



MISSISSIPPI  
BOARD OF  
PSYCHOLOGY

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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR FY 2018**

**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 MS Statute, the Mississippi Board of Psychology is required to meet at least four (4) times annually, once each quarter. Instead, the Board met thirteen (13) times during FY 2018. Per MS Statute, all meetings were held in accordance with the Mississippi Open Meeting 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 nine (9) times, corresponding with scheduled meetings. Notices of Oral Examination administrations were made available to the public prior to all examinations.

**Application for Licensure**

During FY18, twenty-six (26) individuals submitted a Request to Start Application Process and were entered into the national application management system (Psychology Licensure Universal System). Of those twenty-six (26) individuals, seventeen (17) chose to begin their application. No applications were withdrawn or retired due to inactivity. Currently, forty-one (41) applications are in process. Sixteen (16) individuals completed the application process and were licensed as psychologists in the state of Mississippi.

**Licensed Psychologists**

During FY18, the Mississippi Board of Psychology issued new permanent licenses to practice psychology in Mississippi to the following individuals:

Daniel Andrew Barnes	Madison	MS
Sarah R. Cunningham	Jackson	MS
Carey Bernini Dowling	Oxford	MS
Emily Biemiller Fortney	Columbus	MS
Jessica Lauren Fugitt	Jackson	MS
Nathan ReShawn Harper	Cordova	TN
David Hector Howard	Piedmont	CA
Sarah McCallum Irby	Southaven	MS
Susan Marie Jones	Oxford	MS
John Wharton McCoy	Memphis	TN
Kristy DiSabatino McRaney	Hattiesburg	MS
Gina Manguno Mire	New Orleans	LA
Virginia Catherine Persinger	Brandon	MS
Regan Michelle Slater	Oxford	MS
Meghan Anna Wall	Wauwatosa	WI
Joy Zelikovsky	Hamden	CT

### **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 examination, may apply for a temporary license. During FY18, one (1) individual 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 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 FY18, four (4) individuals who were licensed psychologists and in good standing in other jurisdictions were issued time-limited Temporary Practice Certificates. A total of seven (7) individuals held Temporary Practice Certificates in FY18.

### **License Renewals**

At the beginning of FY18 there were four hundred-eight (408) 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 FY18, three hundred ninety-seven (397) licensed psychologists in the state of Mississippi renew their licenses prior to June 30, 2018. Fourteen (14) renewed after June 30, 2018. Twenty (20) individuals did not renew their licenses. As of July 31, 2018, there are four hundred-eleven 411 licensed psychologists in Mississippi.

### **Complaints and Investigations**

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

1. Case Number 051617 - The Board investigated a complaint alleging a Psychologist engaged in unethical practice and poor office procedures. The Board found insufficient evidence of an ethical violation and closed the case on 01/12/2018. The Board sent an educational letter concerning office procedures to the Psychologist. The Board was asked to reinvestigate the same Psychologist regarding allegations of different concerns not under the authority of the Board. The investigation again failed to support an ethical violation. Therefore, the Board closed the case on 02/06/2018.
2. Case Number 070617 - The Board investigated a complaint alleging a Psychologist engaged in unethical conduct. After multiple conversations the complainant failed to respond to the Board's inquires for more information. The case was closed 03/09/2018 with no action taken.

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3. Case Number 042017 – The Board investigated a complaint alleging a Psychologist engaged in unethical conduct and poor standard of care. The case was closed finding insufficient evidence of unethical behavior and poor standard of care. The case was closed with no action against the Psychologist on 03/09/2018.
4. Case Number 07272017 – The Board investigated a complaint alleging a Psychologist engaged in unprofessional verbal interactions. The Board found insufficient evidence to support any unethical or illegal infractions. The Board closed the date 02/02/2018.
5. Case Number 11072017 – The Board investigated a complaint alleging a Psychologist engaged in unethical conduct. The complainant did not respond to a request for additional information from the Board. Therefore, the Board found insufficient evidence to support the allegation. The Board took no action and the case was closed 03/09/2018.
6. Case Number 08212017 – The Board was asked to investigate a complaint that a Psychologist engaged in unethical conduct. The Board found insufficient evidence of unethical conduct. The Board closed the case on 11/09/2017.
7. Case Number 05112018 – The Board received a complaint from a Psychologist of a non-psychologist practicing outside of their scope of practice. The case was referred to the Attorney General’s office for review. The case is ongoing.
8. Case Number 03302018 -The Board received a complaint that an out of state Psychologist had been practicing in Mississippi without the proper license. The complainant withdrew and the Board closed the case.

### **Rules and Regulations**

The Board previously completed an in-depth review of its Rules and Regulations, posted the proposed revisions on the Mississippi Secretary of State’s web page, and uploaded the Proposed Rules and Regulations as required by the MS Administrative Bulletin. During FY18 the Board held an Oral Proceeding concerning these proposed revisions. Feedback concerning the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations was received by the Board. After careful deliberation regarding the feedback expressed, the Board voted to withdraw the proposed rules changes and their summary from the Secretary of State’s website. The Board continues to review its Rules and Regulations in anticipation of possible changes to the Rules and Regulations at a later date.

### **License Management System**

The Board has purchased a new license management system specifically designed for state regulatory boards and has worked with the developers to modify the system to meet our specific needs. This system has been operational since January 2017. The implementation of this new system has increased capabilities, decreased office costs, and decreased processing time for

license renewals, and promoted efficiency and convenience to licensees and applicants. The new system will improve compatibility with all other state systems. During this FY18 renewal period, three hundred-sixty (360) licensees (88%) used the new system to renew their license.

### **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 Secretary of State. During FY18 the legislature directed the transition of the Mississippi Autism Board to operate under the authority of the Mississippi Board of Psychology. During FY19 the office of the Mississippi Secretary of State will continue to provide administrative services to the Mississippi Autism Board. Transition is anticipated to be complete by July 1, 2019.

### **Changes in Board Administration**

The Board has no employees and has in the past used independent contractors to provide management services. In March 2018 the Board terminated for convenience the most recent management contract. The Board is in the process of identifying a management firm that will provide administrative assistance, accounting and office management services within the contractual agreement with the Board. Currently, Board members are performing services that will be performed by the identified management firm. The Board is also considering making a request for a state employment position. 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.

### **Overview of the Board's 5-Year Strategic Plan 2020–2024**

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 member's 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.

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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) Possibility of joining the Interjurisdictional Compact (Psypact) for delivery 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

**Financial Report**

**PSYCHOLOGY BOARD - FY2018 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORTING**

**Psychology Board - BA1823**

Major	Major Obj Code	Current Budget	Actuals (Expenditures)	Current Budget - Actuals (Expenditures)	Purchase Orders	Total Available Budget
<b>Obj Code</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>\$120,837.00</b>				<b>Budget</b>
A1	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
A2	Travel	\$15,000.00	\$6,055.10	\$8,944.90	\$0.00	\$8,944.90
B	Contractual	\$98,050.00	\$73,883.80	\$24,166.20	\$0.00	\$24,166.20
C	Commodities	\$7,787.00	\$6,227.12	\$1,559.88	\$0.00	\$1,559.88
D1	Capital Outlay	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
D2	Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$120,837.00</b>	<b>\$86,166.02</b>	<b>\$34,670.98</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$34,670.98</b>

**Travel 60300**

Commitment Item	Commitment Item	Current Budget	Expenditures	Current Budget - Expenditures	Purchase Orders	Total Available Budget Authority
<b>Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>				<b>Budget Authority</b>
60400000	In State Travel	\$0.00	\$2,341.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60500000	Out of State Travel	\$0.00	\$3,713.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60701000	Travel Soc Sec Match	\$0.00	\$0.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60702000	Travel Medicare Match	\$0.00	\$0.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,055.10</b>	<b>\$8,944.90</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$8,944.90</b>

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**Contractual Services 61000**

<b>Commitment Item</b>	<b>Commitment Item</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Current Budget -</b>	<b>Purchase Orders</b>	<b>Total Available</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>\$98,050.00</b>		<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Budget Authority</b>
61070000	Travel Related Reg.	\$0.00	\$2,020.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61110000	Postal Services	\$0.00	\$124.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61450000	Conf. Rm Exh. & Display	\$0.00	\$1,376.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61690000	Fees & Svc - Prof Fees	\$0.00	\$56,796.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61696000	Fees & Svc Reimb - no 1099	\$0.00	\$1,658.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61710000	Membership Dues	\$0.00	\$1,547.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61836000	Outsred IT - Out Vend	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61839000	Software - Out Vend	\$0.00	\$6,419.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61848000	Maint. IT Equip - Out Vend	\$0.00	\$1,273.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61900000	P-Card Contractual	\$0.00	\$2,167.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$98,050.00</b>	<b>\$73,883.80</b>	<b>\$24,166.20</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$24,166.20</b>

**Commodities 62000**

<b>Commitment Item</b>	<b>Commitment Item</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Current Budget -</b>	<b>Purchase Orders</b>	<b>Total Available</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>\$7,787.00</b>		<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Budget Authority</b>
62040000	Food for Business Meetings	\$0.00	\$2,737.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62115000	Parts - Office/IT/Other	\$0.00	\$216.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62900000	P-Card Commodities	\$0.00	\$3,115.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62920000	Reimb Travel - Commodities	\$0.00	\$158.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$7,787.00</b>	<b>\$6,227.12</b>	<b>\$1,559.88</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,559.88</b>

**Board Membership for FY18**

**John H. Askew, Ph.D.**  
Chair & CE Coordinator  
G.V. Montgomery VAMC  
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Term: 2013-2018

**Patricia P. Alexander, Ph.D.**  
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Term: 2013-2018

**Lisa Yazdani, Ph.D.**  
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Term: 2014-2019

**Natalie W. Gaughf, Ph.D., ABPP**  
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Term: 2016-2021

**Steve Ellis, Ph.D.**  
Civil Commitment Coordinator  
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Term: 2016-2021

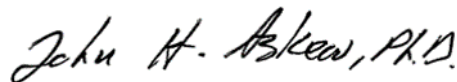
**Monica J. Sutton, Ph.D.**  
Treasurer  
University of MS Medical Center  
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Term: 2017 – 2022

**Patrick Phelan, O.D.**  
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Term: 2017 – 2022

Submitted For and On Behalf of the Board,



Patricia P. Alexander, Ph.D.  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Psychology



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Mississippi Board of Psychology