psychology independently in another jurisdiction where the licensing requirements are at least equivalent to those in this state for the scope of practice specified in the application; to meet the requirements of this paragraph, the verification must be sent directly to the department from the licensing jurisdiction and the license must [BE ACTIVE, IN GOOD STANDING, AND] cover the scope of the practice requested for the courtesy license in this state;

The board deliberated the remaining proposed amendments and additions, expressing a desire for all licensees to obtain these specific areas of training by the 2025 renewal, with new and reinstating licensees required to obtain training at their first renewal.

Motion by Mr. Gatewood to approve the following regulations changes to move forward for drafting and Department of Law review. Unanimously approved.

Using the draft presented by the regulations specialist as a working document:

- Update 12 AAC 60.260(b) as presented, including:
- a provision that all licensees must complete the continuing education topics in (b) during the 2023-2025 licensing period and
- including these requirements for anyone who is seeking reinstatement of licensure unless they can prove they have completed these requirements for an Alaska license renewal since 2025
- Update 12 AAC 60.260(c) as presented, deleting (2) and (3).
- Add 12 AAC 60.400 as presented
- Add 12 AAC 60.405 as presented, except removing the word "all" from (2) and rewording or deleting the topic list in (2) to reflect a requirement to gain general competency in teletherapy practice
- Add 12 AAC 60.410 as presented, excluding the advisory section in green.
- Add 12 AAC 60.415 as presented
- Add 12 AAC 60.990 as presented, except remove the term "PC."

9. Administrative Business

Review Correspondence:

The board reviewed correspondence against implementing the EPPP (Part 2) exam.

Next steps:

- Chair Johnson suggested a presentation on the EPPP (Part 2) from ASPPB at a future board meeting and would send Ms. Chambers the name of the person she had in mind.
- Ms. Chambers suggested the board hear the presentation and then form questions for LAW.
- Ms. Scott will send Ms. Chambers some additional information to send out to the board.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

The board identified late May (after the 18th) and mid-to-late August for in-person meetings to review and design the SLEE exam, as well as CE audit materials.

Next steps:

- Staff will poll the board via email to narrow down dates.
- Dr. McConnell will send Ms. Chambers some materials about exam development for distribution to the board.
- Ms. Chambers will see if the division's contract psychometrician is available to help.

Examiner Bugayong stated five people were currently awaiting the state exam. The chair suggested scheduling the next SLEE in March with grading in OnBoard and again in early May before the in-person meeting.

License Review/Actions

The chair reminded board members to review OnBoard applications quickly to avoid delays in licensing. She asked board members to email Ms. Chambers with their best email addresses if they have not been receiving these alerts.

Next steps:

The board determined to vote in OnBoard on the pending three applications no later than Monday. Staff will notice the SLEE for a March date.

10. Grade SLEE Exams

The board graded the SLEE exams.

Next steps:

Mail them back to the Juneau office to Examiner Bugayong's attention. Staff will compile scores and notify the applicants.

Motion by Mr. Gatewood to adjourn. Unanimously approved.