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Agency Purpose

Minnesota Statutes 214 establish the Minnesota Board of Dentistry with the responsibility of being the official regulatory agency for dental professionals. The Minnesota Board of Dentistry was created in 1885. The board enforces MS 150A and Minnesota Rules chapter 3100— the Minnesota Dental Practice Act— relating to dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants whose fitness to practice has been tested, and whose training and other qualifications meet the specifications established by the legislature and the board.

The mission of the board is:

- ◆ to ensure that Minnesota citizens receive quality dental health care from competent dental health professionals;
- ◆ to protect the public at large by issuing licenses/registrations only to those who meet the minimum standards of practice;
- ◆ to promote continued competency of regulated dental professionals through establishing and monitoring professional development standards; and
- ◆ to provide timely and impartial resolution of complaints filed against dental professionals.

Core Functions

The purpose of the board is to protect the public by ensuring that licensed dental professionals comply with the board's rules and practice in a professional, legal, and ethical manner. The board's core functions are:

- ◆ establishing minimum standards for licensure/registration;
- ◆ regulating the dental professionals in Minnesota;
- ◆ ensuring that those who hold a professional dental credential from the board continue to meet those standards throughout the time they hold the credential;
- ◆ identifying those who fail to maintain the minimum standards needed to render quality care safely to patients;
- ◆ taking timely and appropriate disciplinary or corrective action when warranted; and
- ◆ providing accurate and current information to the public to enable them to make informed decisions about their dental health care.

Operations

- ◆ The board consists of nine members appointed by the governor: five dentists, one dental hygienist, one registered dental assistant, and two public members.
- ◆ The full board typically meets five times per year. The board also appoints several committees (e.g., executive, complaint, licensure & credentials, policy, etc.) that meet throughout the year.
- ◆ The board benefits and affects the public by ensuring that dental professionals meet and maintain minimum standards of competence and practice.
- ◆ At the end of FY2009, the Minnesota Board of Dentistry became the administering agency for the Health Professionals Services Program (HPSP), a joint program of the Health Related Boards to protect the public from health professionals with illnesses that could impact their ability to practice safely through:
 - ⇒ providing intake and assessment services
 - ⇒ creating and implementing monitoring contracts
 - ⇒ monitoring the continuing care and compliance of participants
 - ⇒ consulting with licensees, licensing boards, health employers, practitioners, and medical communities

Key Goals

The Minnesota Board of Dentistry operates according to goals that relate to the *Minnesota Milestones* that "Minnesotans will be healthy" and that government in Minnesota "will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them." The board's primary goal is to protect the public through appropriate regulation of the dental professions.

At A Glance

Minnesota Board of Dentistry Statistics (As of June 30, 2008):

Total Licensed/Registered:	15,791
New Licensees (FY08):	690
Complaints Filed (FY08):	237

Staff: 11 full-time equivalent employees

Board: nine board members appointed to staggered four-year terms by the governor

The board has additional goals spelled out in its Strategic Plan. Those strategic goals include:

- ◆ revising statutes and rules to keep them relevant
- ◆ enhancing communications with the public and with regulated individuals
- ◆ assessing and modifying systems and processes
- ◆ improving and utilizing technology
- ◆ instituting objective testing instruments
- ◆ better defining and measuring outcomes

The goals of the Health Professionals Services Program are to promote early intervention, diagnosis and treatment for health professionals with illnesses, and to provide monitoring services as an alternative or adjunct to board discipline. Early intervention enhances the likelihood of successful treatment, before clinical skills or public safety are compromised, consistent with the *Minnesota Milestone* that “Minnesotans will be healthy.”

Key Measures

- ◆ Public protection – the board's website offers several services to the public including posting of disciplinary orders, access to information on the complaint process, forms and instructions regarding how to file a complaint, viewing individual licensee disciplinary history, and other information related to regulatory expectations of dental professionals.
- ◆ Licensing – the number of regulated dental professionals (15,791) continues to reflect a growth pattern seen over the past decade. Of those regulated by the board, 43.8% are registered dental assistants, 31.2% are dental hygienists, and 25.0% are dentists.
- ◆ Professional Development – Licensed and registered dental professionals must attest to compliance with the board's professional development (continuing education) requirements. An audit process was initiated to review randomly selected files, which has identified a 73% compliance rate. Of those who failed their audits, less than 50% failed due to not completing a required professional self-assessment.
- ◆ Complaints and compliance – 68% of open complaint cases were resolved in FY08. Unresolved cases are in various stages of investigation or negotiation. Four cases, an unprecedented number for the Board of Dentistry, are being addressed through the contested case process with the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- ◆ Online services – the board offers license verification, address and contact information changes, license renewals, information for licensees. 70.4% of the Board of Dentistry's licensees are using the online renewal service.
- ◆ Public information – the board offers a public website, newsletters, presentations, public outreach, brochures, and real people answering the phone during business hours.

Budget

Total direct and indirect expenditures for FY 2008-09 are estimated to be \$2.945 million, which includes 11 FTE employees. Direct expenditures include salaries, rent, database management, professional/technical contracts with experts, and other related costs. The board receives a direct appropriation from the Special Revenue Fund for these costs, authorized by the legislature. Indirect expenditures include costs of services received by the Attorney General's Office, Health Professional Services Program, Department of Health HIV/HBV/HCV program, and the Administrative Services Unit. The board is responsible for collecting sufficient revenue to cover both direct and indirect expenditures.

The board is estimated to collect \$2.681 million in FY 2008-09, which is deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund. Revenue is collected from fees charged to applicants, licensees, and from fines and civil penalties assessed through the disciplinary process. The difference between the board's expenses and revenues is made up through the board's reserve funds.

The HPSP budget is currently within the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board, and will be integrated into the Board of Dentistry budget beginning with FY2010.

Contact

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The website at: <http://www.dentalboard.state.mn.us/> gives visitors easy access to useful information about Dentistry. Types of information available through the website include; regulatory news and updates, rules and Minnesota statutes, public notices and forms, newsletters, and on-line license verification (including full texts of disciplinary actions), renewal, and change of address.

Health Professionals Services Program (HPSP) maintains its own website at: <http://www.hpssp.state.mn.us/>.

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Governor Recomm.		Biennium 2010-11
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
State Government Spec Revenue					
Current Appropriation	1,087	1,009	1,009	1,009	2,018
Recommended	1,087	1,009	1,009	1,009	2,018
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					-3.7%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Carry Forward					
State Government Spec Revenue	1	0	0	0	0
Direct Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	1,000	1,096	1,009	1,009	2,018
Open Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	20	39	15	15	30
Total	1,021	1,135	1,024	1,024	2,048
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	704	751	744	733	1,477
Other Operating Expenses	317	384	280	291	571
Total	1,021	1,135	1,024	1,024	2,048
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Dentistry, Board Of	1,021	1,135	1,024	1,024	2,048
Total	1,021	1,135	1,024	1,024	2,048
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	9.6	10.1	9.6	9.2	

DENTISTRY BOARD

Agency Revenue Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2008	Budgeted FY2009	Governor's Recomm. FY2010 FY2011		Biennium 2010-11
<u>Non Dedicated Revenue:</u>					
Departmental Earnings:					
State Government Spec Revenue	1,244	1,438	1,438	1,438	2,876
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	1,244	1,438	1,438	1,438	2,876
<u>Dedicated Receipts:</u>					
Total Dedicated Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Total Revenue	1,244	1,438	1,438	1,438	2,876