



MISSISSIPPI
BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGY

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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR FY 2024

The Board's powers and duties are defined by sections 73-31-1 through 73-31-31 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

Meetings

Per Mississippi Statute, the Mississippi Board of Psychology is required to meet at least four (4) times annually, once each quarter. Instead, the Board met eleven (11) times during FY 2024. Per Mississippi Statute, all meetings were held in accordance with the Mississippi Open Meetings Act and were open to the public. Reasonable notices of all meetings were made available to the public prior to all meetings. In addition, the Board is required to conduct Oral Examinations no less than twice a year. The Board conducted Oral Examinations seven (7) times, corresponding with scheduled meetings. Notices of Oral Examination administrations were made available to the public prior to all examinations.

Application for Licensure

During FY24, forty-three (43) individuals submitted a "Request to Start Application Form". Twenty-eight (28) individuals completed the entire application process and successfully passed an Oral Jurisprudence Examination and were fully licensed as psychologists in the state of Mississippi during FY24. Three (3) individuals applied for licensure under the Universal Recognition of Licensure Act and were issued a Temporary Practice Permit while they complete the application process.

Licensed Psychologists

During FY24, the Mississippi Board of Psychology issued new permanent licenses to practice psychology in Mississippi to the following individuals:

Mary Sheree Bailey	Madison, MS
Shannon R. Bierma	New Orleans, LA
Justin Thomas Carreras	New Orleans, LA
Colleen Denise Character	Ocala, FL
Emily Rogers DeFouw	Sumrall, MS
Laura Elizabeth Drislane	Oxford, MS
Jennifer Lynn Dvoskin	Tucson, AZ
Frederick Glenn Grieve	Bowling Green, KY
Kourtney Rebecca Kromminga	Petal, MS
Joshua Meyer Lieberman	River Ridge, LA
Michael James McDermott	Arrington, TN
Meagan Boyd Medley	New Albany, MS
Laura Mykell Melton	Aurora, CO
Gina Manguno Mire	Metairie, LA
Gregory Thomas Obert	Ridgeland, MS
Freddie Anibal Pastrana Rivera	Sumrall, MS
Jennifer Arden Petell	Southaven, MS

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Alison McKenzie Poor	New Orleans, LA
Stephanie Hope Procell	Metairie, LA
Thomandra Shavaun Sam	Zachary, LA
Kayley Sanger	Pensacola, FL
Ina Simpson	Ridgeland, MS
Adrienne Miscimarra Sprouse	Hamden, CT
Brooklee Lightsey Tynes	Petal, MS
Kelsey Ann Walker	Flowood, MS
Michael Ray Walsh	D'Iberville, MS

Temporary Licenses

Applicants who are duly licensed in other jurisdictions and who have passed the Examination for Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP), but who have not yet taken an oral jurisprudence examination, may apply for a temporary license. During FY24, the Board received no requests from a candidate who was previously licensed as a psychologist and in good standing in another jurisdiction was issued a Temporary License while awaiting the Mississippi Board of Psychology's next administration of the Oral Jurisprudence Examination.

Temporary Practice Certificates

Applicants who are duly licensed in other jurisdictions and who are not residents of the State of Mississippi and who do not maintain an office within the State may apply for a Temporary Practice Certificate that allows them to practice psychology on a temporary basis in the State. During FY24, nineteen (19) individuals who are licensed psychologists and in good standing in other jurisdictions were issued time-limited Temporary Practice Certificates.

EPPP Only

In FY23, the Board conducted a survey and meeting of the directors of doctoral psychology programs in MS to ascertain the desirability of allowing doctoral students to sit for the EPPP earlier in the professional process. Near the end of FY23, the Board created and deployed the pathway for student candidates who have not yet completed the requirements for licensure and with the support and recommendation of their program director, to request to sit for the EPPP earlier in their training. In FY24, seven (7) applicants applied for the opportunity and were approved. The Board sees this as a positive step toward removing barriers to licensure.

License Renewals

At the beginning of FY24 there were four hundred and seventy-one (471) licensed psychologists in Mississippi. All psychologists in the state of Mississippi are required to renew their licenses annually, prior to June 30 of each year. During FY24, four hundred and eighty-nine (489) licensed psychologists in the state of Mississippi renewed their licenses prior to June 30, 2024.

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Eight (8) individuals did not renew their licenses; four (4) psychologists retired from practice. At present, there are four hundred and eighty-nine (489) individuals licensed as psychologists in Mississippi.

Civil Commitment Examiner Certifications

Under Mississippi statute 41-21-61, the Board may certify licensed psychologists who have satisfactorily completed additional training as civil commitment examiners. During FY24, the Board certified the following three (3) licensed psychologists who completed the required training and successfully passed examination as civil commitment examiners who may be appointed by the various chancery courts to participate as examiners in these proceedings.

Katherine C. Andre, Ph.D.

Joy D. Hogge, Ph.D.

Jennifer Marie Ladner-Graham, Ph.D.

Complaints and Investigations

In protection of the public, the Board reviewed the following inquiries during FY24:

The Board concluded the investigation of two (2) complaints from FY 23 and received seven (7) complaints in FY24 which were as follows:

230402 (FY23)

Complaint centered around treatment in an inpatient facility. The complaint was reviewed with Ms. Morris in the A.G.'s Office and she and the Executive Secretary determined that no ethical or legal violations were found.

Final disposition: Closed.

230503 (FY23)

Complaint centered around evaluations in a child custody dispute. The complaint was reviewed with Ms. Morris in the A.G.'s Office and she and the Executive Secretary determined that no ethical or legal violations were found.

Final disposition: Closed.

230904

Complaint centered around unlicensed person presenting as a psychologist. This complaint was reviewed with Ms. Morris in the A.G.'s Office and she and the Executive Secretary determined that a Cease & Desist letter was in order.

Final disposition: Closed.

231005

Complaint centered around psychologist not providing timely reports. This complaint was

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reviewed with Ms. Morris in the A.G.'s Office and she and the Executive Secretary determined that psychologist must provide proof of submission of reports.

Final disposition: Closed after confirmation of report received.

231006

Complaint centered around representing on social media as a psychologist. This complaint was reviewed with Ms. Morris in the A.G.'s Office and she and the Executive Secretary determined that a Cease & Desist letter was in order.

Final disposition: Closed after confirmation of change in internet messaging.

231007

Complaint centered around representing on social media as a psychologist and advertising services by an unlicensed provider. This complaint was reviewed with Ms. Morris in the A.G.'s Office and she and the Executive Secretary determined that a Cease & Desist letter was in order.

Final disposition: Closed.

231008

Complaint centered around allegations of unfair and discriminatory practices and wrongful termination. This complaint was reviewed with Ms. Morris in the A.G.'s Office and she and the Executive Secretary determined that this is outside of the Board's scope.

Final disposition: Closed.

240101

Complaint centered around allegations of ethical violations in conducting of court-ordered forensic examination. This complaint was reviewed with Ms. Morris in the A.G.'s Office and she and the Executive Secretary determined that no ethical or legal violations were found.

Final disposition: Closed.

240202

Complaint centered around psychologist not providing timely reports. This complaint was reviewed with Ms. Morris in the A.G.'s Office and she and the Executive Secretary determined that an educational letter was appropriate.

Final disposition: Closed.

Rules and Regulations

During FY24 the Board continued its Rules and Regulations revisions and the review of Statutes.

License Management System

The Board utilized a license management system specifically designed for state regulatory boards and continued to work with the developers to modify the system to meet our specific needs. This system has been operational since January 2017. The implementation of this system has increased capabilities and security, and decreased processing time for license renewals, and promoted efficiency and convenience to licensees and applicants. The new system improves compatibility with all other state systems. During the FY24 renewal period ending June 30, 2024, four hundred and eighty-six (486) licensees used the online license management system to renew their license. This amounted to 99% of renewals during this period.

Mississippi Autism Board

The Mississippi Autism Board was created by the legislature in 2015. This Board was empowered under Miss. Code Ann. § 73-75-1, et seq., to license qualified applicants in the practice of behavior analysis and to promulgate such rules as are necessary to provide for the licensing of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts. The principal offices of the Mississippi Autism Board are located in the Office of the Mississippi Board of Psychology. During FY18 the legislature directed the transition of the Mississippi Autism Board to operate under the authority of the Mississippi Board of Psychology. During FY24 the Office of the Mississippi Board of Psychology provided administrative services to the Mississippi Autism Board. The Mississippi Autism Board met seven (7) times and administered Oral Jurisprudence Examinations six (6) times. There are currently two hundred and nineteen (219) Licensed Behavior Analysts and there were fifty-one (51) Licensed Behavior Analysts licensed in FY24. There are currently twelve (12) Assistant Behavior Analysts and six (6) were licensed in FY24. There were four (4) Temporary Licenses issued to those awaiting the next opportunity to take the Oral Jurisprudence Exam. Thirty-one (31) existing licenses were renewed. There are currently eleven (11) applications for licensure pending as of June 30, 2024. There were three hundred and eighty-nine (389) registrations for Registered Behavior Technicians processed during FY 24 and there are currently four hundred twenty-eight (428) active Registered Behavior Technicians certified to work with Licensed Behavior Analysts. The Board received nine (9) new complaints during FY 24 which are currently under active investigation. Six (6) complaints from the prior year were closed without action.

Development of an online license management system (LMS) continued and registration of RBTs was made possible via LMS. The website now provides license verification services for active practitioners in real time as well as allowing management of RBT supervision as of the fourth quarter of FY24. Online payments will soon be possible.

Board Administration

The Board has one (1) full-time employee who serves as Executive Director. The Board was successful in securing a PIN during the FY21 Legislative Session (HB 1374) so that the Board Administrator became the Board's Executive Director starting July 1, 2021. The annual

performance review was conducted with an average score in all areas between good and excellent.

A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into by and between the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration and the Mississippi Board of Psychology for the purpose of establishing the agreed upon conditions and procedures under which DFA will provide accounting and other services to the Board.

The Board was entered into an Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) as passed in the 2024 Legislative Session (SB2157).

Overview of the Board's 5-Year Strategic Plan 2026–2030

The Mississippi Board of Psychology's mission is to prevent the unauthorized, unqualified, and improper practice of psychology in Mississippi. This mission is possible through statutes that empower the Board to establish licensing requirements, to set standards for professional behavior, and to review the professional conduct of licensed psychologists to promote competent practice and public welfare.

The Board of Psychology's first priority during the next five years is to stay abreast of national and state issues that affect the ethical practice of psychology. Board members' active participation on list-serves and conferences focused on psychological services will help accomplish this. Emerging issues about licensure and practice are systematically included on the Board's agenda for discussion and action where needed.

The Board of Psychology is charged with protecting the public by assuring candidates for licensure meet minimal standards to practice and that licensees uphold legal and ethical expectations. The Board will take appropriate action to mitigate harm to anyone who receives services from a Mississippi psychologist. Some of the upcoming discussions of the Board will include a consideration of:

- 1) Addition of the EPPP-2, a competence examination recently development by ASPPB,
- 2) Pros/cons of continuing to offer an oral examination once the EPPP-2 goes into effect,
- 3) Continued monitoring of PSYPACT providers for delivery of telehealth services, as well as the need for additional regulation of provision of telehealth services.
- 4) Utilizing the data management system to promote completely electronic licensure renewals and to more efficiently review Continuing Education requirements and materials.
- 5) Establishing a data base for the Autism Board and providing efficient administration of the Autism Board.
- 6) Ongoing review of the Board's Rules and Regulations to ensure that these contain no unnecessary barriers to licensure for qualified applicants.

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Financial Report

PSYCHOLOGY BOARD - FY2024 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORTING

Psychology Board - BA1823

Major	Major Obj Code	Current Budget	Actuals (Expenditures)	Current Budget - Actuals (Expenditures)	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Obj Code	Name	\$159,793.00				Budget
A1	Salaries	\$90,820.00	\$80,549.98	\$10,270.02	\$0.00	\$10,270.02
A2	Travel	\$17,100.00	\$16,597.62	\$502.38	\$0.00	\$502.38
B	Contractual	\$43,473.00	\$40,799.28	\$2,673.72	\$0.00	\$2,673.72
C	Commodities	\$3,400.00	\$2,092.42	\$1,307.58	\$0.00	\$1,307.58
D1	Capital Outlay	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
D2	Equipment	\$5,000.00	\$2,375.00	\$2,625.00	\$0.00	\$2,625.00
D3	Vehicles	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
D4	Wireless	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
E	Subsidies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grand Total		\$159,793.00	\$142,414.30	\$17,378.70	\$0.00	\$17,378.70

Travel 60300

Commitment Item	Commitment Item	Current Budget	Expenditures	Current Budget - Expenditures	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Number	Name	\$17,100.00				Budget Authority
60400000	In State Travel	\$0.00	\$1,506.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60402000	In State Non-Taxable Lodging	\$0.00	\$1,042.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60500000	Out of State Travel	\$0.00	\$1,555.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60502000	Out of State Non tax lodging	\$0.00	\$6,032.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60502100	Out of State Travel tax Lodging	\$0.00	\$1,227.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60505000	Out of State Public Carrier	\$0.00	\$5,233.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60507000	Other O/C Travel Cost	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60701000	Travel Soc Sec Match	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60702000	Travel Medicare Match	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60960000	Prior Year Expense-Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$17,100.00	\$16,597.62	\$502.38	\$0.00	\$502.38

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Contractual Services 61000

Commitment Item	Commitment Item	Current Budget	Expenditures	Current Budget -	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Number	Name	\$43,473.00		Expenditures		Budget Authority
61060000	Employee Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61070000	Travel Related Reg.	\$0.00	\$3,230.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61100000	Transport of Goods	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61450000	Conf Rm, Exh, Display	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61600000	Interagency Fees	\$0.00	\$10,284.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61610000	Contract Wkr-Payroll	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61625000	Contract Wkr-Match	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61665000	Invest Mgr. & Actuary	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61690000	Fees & Services – Prof. Fees	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61710000	Membership Dues	\$0.00	\$202.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61818000	Cell Time - Out Vend	\$0.00	\$1,059.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61839000	Software - Out Vend	\$0.00	\$15,795.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61850000	Payments to ITS	\$0.00	\$3,183.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61900000	P-Card Contractual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61950000	PY Exp. Contractual	\$0.00	\$3,105.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$43,473.00	\$40,799.28	\$2,673.72	\$0.00	\$2,673.72

Commodities 62000

Commitment Item	Commitment Item	Current Budget	Expenditures	Current Budget -	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Number	Name	\$3,400.00		Expenditures		Budget Authority
62040000	Food for Business Meetings	\$0.00	\$949.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62078000	Other Misc. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62085000	Office Supplies & Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62115000	Parts-Office/IT/Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62400000	Furniture & Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62415000	Computer & Computer Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62900000	P-Card Commodities	\$0.00	\$1,143.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$3,400.00	\$2,092.42	\$1,307.58	\$0.00	\$1,307.58

Equipment 63200

Commitment Item	Commitment Item	Current Budget	Expenditures	Current Budget -	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Number	Name	\$5,000.00		Expenditures		Budget Authority
63200000	Equipment-Copier/Printer (New)	\$0.00	\$2,375.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
63200000	Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
63200000	Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$5,000.00	\$2,375.00	\$2,625.00	\$0.00	\$2,625.00

Board Membership during FY24

Lisa Yazdani, Ph.D.

Chair
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(2019-2024)

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Molly Clark, Ph.D.

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Penni S. Foster, Ph.D.

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Rev. Chris Cumbest

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(2022-2027)

Submitted for and on behalf of the Board,

Monica Sutton, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Psychology

Lisa Yazdani, Ph.D.
Chair
Mississippi Board of Psychology