BOARD MEMBERS
Catalina M. Arata, Ph.D., Chair, Psychologist Member*
Kristi Ann Miller, M.S., Vice-Chair, Psychological Technician Member*
Joseph D. Ackerson, Ph.D., Psychologist Member (Term Expired January 2021)
Eliza M. Belle, Ph.D., Psychologist Member
Mary Ann Bowers, Ph.D., Psychologist Member
Edwin W. Cook, III, Ph.D., Psychologist Member
Nancy Berland, Ph.D., Psychologist Member
Carmen Douglas, SHRM-SCP, SPHR, Designated Public Member

ADMINISTRATIVE & LEGAL STAFF
Lori H. Rall, Executive Director
Lauren B. Benson, Administrative Assistant
Brice M. Johnston, General Counsel

MISSION STATEMENT
The Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology seeks to promote and protect the public’s health, welfare and quality of life by licensing and regulating the practice of psychology and by promoting access to psychological services delivered in a safe, competent and ethical manner.

100 North Union Street, Suite 880
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone # 334-242-4127   Fax # 334-242-4411
Email: albdpsychology@psychology.alabama.gov
Visit us online at: www.psychology.alabama.gov

*Continued until Reappointments can be made, per ALA. CODE § 34-26-21(a)(2).
NEW BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED

NANCY BERLAND, PH.D.

Psychologist Member
Appointed August 2020 - January 2025.
Dr. Berland is a Clinical Psychologist who specializes in psychotherapy with areas of interest in eating disorders, women’s issues, psychophysiological problems, & ethical issues. Dr. Berland enjoys being with her family, reading, exercising, & watching television - both historical documentaries and mindless series. During the pandemic, she has enjoyed connecting with her friends over surprisingly emotionally intimate virtually-held conversations. We welcome your in-depth experience and wry (but warm) wit, Dr. Berland!

CARMEN DOUGLAS, SHRM-SCP, SPHR
Designated Public Member
Appointed February 2021 - January 2025.
Mrs. Douglas is the Personnel Director for the Montgomery City-County Personnel Dept., bringing 25 years of human resources management and adult education experience to the Board. Mrs. Douglas and her husband for 27 years have three children; Claude III, Mary, & Rachel. In her spare time, she enjoys working in her flower and vegetable gardens and spending time with her chocolate lab puppy. One of her bucket list goals is to visit all 50 states; she’s over halfway there! Mrs. Douglas, your business acumen and attention to detail is already making a difference; thank you for joining us!

INTERESTED IN INACTIVE?
A licensee may request that the Board designate their license as Inactive at any time. Licenses may be reinstated to Active status at any time during the year but must first be requested by the licensee and granted by the Board Office.

TO REQUEST INACTIVE STATUS:
1. Contact the Board Office to request the Application for Inactive Status form.
2. Complete the Application for Inactive Status form & Mail to the Board Office with the Fee.
3. Upon receipt of the request, the Board will respond in writing.

Reference: ALA. CODE § 34-26-41; & Admin. Code Rule 750-X-4-.02

To send Verification of your Alabama Licensure to another Jurisdiction, please email the Board Office. Include the following in the request: your name & license number, contact information for the recipient organization or Board, and specifications about whether the Verification should be sent electronically or by regular mail.

Additionally, you may obtain a Primary-Source Verification of your Alabama Licensure on our website, at:
http://psychology.alabama.gov/licensee.aspx

LICENSURE VERIFICATIONS

ALABAMA BY THE NUMBERS

Total Licensees: 1,125
1,047 Psychologists
23 Psychological Technicians
55 Inactive Licensees
62% Instate & 38% Out of State
131 Emergency Practice Registrants
Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
State of Emergency

BOARD MEMBERS, REAPPOINTED!

Catalina M. Arata, Ph.D.*, Chair - Psychologist Member
Kristi Ann Miller, M.S.*, Vice-Chair - Psychological Technician Member

*Terms Continued until Reappointments can be made, per ALA. CODE § 34-26-21(a)(2).
“When I tried to organize my thoughts for the current newsletter, I reviewed my comments from last year. What struck me was how little has changed over the last year and how there are so many ways in which the world stopped because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a year later and we are still wearing masks, meeting remotely, providing telehealth services, etc. At the same time, some very positive developments have occurred, some of which will have longstanding positive impacts.

Your Board has continued to meet regularly via Zoom since May 2020. This has allowed the work of the Board to continue and has also allowed our Board members to participate in meetings when they might not have been able to otherwise, because of the pandemic. While we all agree that there are benefits to in-person meetings, our comfort with this new technology is going to be of great benefit in the future.

The most exciting development in the last year is the passage of PSYPACT legislation in Alabama. On March 18, 2021, Governor Kay Ivey signed AL SB 102 into law and this legislation will become effective on June 1, 2021.

PSYPACT provides a mechanism for Alabama-licensed psychologists to provide telepsychology or temporary in-person services in other PSYPACT states.

PSYPACT

Catalina (Kati) M. Arata, Ph.D.

During the last year, a large number of out-of-state psychologists were able to obtain temporary privileges to treat clients in Alabama and many Alabama practitioners have done the same in other jurisdictions. As States have begun to return to normal practice, no longer allowing for temporary, or telehealth, out-of-state practice, this ability to practice telepsychology via PSYPACT with clients who may be out of state is going to be invaluable.

The last year has been emotionally taxing for everyone, clients and providers alike. As we return to “normal” practice, hopefully, we will have learned lessons in self-care for ourselves and our clients. Telepsychology has increased access to services, but a completely remote world has also increased isolation and facilitated anxiety.

The importance and value of quality mental-health services has become a national topic. For these reasons, as your Board, we will continue with our mission “to promote and protect the public’s health, welfare, and quality of life by licensing and regulating the practice of psychology and by promoting access to psychological services delivered in a safe, competent, and ethical manner”.

Kati Arata, Ph.D., Board Chair, 2020 & 2021

NOT QUITE ‘SWEET HOME’ ALABAMA?

Psychologists licensed in other states have had a major influence on the future of mental healthcare services as the field has been reshaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to ALA. CODE § 34-26-41(f), if an individual possesses a license to practice psychology in another state, they may practice in Alabama for no more than thirty (30) days per calendar year without applying for an Alabama license.

This authority to practice does not apply if they:

1. have ever been denied licensure in Alabama;
2. if they are a legal resident of Alabama; or,
3. if they intend to practice full-time or a major portion of their time in Alabama.

As long as the circumstance is temporary and does not exceed 30 days of cross-jurisdictional practice in a year (nonconsecutive), psychologists licensed in other jurisdictions may provide Tele-services to Alabama clients, including tele-practice. If a provider anticipates that they will exceed this 30 day limit, they should contact the Board Office.

Find our law here: https://psychology.alabama.gov/law.aspx
The What:
In order to assess the state of Alabama’s professional psychological workforce, the Board is expanding information currently requested in the License Application and in annual Renewal forms to collect and analyze pertinent demographic & workforce data from licensees. The information must be collected responsibly, ethically, and sensitively; all individual answers will be voluntarily submitted and kept nonidentifiable. Categories of interest are: Age, Sex/Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Language, Workforce Participation, and potentially Medicaid participation – via renewal forms.

The Why:
Collecting, analyzing, and reporting the composition and trends of the psychological workforce in the state is essential to successfully upholding and furthering the Board’s Mission Statement, “to promote and protect the public’s health, welfare and quality of life” and “promoting access to psychological services delivered in a safe, competent and ethical manner”.

Following an unprecedented mental health crisis catalyzed by the COVID-19 pandemic, this project has grown exponentially more relevant. How do you contribute to Alabama’s diversity? Are you bilingual? We want to know and encourage you to participate!
Federal and State law mandates the Board’s processes of investigation and publication of information for disciplinary and ethical concerns. The Board prioritizes the pursuance of thorough, fair, productive, and positive outcomes for all investigative cases.

LICENSES NOT RENEWED FOR F.Y. 2021
VOLUNTARY NON-RENEWAL
AUGUST 2020 TO PRESENT
PSYCHOLOGISTS

Caroline F. Acra, Ph.D., #2062, Fort Rucker, AL
Jane C. Allen, Ph.D., #231, Madison, AL
James C. Ball, Ph.D., #458, Tuscaloosa, AL
Margaux J. Barnes, Ph.D., #1986, Jacksonville, FL
Crystal D. Bell, Ph.D., #625, Tuscaloosa, AL
Virginia G. Bradley, Ph.D., #1005, Mountain Brook, AL
Michael D. Farjellah, Ph.D., #1778, Winchester, KY
Regina S. Hiraoka, Ph.D., #1958, Hewitt, TX
Nancy C. Hubert, Ph.D., #539, Birmingham, AL
Amy E. Isaia, Ph.D., #1368, Fort Worth, TX
Ila B. Johnson, Ph.D., #43, Decatur, AL
Peggy La Cascia, Psy.D., #885, Huntington Beach, CA
Lee H. Mallory, Ph.D., #454, Tuscaloosa, AL
Brian R. McFarland, Ph.D., #1522, Camargo, IL
Judith D. Modell, Ph.D., #1057, Durham, NC
Mario G. Nicolas, Ph.D., #1216, San Antonio, TX
Robert M. Savage, Ph.D., #707, Mountain Brook, AL
Paul C. Shaw, Psy.D., #847, Montgomery, AL
Joe H. Slate, Ph.D., #113, Decatur, AL
Patrick Slattery, Ph.D., #156, Auburn, AL
Yolanda Suarez, Ph.D., #734, Birmingham, AL
William E. Finger, Ph.D., #1791, Vestavia Hills, AL
WELLNESS & MONITORING PROGRAM

The Board is proud to announce that Alabama’s Psychology Professionals Wellness and Monitoring Program, Act #2021-283, was signed by Governor Kay Ivey on April 22, 2021 and will be effective on January 1, 2022.

A longstanding goal of the Board's has been to establish a Wellness & Monitoring Program and designated Professional Wellness Committee to combat professional impairment, helping to identify and intervene when a licensee is struggling with current or potential dependency issues. Dr. Michael Garver, DMD, serves as the Board’s current Wellness & Monitoring Program Manager on a contractual and case-by-case basis. Dr. Garver has been the sole source provider and Program Manager for several years. While offering monitoring and accountability support to Psychology professionals, Dr. Garver has built a rapport with those previous participants over time. In this way, a foundation for the forthcoming Program already exists.

The Board will be publishing rules and regulations necessary to assist a Wellness Committee with carrying out its duties. The Committee’s activities will focus on providing help to licensees meet the standards of their profession.

The Committee will work to promote the early identifications, treatment, and rehabilitation of any licensee struggling with dependency. The composition of the Committee is integral toward this goal. One (1) current Board member will sit on the Committee. Other members will be qualified individuals who are Alabama residents, and whose membership shall be inclusive and reflective of the racial, geographic, and economic diversity of Alabama.

If you are interested in serving on this inaugural Professional Wellness Committee, please contact Lori Rall at lori.rall@psychology.alabama.gov

ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Effective immediately, please DO NOT E-MAIL or FAX Continuing Education submissions to the Board office unless the Board contacts you to do so in reply to a random CE audit.

The Board's Online Personal Continuing Education Application system replaced the need for licensees to mail proof of completion Certificates & the completed Individual Reporting Forms to the Board. Now, licensees are able to access their CE information and also make updates to their contact information at any time.

Licensees should maintain CE documentation in case they are contacted by the Board to submit for an annual, random Continuing Education audit.

CEU submissions are required before your license can be renewed each year. While the Individual Reporting Form is now obsolete, no other CE requirements have changed. Psychologists are required to complete twenty (20) hours annually and Psychological Technicians are required to complete ten (10) hours annually, unless specifically instructed otherwise by Board Action or Order.

IF YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST REPORT CE BY MAIL...

It is strongly encouraged that you submit your CEU online. However, if you need to submit documentation to the Board Office, please contact us to request an Individual Reporting Form, which you may then mail to the Board.

COMMON QUESTIONS

EDITS TO SUBMISSIONS
As of currently, edits and corrections to CE submissions must be made on the administrative end of the program. Please contact the Board Office via phone or email to have these corrections made.

PRESENTER HOURS
Unless you were the presenter or instructor of the program you are submitting, please enter "0" for this field.

C.E. ‘YEAR’
Please input the Fiscal Year (F.Y.) during which the program was attended. The F.Y. changes on October 1st of each year. (This year should be listed as 2021.)

MISSING INFORMATION
If any information requested on the form is not available to you (Address of Provider, for example), please feel free to input ‘N/A’. This program was designed as a repository of information for your benefit.

APA-ACCREDITATION
Any program submission that is not held in a Live format should be APA-accredited. Please see the Admin. Code Rule for more details about submission requirements.

ANSWERED
After initiating an application with the ASPPB, you will complete workflow and submit official transcripts for review. E.Passport and IPC applications are reviewed by the ASPPB Mobility Committee, not by the Alabama Board. The application process may also require transcripts, EPPP scores, education and supervisions information, and even credentials banking. When the E.Passport and/or IPC is issued, an APIT and/or TAP application will immediately be started with the PSYPACT Commission. The PSYPACT Commission’s Office is working hard to process all incoming applications. While there may be delays in processing, staff is available to help at info@psypact.org. Once the E.Passport and/or IPC is issued, the PSYPACT staff will contact you to declare your HOME STATE for practice. At this time, PSYPACT requires that a psychologist be physically located in their Home State of licensure while providing telepsychological services. The Home State is where the psychologist is currently licensed and physically located when telepsychological services are delivered.

The PSYPACT Commission issues the APIT and TAP and, upon receipt, you will be able to start practicing under the authority of PSYPACT. PSYPACT participants do not need to notify their Board(s). As part of the Commission, Boards will have access to data on all PSYPACT-authorized providers, whether they hold the APIT or the TAP.

If you’re ready to ‘join the pact’, the PSYPACT website is the place to start your journey: visit at: www.psypact.org. (See page 9 for more information on PSYPACT.)
Dr. Ron Meredith passed on August 24, 2020. He was a past president of the Alabama Psychological Association & was a clinical psychologist for over 40 years. We give our condolences to his wife Marianne Rodenbeek, his daughter Keri, son Austin, & grandson.

Ron L. Meredith, Psy.D.

IN LOVING MEMORY
This publication seeks to acknowledge the meaningful contributions & loss of two assets to Alabama Psychology, who created lasting legacies in their wake.

Fred J. Biasini, Ph.D.

September 23, 2020, Dr. Fred Biasini passed. Dr. Biasini joined UAB’s Dept. of Psychology in 1984. He devoted his career to assiting and advocating for those with developmental disabilities, sharing his wisdom & expertise with generations of future healthcare providers. The Board sends its condolences to his wife, Jan, their children, and his grandchildren.

The Board takes the strongest opposition to the ‘Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act’ (HB1 / SB10), introduced again in the 2021 Legislative Session by Rep. Wes Allen and Sen. Shay Shellnut.

The amendment would allow for psychologists, psychological technicians, and other licensed mental-health professionals to provide the services for which they are trained, involving the application of recognized principles, methods, and procedures of the science and profession of psychology and counseling. The Act died after it was not called for a vote.

Psychology professionals are mandated to not discriminate against any individual based upon age, gender identity, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, or any basis proscribed by law.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES
JULY 9, 2021
SEPTEMBER 10, 2021
NOVEMBER 12, 2021
JANUARY 14, 2022
MARCH 11, 2022
MAY 13, 2022

UPCOMING MEETINGS
The Board meets on the 2nd Friday in January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings take place at the Board Office. Notices of regularly-scheduled & emergency meetings are published at the Secretary of State’s website at: https://openmeetings.alabama.gov.

LICENSE RENEWAL
Renewal Season is right around the corner...
All licenses are renewed annually no later than October 15, even new licenses issued in the early portion of a Fiscal Year.

Failure to comply with ALL renewal requirements by October 15 date shall result in a Lapsed license. Lapsed licensees are prohibited from practice until reinstatement requirements have been met, unless working in an exempt setting. Late fees accumulate by $20.00 per month, or portion thereof, that the license is lapsed.

A Lapsed license that is not renewed within two (2) years will not be eligible for reinstatement; a new Application for licensure will be required, and the former licensee/new applicant will be required to meet the statutory requirements for licensure in effect at the time the new Application is submitted.

Contact the Board Office with questions about reinstating a Lapsed license, or about Inactive Status.

The Board does not process Credit/Debit cards. Checks, money orders, or cashier’s check are payable to: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology, or “ABEP”.

$400 Psychologist Application (Doctoral-level)
$260 Psychological Technician Application (Masters-level)
$600 EPPP Fee (payable to ASPPB upon admission)
$50 PSE Fee (payable to Board upon admission)
$250 Psychologist License Renewal & CE Fee (combined)
$180 Psychological Technician Renewal & CE Fee (combined)
$50 Inactive Status, Psychologist
$35 Inactive Status, Psychological Technician
$20 Monthly Penalty for Delinquent Renewal (late fee*)
$15 Replacement Licensure Certificate
$30 Bad Check Fee
$12 Roster of Licensees
$10 Roster of Psychological Technicians, only
$10 Copy of Rules & Regulations

*Late fees are cumulative, rules apply; contact us for more information.
OF LEGISLATIVE INTEREST

The Board takes the strongest opposition to the ‘Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act’ (HB1 / SB10), introduced again in the 2021 Legislative Session by Rep. Wes Allen and Sen. Shay Shellnut.

To meet it’s Mission to protect the public’s health, welfare & quality of life and to promote access to psychological services for all, the Board offered an amendment to the Act that was accepted in the House Judiciary Committee.

The amendment would allow for psychologists, psychological technicians, and other licensed mental-health professionals to provide the services for which they are trained, involving the application of recognized principles, methods, and procedures of the science and profession of psychology and counseling. The Act died after it was not called for a vote.

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The Board does not process Credit/Debit cards. Checks, money orders, or cashier’s check are payable to: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology, or “ABEP”. 
THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PRACTICE UNDER PSYPACT

As a psychologist licensed in a PSYPACT state, you can apply to practice telepsychology and/or conduct temporary in-person, face-to-face practice in PSYPACT states.

HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

TO PRACTICE

TELEPSYCHOLOGY

PSYPACT Commission Requirements
- In order to practice telepsychology under the authority of PSYPACT, the PSYPACT Commission requires that a psychologist obtain an Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology (APIT).

Authority to Practice Telepsychology Requirements
- Possess an active ASPPB E.Passport (see requirements below)
- Hold a full, unrestricted license to practice psychology in a PSYPACT state
- Provide attestations

ASPPB E.Passport Requirements
- Have a current, active psychology license based on a doctoral degree in at least one PSYPACT state
- No disciplinary action listed on any psychology license
- Have a doctoral degree in psychology from a program that was accredited by APA/CPA or designated as a psychology program by the ASPPB/ National Register Joint Designation Committee at time of conferral; or deemed to be equivalent by a recognized foreign credential evaluation service
- Official transcripts must be sent to ASPPB from institution granting degree
- Successful completion of the Examination for Professional Practice (EPPP) with a score that meets or exceeds the established ASPPB recommended passing score at the time of application
- Annual renewal with three (3) hours of continuing education relevant to the use of technology in psychology

Fees
- APIT Fee: $40 (one time fee)
- ASPPB E.Passport Application Fee: $400
- ASPPB E.Passport Annual Renewal Fee: $100

Time Limit
- Unlimited

Scope of Practice
- Subject to the Receiving State’s scope of practice

Initiation and Provision of Psychological Services
- When treating a client/patient in a Receiving State, a psychologist must initiate a client/patient contact while physically located in a psychologist’s Home State via telecommunications technologies.

TO CONDUCT

TEMPORARY PRACTICE

PSYPACT Commission Requirements
- In order to conduct temporary practice under the authority of PSYPACT, the PSYPACT Commission requires that a psychologist obtain a Temporary Authorization to Practice (TAP).

Temporary Authorization to Practice Requirements
- Possess an active ASPPB Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) (see requirements below)
- Hold a full, unrestricted license to practice psychology in a PSYPACT state
- Provide attestations

ASPPB IPC Requirements
- Have a current, active psychology license based on a doctoral degree in at least one PSYPACT state
- No disciplinary action listed on any psychology license
- Have a doctoral degree in psychology from a program that was accredited by APA/CPA or designated as a psychology program by the ASPPB/ National Register Joint Designation Committee at time of conferral; or deemed to be equivalent by a recognized foreign credential evaluation service
- Official transcripts must be sent to ASPPB from institution granting degree
- Annual renewal

Fees
- TAP Fee: $40 (one time fee)
- ASPPB IPC Application Fee: $200
- ASPPB IPC Annual Renewal Fee: $50

Time Limit
- 30 days per calendar year per PSYPACT state

Scope of Practice
- Subject to the Distant State’s scope of practice

Authority and Law
- A psychologist practicing into a Distant State under the TAP will be subject to the Distant State’s authority and law.