

State of Alaska

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

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE EXAMINERS

November 4th and 5th, 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.

Thursday November 4th, 2021

Agenda Item – Call to Order & Roll Call

Board Chair Erin Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:07 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:

Logan Bugayong, Occupational Licensing Examiner

Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor

Members of the public in attendance were:

Malan Paquette

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 Sherri Scott, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the agenda as presented.

Agenda Item – Ethics Report

Hearing no ethics to report, the board moved on with business.

Agenda Item – Licensing Examiner Report

Per the chair's request, the board's mission and vision statement is to be read into the minutes at the start of each meeting. The following was read by Chair Erin Johnson:

"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."

Logan Bugayong then provided an update on the current number of licensees:

- There are 255 active Psychologist licenses
 - There are 11 active Psychologist Temporary Licenses
- There are 28 active Psychological Associate licenses
 - There are 0 active Psychological Associate Temporary licenses
- There are eight active Psychologist Courtesy Licenses and all are in good standing

To make best use of time, the board reviewed meeting minutes from previous meetings.

In a motion duly made by Sherri Scott and seconded by Bernard Gatewood, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 5th and 6th, 2021 meeting as presented.

Agenda Item – PSYPACT Presentation

Janet Orwig is the Associate Executive Officer of Member Services for the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) and the Executive Director of PSYPACT. PSYPACT is the interjurisdictional psychology license compact to allow for ease of license mobility. ASPPB first addressed the issue of license mobility through reciprocity and ensuring that the different jurisdictions had equivalent licensing requirements. This was eventually sunsetted as statutes and regulations and post-doctoral requirements changed. PSYPACT is intended to help regulated the day-to-day practice of telepsychology across state boundaries and temporary, face-to-face practice. This has aided in maintaining continuity of care and in regulation of the practice of psychology across state lines. There are currently 27 states that have enacted PSYPACT legislation and 23 that are effective.

Director Sara Chambers joined the meeting at 9:34 AM

Deputy Director Sharon Walsh joined the meeting at 9:37

The board had several questions regarding where the fees went and how interjurisdictional discipline is handled across state lines. Director Sara Chambers had questions as well regarding who would be processing these applications and the similarities between PSYPACT and the Nurse Licensure Compact. More information regarding PSYPACT and ASPPB can be found on their respective websites.

Member of the Public James "Ned" Beedie joined at 9:45 AM

In a motion duly made by Bradley McConnell and seconded by Sherri Scott, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to amend the agenda to discuss SB 21 at 10:00 AM on November 4th, 2021.

Agenda Item – SB 21 Temporary Military License

Director Sara Chambers provided the board with an update as to the Division's progress with the implementation of SB 21. SB 21 will be implemented on January 1st, 2022 and will essentially allow for military members and spouses to practice under a 180 day temporary license. The various licensing boards in Alaska are reviewing existing temporary licensing regulations and working to implement new regulations before SB 21 goes into effect.

The board took a brief at ease from 10:30 AM to 10:45 AM

Off Record: 10:30 AM

On Record: 10:48 AM

Agenda Item – Investigative Report

Investigator Josh Hardy presented the board with the investigative report for the board. This included cases, complaints, and intake matters from August 4th, 2021 through October 26th, 2021. Investigator Josh Hardy reported that there has been an increase in complaint intake for the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners.

Agenda Item – Division Report

Deputy Director Sharon Walsh presented the FY21 fourth quarter fiscal report for the board. The board finished the fiscal year with a surplus and no fee changes are recommended at this time. All Division fiscal reports are available on the website.

To make best use of time, the board continued to review meeting minutes from previous meetings.

In a motion duly made by Bernard Gatewood and seconded by Bradley McConnell, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the meeting minutes from April 22nd, 2021.

In a motion duly made by Sherri Scott and seconded by Bernard Gatewood, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the meeting minutes from August 19th and 20th, 2021.

In a motion duly made by Bernard Gatewood and seconded by Bradley McConnell, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to amend the agenda to move Regulation Projects to 11:13 AM.

Agenda Item – Regulation Projects

The board reviewed and voted on regulation projects that had been started in 2020. These projects were put on hold as the boards and Regulation Specialist with the Division were focusing on the

Emergency Courtesy License and other Covid-19 related regulations. The regulations voted on pertain to the checklist used for the Psychologist Courtesy License, the code of ethics referenced in regulations, and the requirement of a letter of reference from a member of an applicant's doctoral committee.

In a motion duly made by Sherri Scott and seconded by Bradley McConnell, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the changes to regulation 12 AAC 60.010. as presented.

In a motion duly made by Bernard Gatewood and seconded by Sherri Scott, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the changes to regulation 12 AAC 60.065. as presented.

In a motion duly made by Sherri Scott and seconded by Bernard Gatewood, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the changes to regulation 12 AAC 60.185. as presented.

The board took a brief at ease from 11:20 AM to 11:30 AM

Off Record: 11:20 AM

On Record: 11:30 AM

Agenda Item – Public Comment

Malan Paquette spoke about a variety of topics such as an advocacy group in Anchor Point, Alaska, suicide prevention, anti-fraud safety, and current vacancies through Board and Commissions.

Agenda Item – Lunch

With no other members of the public present to comment, the board closed public comment at 11:40 and the board elected to recess early for lunch.

Off Record: 11:41 AM

On Record: 1:02 PM

Agenda Item – CEU Topics

The board continued their discussion from the previous meeting regarding mandating specific topics for continuing education. Currently, the board only requires that at least half of the continuing education hours acquired for a biennial renewal are synchronous and at least three hours in professional ethics. The board will post a statement to further clarify the definition of synchronous and what continuing education activities will count as synchronous. In a similar fashion to the Board of Social Work Examiners and Board of Marital and Family Therapists, The Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners looked into requiring specific

continuing education topics for biennial renewals. The board considered requiring specific CE's for only the first renewal period. Specific subjects the board is interested in requiring are Alaska Native culture, substance abuse and suicide. This topic is still on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting and the board will revisit this topic then.

Board Member Sherri Scott left at 2:12 PM. Her absence has been excused by the Chair.

The board took some time to revisit PSYPACT and what that would mean for Alaska. The board would like to have feedback from the community regarding PSYPACT and how Alaskans feel about the compact legislature. They would also like to have discussions with the first seven states that joined PSYPACT and with states that have vocally opposed the compact. Logan Bugayong will reach out to Arizona and Washington to see if they have representatives that would be available and willing to speak at the next meeting.

The board took a brief at ease before the UAA presentation.

Off Record: 2:39 PM

On Record: 3:00 PM

Agenda Item – UAA Presentation

Gloria Eldridge, Hannah Ekstrom, and Patricia Sandberg from University of Alaska Anchorage presented regarding regulation proposals they have for the existing psychological associate license. The University of Alaska Anchorage is working towards APA accreditation for their Master's Psychology program. They are concerned that the majority of graduates from the Master's Psychology program elect to seek out licensure as a professional counselor instead of as a psychological associate. These representatives from the Master's Psychology program have two main proposals: creating regulation that would allow psychological associate applicants to receive supervision in the same way that professional counselors are able to obtain theirs, and changing the title to something that more accurately indicates the level of practice and education of these license holders to the public. The board is in favor of their proposed changes. Bradley McConnell had asked for clarification regarding how the difference in scope of practice would be presented to the public. Patricia Sandberg had assured that accreditation would make the distinction between the Master's and Doctoral practitioners extremely clear.

The board recessed to reconvene in the morning at 9:00 AM.

Off Record: 3:45 PM

Friday, November 5th, 2021

Agenda Item – Call to Order & Roll Call

Board Chair Erin Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM

Those present constituting a quorum of the board:

Erin Johnson, Chair, Psychologist

Bradley McConnell, Psychologist

Bernard Gatewood, Public Member

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

Logan Bugayong, Occupational Licensing Examiner

Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor

Members of the public in attendance were:

Marvo Reguindin, Executive Director of the Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA)

John Walsh, Lobbyist for AK-PA

Malan Paquette

Agenda Item – AK-PA Presentation

Marvo Reguindin and John Walsh presented the Alaska Psychological Association's (AK-PA) current draft of the Model Licensure Act (MLA).

Sherri Scott joined at 9:10 AM

Marvo Reguindin stated that the current statutes and regulations allow for psychologists and psychological associates in Alaska to obtain a temporary license or full licensure and that the intention of the MLA is to find a middle ground. This act would amend how supervision hours are acquired, introduce a part time license type and an inactive license type. AK-PA has the support of two legislators to introduce this bill. The board had several questions regarding specific language used in the draft, and the requirements set in place for the part time license type. The board and AK-PA are looking to meet before the next quarterly meeting and the board is hoping to speak to individuals who were involved in the drafting process and go through the proposal line by line.

The board took a brief at ease before entering into Executive Session for the next agenda item.

Off Record: 10:06 AM

On Record: 10:20 AM

Agenda Item – State Law & Ethics Exam Scoring

Upon a motion made by Bradley McConnell seconded by Sherri Scott and approved unanimously, it was resolved to enter into Executive Session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska constitutional right to privacy provisions for the purpose of discussing matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential;

Executive Session: 10:21 AM

Executive Session End: 11:41 AM

In a motion duly made by Sherri Scott and seconded by Bradley McConnell, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to amend the agenda to start New Business at 12:30 PM.

Agenda Item – Lunch

Off Record: 11:43 AM

On Record: 12:31 PM

Agenda Item – New Business

The board revisited the idea of changing the title of the temporary license used to gain supervision and take exams to something that indicates that they are not independently licensed psychologists. They made a motion to change the names to Supervised Temporary Psychologist and Supervised Temporary Psychological Associate. The names of these license types are not directly referenced in statute or regulation so this is a change to be made by Division staff internally.

Sara Chambers joined to further discuss SB 21. She provided a draft of the regulations adopted by the Board of Nursing at their meeting the day before; these regulations directly reference the centralized regulations put in place by the Division regarding temporary military licensure for military personnel and military spouses. Sara Chambers has provided a version of these regulations keyed specifically for the Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners that the board will be voting on virtually.

The board continued on with their agenda and discussed distance supervision. At their previous meeting, they had discussed the challenges of distance supervision, especially with the supervisee in rural areas of Alaska. Chair Erin Johnson will attend an AK-PA meeting and asking for input regarding difficulties with distance supervision. Further discussion will be held once the board has more input from the public regarding difficulties with distance supervision.

Agenda Item – Old Business

The board attended the recent ASPPB Annual Meeting. They found that the meeting focused heavily on continuing education and continuing competency.

Division staff will research contracting a third party to develop additional questions for the State Law and Ethics Examination. The current State Law & Ethics Examination questions have been in

circulation since the inception of the exam and the board believes that it would be beneficial to update the material.

The board revisited the topic of requiring specific continuing education topics. They would like to require six credits of Alaska Native culture and two credits of telehealth in the first renewal period, and two credits of substance abuse, two credits of suicide awareness, and maintain the three credits of ethics for every renewal period.

In a motion duly made by Bernard Gatewood and seconded by Sherri Scott, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to direct board staff to amend the regulations pertaining to the continued competency of psychologists and psychological associates.

Agenda Item – Application Review

Upon a motion made by Bradley McConnell seconded by Sherri Scott and approved unanimously, it was resolved to enter into Executive Session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska constitutional right to privacy provisions for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion; matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential.

Off Record: 1:43 PM

On Record: 2:16 PM

In a roll call vote called for by Logan Bugayong, the board voted to approve the Random Continuing Education Audit for Douglas Pomeroy, license number PSYP332. With unanimous consent, it was resolved to fail the Random Continuing Education Audit for Douglas Pomeroy, license number PSYP332.

In a roll call vote called for by Logan Bugayong, the board voted to approve the Application for Licensure by Credentials for Meredith Bernstein, license number 182928. With unanimous consent, it was resolved to not accept the application for licensure as a psychologist by credentials for Meredith Bernstein, license number 182928 based on 12 AAC 60.055.(4) *The board will, in its discretion, deny an application for licensure by credentials, or deny approval to take a licensing examination, if the application has been found to be practicing psychological services without a license.* In her application, Meredith Bernstein indicated that she is currently seeing clients via telehealth while residing in Alaska.

In a roll call vote called for by Logan Bugayong, the board voted to approve the Application for Licensure by Credentials for Patrick DeMarco, license number 180276. With unanimous consent, it was resolved to not accept the application for licensure as a psychologist by credentials for Patrick DeMarco, license number 180276 based on 12 AAC 60.082.(2), *The following criteria are established under AS 08.86.130 and AS 08.86.162 for programs of graduate study for either a doctorate or a master's degree in psychology: the institution offering the program must be accredited by one of the regional accrediting bodies recognized*

by the Council of Postsecondary Accreditation. Patrick DeMarco's doctoral degree did not come from an accredited institution.

In a roll call vote called for by Logan Bugayong, the board voted to approve the Request to take the EPPP as an Unlicensed Individual for Mark Mayo, license number 133440. With unanimous consent, it was resolved to deny the Request to take the EPPP as an Unlicensed Individual for Mark Mayo, license number 133440. Mark Mayo will need to apply for a new temporary license if he wishes to take the EPPP.

In a motion duly made by Bernard Gatewood and seconded by Sherri Scott, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting at 2:23 PM.

Off Record: 2:23 PM

Date minutes approved by board:	03.21.2025
☐ Meeting	☒ Onboard