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For those who would deregulate society in general and professional practice in particular, there is little that can be said in favor of a psychological Board of Examiners and the continued licensure of psychologists. Like attorneys, morticians, veterinarians, and certain other professionals, psychologists only rarely make decisions which truly have life and death consequences. Why not let the marketplace and peer pressure alone decide who may practice law, veterinary medicine, psychology and other professional disciplines? This question, both philosophical and practical, is being asked widely and at many levels. It has an immediate appeal and on the face of it seems to promise a great deal: less government intrusion in people's lives, wider availability of professional services at lower cost, an emphasis upon self-reliance rather than reliance upon government, etc.

The broad philosophical question "What should be the purpose(s) of government and to what lengths should it go in fulfilling such purpose?" will not be explored in any depth here and those who embrace a radical libertarian philosophy will see little merit in our arguments. We take the position that regulation of these professions is a proper role for state government, that such regulation can and should serve to protect the public, that professionals have an obligation to police their own ranks and should have mechanisms available by which to do so, and that a professional board of examiners is critical to the accomplishment of these tasks.

We do not intend a point-by-point rebuttal of all the various charges contained in the recent Division of Legislative Audit report other than to point out that the Division appears to have begun with the premises that professional regulation is not a proper activity for state government, and now is a good time for the Alaskan government to begin getting out of such affairs. Working from these premises, it has resurrected old charges, given credence to transparently self-serving complaints of disgruntled applicants, and failed to seek or accept information which might support the record of hard work and solid results turned in by the current Board of Examiners.

Overburdened in the extreme, understaffed, composed of too few members and funded for only a few meeting days each year, the Board has made remarkable progress in overcoming a legacy of administrative indifference, legislative uncertainty, constant pressure and an overwhelming backlog. In the face of impossible and sometimes contradictory demands, the Board has made excellent progress, deserving better than the one-sided evaluation conducted by the Division.

A measure of the inadequacy of the Division investigation is that at no point was the state psychological association contacted for comment, licensed psychologists weren't surveyed, and no apparent consideration was given to the carefully prepared and closely reasoned July 7, 1981 letter of Board member, Dr. Delys-Baglien. In it she responded at length to an Interim Letter from Mr. Dan Allen which in all significant respects paralleled the final Division report. It is evident from an examination of the final report that her letter was ignored. Dr. Delys-Baglien and the Board are well able to respond to specific criticisms of Board policies and actions and will continue to do so. We would like to point out some pragmatic reasons for working to improve, not eliminate, the regulation of psychological practice in Alaska.

It is well known that the vast majority of health care costs are now paid by government, insurance companies, and other third party payors. This situation holds equally true for the payment of treatment services provided by psychologists. Almost universally, the payors have chosen to hold down costs and protect consumers by reimbursing only licensed psychologists. Similarly, the 1981 Alaska legislature recognized a need to protect the public when it required licensure of psychologists involved in SB-100 involuntary commitment proceedings.

In 1979 the Governors Mental Health Advisory Council, a citizen group composed primarily of consumers, passed and later reaffirmed the following resolution:

Whereas the consuming public has a right to expect that individuals providing psychological treatment are professionally licensed qualified psychologists and psychological associates and;

Whereas many insurance providers require that psychologists be licensed for the payments of benefits and;

Whereas the judicial system and certain federal agencies such as federal disability certification programs require the participation of licensed psychologists and;

Whereas the present board, the Alaska Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners, provides professional licensing standards under the existing statutory scheme AS 08.86.230.

Be it resolved that the Mental Health Advisory Council supports the continuation of a Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associate Examiners.

The points they raised in 1979 are equally valid in 1982 and the Alaska Psychological Association strongly supports the continuation and improvement of current statutory provisions for the regulation of psychological practice. The professional Board of Examiners is an essential component of this effort. We pledge ourselves to work with the Alaska Legislature, the Division of Occupational Licensing, and professionals throughout the state to continue to improve the quality, availability and accessibility of professional psychological services throughout Alaska.

Michael M. D.  
Clinical Psychologist

Dr. Mueller Continues His Modia Effectiveness on Behalf of Psychology: Dr. Kenneth Mueller of the East Anchorage Psychiatric Group has continued his outstanding contribution to the advancement of Psychology as a science and profession in Alaska through his frequently occurring columns in the Living and Leisure section of the Anchorage Daily News. In early March Dr. Mueller, (a recent candidate for ALPA President-Elect) published a column that effectively synopsized some of the key concerns in support of continued licensure of Alaskan psychologists. The text of his article is reproduced below. The Executive Committee of ALPA expresses its sincere thanks to Dr. Mueller for his continued active contribution to our profession here in "The Great Land".

## When shopping for a therapist, look for the license

Finding a qualified therapist in Anchorage is no easy matter. There is a confusing array of services offered by practitioners who have a wide range of training and approaches.

As a consumer of health services, you can't be expected to evaluate the credentials of health service practitioners. However, the state can legally act in the public interest by licensing professional health practice.

If your therapist is a psychologist or a clinical social worker, here are 10 reasons why he or she should be licensed:

- This assures that when you engage a therapist, that person has had high levels of education, training and supervised experience. Licensed providers have been screened and evaluated carefully in terms of specific standards before they are allowed independently to provide services to you. The license also assures you that those standards are uniform from state to state, so if you are in therapy when you move, it is very likely the therapy can continue without major disruption.

- It provides a requirement that your therapist must continue his/her education and stay up to date on recent developments.

- It ensures privileged communications between you and your therapist (confidentiality).

- It discourages the use of fads and untested or experi-

mental forms of therapy.

- Insurance reimbursement is possible. If your therapist is licensed, your insurance company has a standard for recognition and payment of this important health benefit to its subscribers.

- It ensures an enforceable code of professional conduct. The license can be denied, suspended or revoked to counter a threat to the public welfare.

- It assures you that your therapist is a member of a profession that will police itself. For example, the ethical standards of psychologists are stricter than any other set of standards regarding independent practice.

- It demonstrates respectability and accountability. Your therapist voluntarily applies for licensure. By so doing, he/she is making an effort to upgrade the quality of professional services. Your therapist should also be active with a state association. Submitting to peer review is an act of good faith.

- It provides an opportunity for you to press for redress of grievances without costly litigation.

- It helps consumers identify reputable therapists. Licensure makes qualified therapists more accessible by making it easier to find them. According to Will Bukland of the American Psychological Association, this results in increased competition in economic terms among



dr. ken  
mueller

professionals licensed in the same category, resulting in stability of fees and lower costs.

When licensing boards are under public review, grievances often emerge about their performance. Of course, the value of licensure to you, as a potential consumer of such services, clearly outweighs the problems that occasionally re-

sult from board performance. The bath water may need changing, but the baby is worth saving.

Clinical social workers are presently working toward a licensure bill so they can more effectively police themselves. This should directly benefit those who turn to them for help.

Licensure isn't a guarantee that you and your therapist will work effectively together, but it does increase the probability of a positive outcome by assuring that your therapist has met rigorous standards.

□ Dr. Mueller is an Anchorage psychologist.

Sunset Update: Bills to continue the licensing Board were submitted in late February. The Health, Education and Social Services Committees of both houses are reportedly in favor of a four year continuation. Hearings are to be held in Juneau on the 8th of March at 3PM. Members are urged to express their support of House Bill 856 and Senate Bill 823 as soon as possible; especially if any of the following committee members are your representatives/senators: Senators Parr, Stimson, Fischer, Colletta and Kelly; Representatives Bierne, Martin, Cato, Smith and Malone.

Treasurer's Perspective: With the receipt of the Psychology Defense Fund Grant of \$5000 ALPA will be financially solvent for 1982 and able to meet the major aspects of its 1982 program, lobbying and Executive Officer costs states Treasurer Hal Post. However, very few of the membership can through with donations in excess of the basic \$65 dues assessment for 1982. This result occurred despite the resolution of the general membership at the 1981 meeting that "Members are encouraged to make additional voluntary dues contributions up to an amount equal to one day's pay." Thus far only four members have made contributions in excess of the mandatory dues. Special appreciation is expressed to Dr. Jane Krauss, Dr. Cheryl Frair, & Dr. Boy Collier for their generous contributions as well as to Dr. Joel Wieman, each of these members paid dues in a manner consistent with the spirit of the resolution made at the 1981B meeting. Other members are encouraged to consider additional payments insofar as ALPA is not likely to receive further PDF grants if licensure is continued. We'll need to carry the full burden of continuing development of our state association by ourselves.

President-Elect Frair Accepts Position: (Dr. Cheryl Frair our newly elected President-Elect responded to the Executive Committee's request for an acceptance message with the following.)

Thank-you for your support in my becoming President-Elect of ALPA. With the major issues facing psychologists in Alaska at this time we need to remember ALPA, as our professional association, can be far stronger than any one of us alone. Over the years of my association with ALPA I have been dismayed at the factionalism and the attitude of "them" against "us". As professionals we need each others support in being better able to function as a psychologist, be it in a university or college classroom, a mental health clinic in Ketchikan, a school in Anvik, a private office in Fairbanks or at API. The development of the regional groups with representatives on the Executive Committee and the liaison with the Alaska School Psychologists Association are a start toward developing a stronger statewide association. Please join together in supporting your profession and colleagues through ALPA.

Cheryl Frair, PhD

ALPA Executive Officer Invited to Address 1982 APA Convention: ALPA EO Dr. Dennis Scholl recently received and accepted an invitation from Division 31 of APA, Division of State Psychological Association Affairs, to participate in a State Psychological Association Affairs panel at the 1982 APA convention in Washington D.C.. The panel, chaired by Dr. James Lindeman the Division 31 president-elect and faculty of the U. of Oregon Health Sciences Center, will be entitled "Perils and Plusses of the Small State Psychological Association". EO Scholl is very interested in receiving letters, records or comments from Alaskan psychologists that will broaden the data base and validate his historical perspective on ALPA. If you have information on the history of ALPA or can otherwise contribute to the breadth and accuracy of Dr. Scholl's presentation please send in your information as soon as possible to the ALPA address. It is worthwhile to note that the Division 31 officers as well as APA see ALPA's support of the EO position as a model for all small population state associations.

## FY '82 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners

#### Goals:

It is the purpose and function of the board to ensure that quality psychological care is available to the public by assuring only qualified persons are admitted to practice psychology independently in the State; by actively enforcing the psychology practice act; and by promoting high standards within the profession throughout the State.

#### Objectives:

- 1) Promulgate psychological associate regulations to facilitate entry of qualified master's level psychologists into the professional field.
- 2) Promulgate regulations governing relicensure based on continued competency.
- 3) Refine the State portion of the licensing and explore the possibility of developing an examination committee.
- 4) Act to increase public awareness of board activities, and to educate the public of the purposes and function of the board, and of types of services available from psychologists in Alaska.
- 5) Meet four times this year and conduct two examinations.
- 6) Send a representative from the board to the national or regional AASPB meeting.

## FY '80 Performance Report

### Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners

This report is submitted to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing, in an attempt to assist them in evaluating the activities of the board.

#### 1. OVERVIEW

A great deal of the board's effort during FY '80 was directed toward the matter of the Sunset legislation which had placed continuation of the board in question.

Two board members travelled to Juneau twice to testify before legislative hearings and met with legislators and the Health Coalition representative. Large amounts of support in both time and dollars were contributed to this effort by both the American Psychological Association and the Alaska Psychological Association. Members of the ALPA as well as members of the Alaska Community Mental Health Directors organization met in support of board continuation and provided contact and testimony to legislators. The State and national support of the Health Coalition representative provided an important means of educating board members and professionals within the State on the necessity of their involvement in the legislative process. This was also a crucial link in providing legislators with knowledge regarding the issues involved in the delivery of high quality psychological services to the public.

A large number of the board's legislative objectives were achieved through passage of SB 583 which substantially revised and expanded the Psychology Practice Act. Passage of SB 583 was a major accomplishment in that it clarified many issues and questions arising from the original legislation governing the board and the Psychological profession in the State.

At each meeting of the board, a division investigator presented any complaints which might come under the purview of the board. Progress has been achieved in increased participation of the board in investigative matters.

Mr. Jim Parsons attended the American Association of State Psychology Boards (AASPB) national meeting in August and served as a liaison between the national organization and the State board.

Dr. Turner and Dr. Baglien attended the meetings of the Governor's Advisory Council on Mental Health in February and May.

Dr. Paul Turner and Dr. Charles Bovee were new appointees during this year.

## II BOARD ACTIVITIES

The board held a total of three meetings in FY 1980. One, July 5-6, 1979 in Anchorage, another September 18-19, 1979, in Anchorage, and the third on March 24-25, 1980, also in Anchorage. The board held two conference calls, August 30, 1979, and October 11, 1979.

## III EXAMINATIONS

The board administered two examinations during the period. One, October 19, 1979 and the other, April 11, 1980 both held in Anchorage. There were five candidates for the October exam.

There were five candidates for the April examination. The exam consists of a national multiple choice part and an essay part. One must pass both to be licensed. A person may retake only those portions of the exam they did not pass.

## IV STATISTICAL DATA

### Licensed Issued:

	<u>FY '78</u>	<u>FY '79</u>	<u>FY '80</u>
Examination	9	5	12
Endorsement	5	8	3
Psychological Associate (Exam)	0	0	3
Temporary Permits	2	4	1

V EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEARS 1979 AND 1980  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE EXAMINERS

TRAVEL

In-State transportation (Examiner)	\$1,195.00	\$2,851.00	\$ 960.51
In-State per diem (Examiner)	2,285.00	2,127.00	509.85
In-State transportation (Board)	9.00	--	1,430.00
In-State per diem (Board)	200.00	--	1,020.54
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL</b>	<b>\$4,419.00</b>	<b>\$4,978.00</b>	<b>\$3,920.90</b>

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Long Distance Telephone	\$ 163.00	\$ 637.00	\$ 724.97
Postage and Mailing	13.00	83.00	22.97
Photo Processing	--	--	137.47
Printing and Binding	190.00	390.00	98.00
Advertising	484.00	277.00	269.53
Professional Services	532.00	746.00	692.50
Membership Dues/Fees	--	320.00	169.00
<b>TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$1,382.00</b>	<b>\$2,453.00</b>	<b>\$2,114.00</b>

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Office/Library Supplies	\$ 20.00	\$ --	\$ 91.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,821.00</b>	<b>\$7,431.00</b>	<b>\$6,125.90</b>
Receipt	--	--	865.00

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**Board or  
Commission**

**Appointee . Term**

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**BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE EXAMINERS**  
AS 08.86 - 5 members; 3 year terms; serves at the pleasure of the  
Governor.

Dorothy Whitmore, Ed.D.  
207 Northern Lights  
Suite 202  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

July 1, 1980

Dick L. Madson  
Suite D, Nerland Building  
543 Third Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

July 1, 1980

Pam Delys-Baglien, Ph.D.  
Kodiak/Aleutian Mental  
Health Center  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

July 1, 1981

Charles C. Bovee, Ed.D.  
P.O. Box 479  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

July 1, 1980

Paul E. Turner, Ph.D.  
Box 247  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

July 1, 1982

Board of Psychologist &  
Psychological Associate Examiners  
Goals & Objectives

**Objectives:**

It is the board's purpose to ensure that quality psychological care is available to the public and to upgrade the standards of mental health care available in the state.

**Goals:**

- 1) Develop CE requirements for relicensure to become effective in the next renewal period. (1981, June 30)
- 2) Implement Psychological Associate Regulations to facilitate entry of qualified Master's level psychologists into the professional field.
- 3) Further refine the state portion of the exam with future goal to develop work sample type examination.
- 4) Continuous refining of the examination procedure & materials.
- 5) Increase the availability of Psychological services to the public by supporting legislation to include such services under 2<sup>nd</sup> party reimbursement by Medicaid & Medicare.
- 6) Act to increase public awareness of Board activities via news letter or newspaper articles, also to educate the public of the purpose & and function of of the Board & of the types of services available in the practice of psychology in Alaska.
- 7) Clarify the Board's role in developing our Aggressive Investigative Policy.
- 8) The Board would like to meet four times per year. Once in Juneau, twice in Anchorage, and once in Fairbanks, as well as offer two examinations. The Board would also like for one person to attend the National meetings.

## FY 79 Performance Report

### Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners

This report is submitted to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing in an attempt to assist them in evaluating the activities of the Board.

#### I. OVERVIEW

In an overview, the board's primary objective for this past year was to develop and implement equitable regulations to carry out the provisions of the Alaska Statutes governing the practice of psychology. The board's failure to do this at an earlier date had led to conflicting policy and charges of arbitrary and capricious judgement on the part of the board. The board accomplished this for psychologist when their regulations became effective December 24, 1978. Regulations for Psychological Associates were brought up in the spring and should be ready for public hearing in the fall.

A secondary objective of the board has been to develop a more comprehensive State essay examination for licensure purposes. Alaska Statutes do not permit oral exams or interviews in the course of evaluating applicants, making it necessary for such an exam. The board opted to use the exam administered by the Florida Board for its Spring exam. The exam is comprehensive in nature with an established record and set answer key. The board did have difficulties with grading, however, taking over four months to grade and report scores to candidates.

A final concern during this year has been that of Sunset Legislation. Dan Allen of the Division of Legislative Audit was present to discuss with the board the nature of Sunset at its September 11 and 12, meeting. The board did not seriously consider the implications until its March 30, 1979 meeting. Several members had been present to testify before the House Commerce Committee via teleconference in February but the session was cancelled and never rescheduled. The board has taken several steps to remedy the problems noted in the audit report, and has defined some goals and objectives for the coming year. The board is working on Psychological Associate Regulations, has asked the division to prepare regulations requiring continuing education for relicensure, and has revised their application forms to eliminate impertinent data. The board is also seeking to define minimum competency standards for admittance to practice psychology in case the board is sunsetted and the division is called upon to make these decisions.

In summary, it has been an active year. The board has been hampered in its activities by the lack of definitive regulations, which should be alleviated with their recent passage. The division has had difficulty

understanding the practice of psychology in its various facets and has been unable to provide adequate assistance in some areas. The board received an unfavorable review by the auditors, and was discredited by the legislature. The board has had confrontations with the Department of Law, the Ombudsmans Office, and several applicants. Through it all the board has taken some positive steps to correct the problems without compromising their standards and the best interests of the public.

It should be recognized that the professional practice of psychology is still developing at the national level. Without the historical background other professions are privileged to have, it can be expected that certain problems will arise in the process. The board is doing its best with the resource at hand.

## II. BOARD ACTIVITIES

The board held a total of three meetings in FY 1979. One, September 1.-12, 1978 in Anchorage, another October 20, 1978, also in Anchorage, and the third March 30, 1979 in Juneau. The board had scheduled a fourth meeting, but due to budgetary constraints, it was rescheduled for July 5-6, 1979, in FY 80. The board also held one conference call meeting April 19, 1979.

In addition to these meetings, several members were able to participate in other meetings at the State and National Level. Pam Baglien, Ph.D., and Robert Bowers met twice with the Governor's Advisory Council on Mental Health. Jim Parsons and Dorothy Whitmore, Ed.D. reported on the boards activities to the Alaska Psychological Association. Finally, Mr. Parsons attended the annual American Association of State Psychology Boards in September, 1978.

## III. EXAMINATIONS

The board administered two examinations during the period, one October 20, 1978 and the other April 20, 1979. There were four candidates for the October exam. All passed and were subsequently licensed.

There were 10 candidates for the April Examination. The exam consists of a National Multiple choice part and an essay part. One must pass both parts to be licensed. Of the 10 candidates seven passed the national exam. Of those seven, four passed the essay exam and were licensed. Two of the three who failed the National exam passed the essay portion; three who passed the National Portion failed the essay portion. Only one person failed both the essay and the National portion. A person must retake only those portions of the exam they did not pass.

#### IV. STATISTICAL DATA

There were 12 psychologist licenses issued during this period, five by exam and seven by endorsement. In addition, the board issued five temporary permits. Two of those will lapse because the candidates did not pass the April examination.

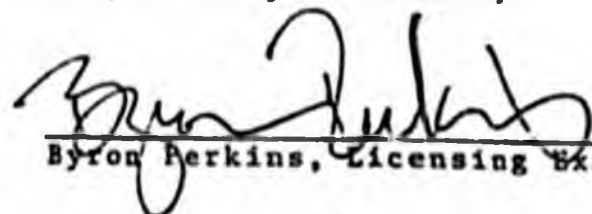
V.

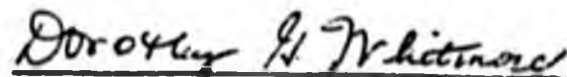
#### Expenditures for Fiscal Years 1978 and 1979\* Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners

<u>Travel</u>	<u>FY '78</u>	<u>FY '79</u>
In-State transportation	\$1,195.00	\$2,851.00
In-State per diem	2,285.00	2,127.00
Outside transportation	9.00	--
Outside per diem	200.00	--
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL</b>	<b>\$4,419.00</b>	<b>\$4,978.00</b>
 <u>Contractual Services</u>		
Long distance telephone	\$ 163.00	\$ 637.00
Postage and mailing	13.00	83.00
Printing and binding	100.00	390.00
Advertising	484.00	277.00
Professional Services	532.00	746.00
Membership dues/fees	--	320.00
<b>TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$1,382.00</b>	<b>\$2,453.00</b>
 <u>Supplies and Material</u>		
Office/library supplies	\$ 20.00	\$ --
 <u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	 <b>\$5,821.00</b>	 <b>\$7,431.00</b>

\*Total revenues for corresponding periods: \$2,680.00 and \$4,435.00  
Average yearly revenues were \$3,557.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Byron Perkins, Licensing Examiner

  
Dorothy Whitmore, Ed.D., Chairman  
Board of Psychologist and  
Psychological Associate examiners

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. SB 823 "An Act continuing the existence of  
Title the Board of Psychology and Psychological Associate Examiners: ...  
Requested by Senate HESS Date 3-31-82

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Commerce & Economic Development  
Program Category Affected Public Protection  
BRU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected Regulation & licensing of professions  
(Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
<b>TOTAL</b>		0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instruction, Section III)

Funding of the Board of Psychology and Psychological Associate Examiners is already included in the department's detail budget for FY'83.

IV. DATE March 31, 1982

*Marjorie Odland*  
PREPARED BY Marjorie Odland  
AGENCY Division of Occupational Licensing  
PHONE 465-2535

Original: Legislative Finance  
CCI Budget and Management  
Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)  
33-001 (Rev. 12/81)