



**MISSISSIPPI
BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGY**

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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR FY 2026

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

Mississippi Board of Psychology Annual Report to the Governor FY 2026

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 ten (10) times during FY 2026. 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 FY26, thirty-two (32) individuals submitted a "Request to Start Application Form". Twenty-five (25) 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 FY26. 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 FY26, the Mississippi Board of Psychology issued new permanent licenses to practice psychology in Mississippi to the following individuals:

Marlon Lamont Bailey	Oxford, MS
Arthur Lee Bennett	Silver Creek, GA
Steven Michael Bishop	Oxford, MS
Paul Wesley Case	Tupelo, MS
Tommy Davis	Temple, PA
Roxana Vanessa Eubanks	Byhalia, MS
Caitlin Renae Green	Southaven, MS
Julie Christine Herbstrith	Starkville, MS
Cashuna Trinese Huddleston	Houston, TX
Sasha Joy Lambert	Lafayette, LA
Brittany Dawn Lancaster	Starkville, MS
Jamie Hemphill Leavey	New Orleans, LA
Yedida David Levy	New Rochelle, NY
Alexis Kaylyn Liberto	New Orleans, LA
Jessica Diana Nicholson	Hernando, MS
Larry Fletcher Palmer	Diamondhead, MS
Jacqueline Ann Philpott	New Orleans, LA

Mississippi Board of Psychology Annual Report to the Governor FY 2026

Hailey Elizabeth Ripple	Starkville, MS
Kray Alexander Scully	Ocean Springs, MS
Katelyn M. Sharpe	Biloxi, MS
Erica Lynn Smolinski	Brandon, MS
Jacob Callaway Steggerda	Gainesville, FL
Joni Lynn Utley	Bay St. Louis, MS
Sean Bradley Vanhille	Covington, LA
Marta Parkanyi Witherow	Ridgeland, 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 FY26, the Board received no requests from candidates who were previously licensed as a psychologist and in good standing in another jurisdiction and were 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 FY26, eight (8) 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 FY26, twelve (12) 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 FY26 there were four hundred and seventy-three (473) 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 FY26, four hundred and eighty-nine (489) licensed psychologists in the state of Mississippi renewed their licenses prior to June 30, 2026. Eight (8) individuals did not renew their licenses; one (1) psychologist retired from practice; one (1) psychologist is deceased and one (1) psychologist listed PSYPACT as their

Mississippi Board of Psychology Annual Report to the Governor FY 2026

reason for no longer needing a license here. 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 FY26, the Board created an online module for the required training and examination of approved psychologists who wish to be certified as civil commitment examiners who may be appointed by the various chancery courts to participate as examiners in these proceedings. The first psychologist has registered for the training, but has not yet completed the process.

Complaints and Investigations

In protection of the public, the Board reviewed the following inquiries during FY26:

The Board received and commenced the investigation of five (5) complaints from FY26 which were as follows:

260901

Complaint centered around accusations of privacy violations surrounding outcomes of fitness for duty evaluation. This complaint was reviewed with Mr. Strickland in the A.G.'s Office and he and the Executive Secretary determined that no ethical or legal violations were found.

Final disposition: Closed.

261002

Complaint centered around ethical concerns in fitness for duty evaluation. This complaint was reviewed with Mr. Strickland in the A.G.'s Office and he and the Executive Secretary determined that no ethical or legal violations were found.

Final disposition: Closed.

261003

Complaint centered around psychometrist practicing outside of scope. This complaint was reviewed with Mr. Strickland in the A.G.'s Office and he and the Executive Secretary determined that a Cease & Desist letter was in order.

Final disposition: Closed.

260204

Complaint centers around allegations of abandonment and inappropriate behavior between a psychologist and patient. This complaint is still under investigation by Ms. Ratliff in the A.G.'s Office and the Executive Secretary.

Final disposition: Ongoing Investigation.

260205

Complaint centers around allegations that a provider is not licensed as a psychologist or any mental health professional in MS, and is practicing/diagnosing under an assumed name. This complaint is still under investigation by Ms. Ratliff in the A.G.'s Office and the Executive Secretary.

Final disposition: Ongoing Investigation.

Rules and Regulations

During FY26 the Board continued its Rules and Regulations revisions and the review of Statutes. The Statute was revised to increase the number of Board members from seven (7) to nine (9) with sunset in 2029. New Board members were appointed to the Board December 8, 2025.

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 system improves compatibility with all other state systems. During the FY26 renewal period ending June 30, 2026, four hundred eighty-seven (487) 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 FY26 the Office of the Mississippi Board of Psychology provided administrative services to the Mississippi Autism Board.

The Mississippi Autism Board met six (6) times and administered Oral Jurisprudence Examinations six (6) times. There are currently two hundred and eighty-seven (287) Licensed Behavior Analysts and there were sixty-nine (69) Licensed Behavior Analyst licenses issued in FY26. There are currently fifteen (15) Assistant Behavior Analysts and two (2) licenses were issued in FY26. There were two (2) Temporary Licenses issued to those awaiting the next opportunity to take the Oral Jurisprudence Exam. Thirty-six (36) existing licenses were

Mississippi Board of Psychology Annual Report to the Governor FY 2026

renewed. There were one thousand, one hundred and eighteen (1,118) registrations for Registered Behavior Technicians processed during FY 26 and there are currently six hundred and five (605) active Registered Behavior Technicians certified to work with Licensed Behavior Analysts. The Board received five (5) new complaints during FY 26, in addition to seven (7) complaints from FY25 which were under active investigation. Complaints were as follows:

241118

Complaint Centered around notification of disciplinary action by another state against a licensee. This complaint was reviewed with Ms. Morris and then Ms. Ratliff in the A.G.'s Office and Ms. Ratliff and the investigating Board member determined that a notification to get into compliance would be sent to the licensee.

Final Disposition: Closed

250201

Complaint centered around concerns of mental deficit and stalking by a licensee. After extensive review by Ms. Ratliff and the investigating Board member, it was recommended to the Board this this licensee be summarily suspended. The Board voted unanimously in support of this action and the license has been suspended.

Final Disposition: Summary Suspension

250502

Complaint received from Child Protection Services notifying the Board of a complaint left with them regarding concerning punishments by a practice. The investigation is ongoing.

250603

Complaint centered around lack of supervision of RBTs by a licensee. The investigation is ongoing.

250604

Complaint centered around lack of supervision of RBTs by a licensee located out of state. The investigation is ongoing.

250605

Complaint centered around lack of supervision of RBTs by a licensee located out of state. The investigation is ongoing.

250606

Complaint centered around lack of supervision of RBTs by a licensee located out of state. The

investigation is ongoing.

260801, 260802, 260803 & 260804

All four (4) complaints are against the same unlicensed person providing services. There are numerous ethical violations alleged. The investigation is ongoing.

261230

This complaint concerns a licensee advertising for positions which have been retitled so as to appear to not require licensure, but do meet the requirements for licensure by the Board. This investigation is ongoing.

License Management System (LMS)

Development of an online license management system (LMS) was completed. All functions of a licensee from initial application to renewals to registration and removal of RBTs can now be done directly by the licensee via their portal. Licensees can upload requisite continuing education hours via the portal as well. The website now provides license verification services for active practitioners in real time as well as active RBTs. Online payments are available and encouraged.

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.

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 2028–2032

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

Mississippi Board of Psychology Annual Report to the Governor FY 2026

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) Revisions to the EPPP, after EPPP2 was voted down, are under consideration and ASPPB is now engaging with States on revising the test.
- 2) Pros/cons of continuing to offer an oral examination.
- 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) Maintaining 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.

Financial Report

PSYCHOLOGY BOARD - FY2026 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORTING

Psychology Board - BA1823

Major	Major Obj Code	Current Budget	Actuals (Expenditures)	Current Budget - Actuals	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Obj Code	Name	\$162,606.00		(Expenditures)		Budget
A1	Salaries	\$93,233.00	\$90,403.70	\$2,829.30	\$0.00	\$2,829.30
A2	Travel	\$16,350.00	\$15,171.69	\$1,178.31	\$0.00	\$1,178.31
B	Contractual	\$45,623.00	\$32,273.23	\$13,349.77	\$0.00	\$13,349.77
C	Commodities	\$5,400.00	\$1,523.42	\$3,876.58	\$0.00	\$3,876.58
D1	Capital Outlay	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
D2	Equipment	\$4,000.00	\$1,652.94	\$2,347.06	\$0.00	\$2,347.06
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

Mississippi Board of Psychology Annual Report to the Governor FY 2026

Grand Total		\$162,606.00	\$141,024.98	\$21,581.02	\$0.00	\$21,581.02
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Travel 60300

Commitment Item	Commitment Item	Current Budget	Expenditures	Current Budget -	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Number	Name	\$14,350.00		Expenditures		Budget Authority
60400000	In State Travel	\$0.00	\$2,925.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60402000	In State Non-Taxable Lodging	\$0.00	\$701.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60500000	Out of State Travel	\$0.00	\$1,980.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60502000	Out of State Non tax lodging	\$0.00	\$5,701.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60502100	Out of State Travel tax Lodging	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60505000	Out of State Public Carrier	\$0.00	\$3,225.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60507000	Other O/C Travel Cost	\$0.00	\$628.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60701000	Travel Soc Sec Match	\$0.00	\$1.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60702000	Travel Medicare Match	\$0.00	\$0.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
60960000	Prior Year Expense-Travel	\$0.00	\$7.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$14,350.00	\$15,171.69	-\$821.69	\$0.00	-\$821.69

Contractual Services 61000

Commitment Item	Commitment Item	Current Budget	Expenditures	Current Budget -	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Number	Name	\$45,623.00		Expenditures		Budget Authority
61060000	Employee Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61070000	Travel Related Reg.	\$0.00	\$3,710.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61600000	Interagency Fees	\$0.00	\$10,116.54	\$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	\$1,237.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61700000	Membership Dues	\$0.00	\$185.00			
61710000	Membership Dues	\$0.00	\$1,817.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61818000	Cell Time - Out Vend	\$0.00	\$1,054.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61830000	IT Prof Out Vend	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61839000	Software - Out Vend	\$0.00	\$12,195.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61850000	Payments to ITS	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61900000	P-Card Contractual	\$0.00	\$1,697.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
61950000	PY Exp. Contractual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$45,623.00	\$32,273.23	\$13,349.77	\$0.00	\$13,349.77

Mississippi Board of Psychology Annual Report to the Governor FY 2026

Commodities 62000

Commitment Item	Commitment Item	Current Budget	Expenditures	Current Budget -	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Number	Name	\$5,400.00		Expenditures		Budget Authority
62040000	Food for Business Meetings	\$0.00	\$482.90	\$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	\$71.48	\$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	\$11.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
62900000	P-Card Commodities	\$0.00	\$957.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$5,400.00	\$1,523.42	\$3,876.58	\$0.00	\$3,876.58

Equipment 63200

Commitment Item	Commitment Item	Current Budget	Expenditures	Current Budget -	Purchase Orders	Total Available
Number	Name	\$4000.00		Expenditures		Budget Authority
63200000	Equipment-Laptop	\$0.00	\$1,652.94	\$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		\$4,000.00	\$1,652.94	\$2,347.06	\$0.00	\$2,347.06

Board Membership during FY26

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Mississippi Board of Psychology Annual Report to the Governor FY 2026

Submitted for and on behalf of the Board,

Lynwood Wheeler, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Psychology

Monica Sutton, Ph.D.
Chair
Mississippi Board of Psychology