

Mississippi Board of Psychology

5-Year Strategic Plan

For the Fiscal Years 2023-2027

823-00

1. Mississippi Board of Psychology Mission

The mission of the Mississippi Board of Psychology is to protect the people of Mississippi against unauthorized, unqualified, and improper practice of psychology as authorized by [Miss. Code Ann. § 73-31-1](#).

2. Our Philosophy and Core Values

The Mississippi Board of Psychology (Board) is committed to the safeguard and protection of consumers of psychological services by regulating the practice of psychology in Mississippi. The Board ascribes to the following core values:

- **Standards:** The Board strives to adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards while executing its statutory responsibilities.
- **Accountability:** The Board strives to enforce, without discrimination, the licensing and regulation of any person who presents himself/herself to the public as a licensed psychologist or who offers psychological services to individuals, groups, organizations, corporations, institutions, government agencies or the general public.
- **Innovation:** The Board strives to embrace new ideas and changes in order to improve mobility, consistency, and availability within the licensure and practice of psychology.
- **Integrity:** The Board strives to maintain transparency in its daily management and official responsibilities as defined through legislation.
- **Stewardship:** The Board strives to be good stewards in the efficient and effective use of all human, fiscal, and material resources. We are dedicated to continuous evaluation and improvement.
- **Respect:** The Board strives to be respectful of the culture and values of all applicants, licensees, complainants or any citizen who has contact with the Board.

3. Relevant Statewide Goal and Benchmark

Statewide Goal: To protect Mississippians from risks by licensing appropriately trained and qualified professionals.

Relevant Benchmark: Access to appropriately trained and qualified professionals.

1. Number of licensed psychologists.
2. Number of disciplinary actions.
3. Number of psychologists certified to complete civil commitment exams.

4. Overview of the Board's 5-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027:

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) Possibility of joining the Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) 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 electronic licensure renewals and to more efficiently review Continuing Education requirements and materials.
- 5) Refining parameters for administrative and ministerial duties for the Mississippi Autism Board and providing efficient administration of the Mississippi Autism Board.

5. Agency's External/Internal Assessment

- 1) There has been a slight increase in the number of applicants over the past several years, resulting in more licensed psychologists for the state and more revenue for the Board. However, the increase in revenue is offset by the increase in the number of application reviews, Board meetings, oral exams, and associated costs such as travel.
- 2) The Board included an Emeritus Status for senior psychologist who meet certain criteria resulting in a decrease in licensure renewal income of the Board.
- 3) The necessity to stay abreast of any state or federal mandates that affect psychology licensure or practice, along with the increase of applications and offering oral examinations more frequently, creates a heavier workload on the voluntary membership of the Board and results in more Board meetings and the associated costs.
- 4) The Board finds it necessary to participate in the Annual and Mid-winter meeting of ASPPB in order to stay informed of current psychology regulatory issues.
- 5) The Board continues an on-going process of evaluating all aspects of duties and responsibilities under the Board's mandate. This includes contracted services, standards set forth in the Rules & Regulations, Statutes, and standards/processes for license renewal. This

process allows for early detection and prompt attention to problem areas.

- 6) The Board has one full-time employee who serves as Executive Director for the Board of Psychology and the Mississippi Autism Board. Currently, Board members are performing administrative services that fall within the designated sphere of responsibility of each Board officer.

The Board has elected to utilize the services of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to ensure efficient and effective accounting and financial practices. A Memorandum of Understanding exists between the Board and DFA outlining the services that will be performed by DFA.

6. Agency Goals, Strategies, and Measures by Program of FY 2023 through 2027:

Program 1: Licensure & Regulation

Goal A: Renew licenses of psychologists who satisfactorily meet the annual renewal requirements ([Miss. Code Ann. § 73-31-9](#)).

Objective A. 1. Annually review qualifications for renewal of all licensed psychologists

Outcome: Protect the patients of psychologists by assuring that only qualified psychologists are licensed.

Output: Number of paid licenses renewed.

Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Goal B: Issue license for the independent practice of psychology to individuals who have met the standards and qualifications set forth in the statutes ([Miss. Code Ann. § 73-31-13](#)).

Objective B.1 Establish licensing requirements that examines education and training credentials, and administers examinations for minimal competency to practice psychology.

Outcome: Protect the patients of psychologists by assuring that only qualified psychologists are licensed.

Output: Number of new licenses issued.

Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Goal C: Enforce regulatory laws governing licensed psychologists ([Miss. Code Ann. § 73-31-1](#)).

Objective C. 1. Provide training and certification for psychologists to legally and safely perform Civil Commitments.

Outcome: Protect the patients of psychologists by assuring that only qualified psychologists are licensed.

Output: Number of psychologists certified to perform Civil Commitments.
Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Objective C. 2. Set standards for professional behavior, continuing professional education and review the professional conduct of licensed psychologists to ensure competent practice and protection of public welfare.

Outcome: Protect the patients of psychologists by assuring that only qualified psychologists are licensed.
Output: Number of Complaints received, investigated and resolved.
Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Goal D: Increase opportunities for licensure by new psychologists and access to Mississippi patients on a temporary basis. ([Miss. Code Ann. § 73-31-13](#)).

Objective D.1. Increase applicant eligibility for licensure by removal of obstacles to licensure.

Outcome: Protect the patients of psychologists by assuring that only qualified psychologists are licensed.
Output: Number of applicants.
Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Objective D.2. Increase opportunities for limited access to Mississippi patients on a temporary basis.

Outcome: Protect the patients of psychologists by assuring that only qualified psychologists are licensed.
Output: Number of Temporary Practice Certificates issued.
Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Program 2: 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. During FY18 the legislature directed the transition of the Mississippi Autism Board to operate under the administrative oversight of the Mississippi Board of Psychology.

Goal A: Provide administrative and ministerial services for the Mississippi Autism Board as set forth in statute ([Miss. Code Ann. § 73-75-11](#)).

Objective A.1 Retain highly trained Behavior Analysts.

Outcome: Protect clients by assuring that only qualified Behavior Analysts are licensed.

Output: Number of Paid Licenses Renewed

Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Objective A.2 Provide licensure opportunities to new Behavior Analysts through an efficient application process.

Outcome: Protect clients by assuring that only qualified Behavior Analysts are licensed.

Output: Number of new licenses issued.

Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Objective A.3 Set standards for professional behavior, and review the professional conduct of Behavior Analysts to promote competent practice and protect public welfare.

Outcome: Protect clients by assuring that only qualified Behavior Analysts are licensed.

Output: Number of Complaints received, investigated and resolved.

Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Objective A. 4 Increase opportunities for licensure by new Behavior Analysts

Outcome: Protect clients by assuring that only qualified Behavior Analysts are licensed.

Output: Number of applicants.

Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Objective A. 5 Increase access opportunities for clients to highly trained and licensed Behavior Analysts.

Outcome: Protect clients by assuring that only qualified Behavior Analysts are licensed.

Output: Number of actively licensees.

Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.

Objective A.6 Maintain registration for supervision of Registered Behavior Technicians.

Outcome: Protect clients by assuring that only qualified Behavior Analysts are licensed.

Output: Number of Registered Behavior Technicians.

Efficiency: Cost of licensing and examination functions.