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Agency Purpose

The Board of Psychology is the agency of the state that licenses and regulates licensed psychologists (LP) and licensed psychological practitioners (LPP), under the authority of M.S. 148.88-148.98 and related rules.

The mission of the board is to protect the public from the practice of psychology by unqualified persons and from unethical and unprofessional conduct by persons licensed to practice psychology.

Core Functions

The board accomplishes its mission by:

- ◆ reviewing applicants' education and training for compliance with board requirements for licensure;
- ◆ requiring that applicants pass a state and a national standardized examination on the practice of psychology;
- ◆ educating the applicants, licensees and the public about the requirements for licensure and the rules of conduct for applicants and licensees;
- ◆ requiring, approving, and establishing continuing education for licensees; and
- ◆ investigating and resolving complaints from the public (including other licensees), which allege violations of the Psychology Practice Act.

Operations

The board serves a varied customer base. Primary customers include applicants for examination and licensure, licensees, the general public, continuing education sponsors, and other government agencies.

The agency gathers information from applicants about their qualifications for licensure and independently verifies the information from primary sources. If the information is substantiated and meets licensure requirements, the 11 member Board of Psychology admits an applicant to examination or to licensure. Licenses are renewed biennially after licensees meet all renewal requirements, including providing documentation of the required number of continuing education hours. Consumer complaints are investigated to establish whether a violation of the Psychology Practice Act has occurred and the board adopts any necessary disciplinary or other remedy against an applicant's ability to be admitted to practice or a licensee's license to practice psychology.

Key Goals

- ◆ Operational fees – the agency last increased licensure and other fees in 2001 with the goal of establishing sufficient revenue sources to carry out the board's mission into the next decade without further fee increases and without creating a deficit due to operational costs and unusually high investigative and hearing costs. The agency continues to operate within its budgetary goals while at the same time making operational improvements necessitated by the Key Measures listed below.
- ◆ Investigative costs – the agency will persist in keeping the cost of investigating complaints contained by continuing to investigate as many complaint cases in-house as possible, controlling the scope of investigations, and establishing more investigative routines for similar complaints, thus decreasing the age of complaint caseloads.
- ◆ Complaint resolution – the agency will continue to analyze violations of the practice act in order to tailor resolutions that remedy practice deficits that the agency is able to substantiate, to establish standards of appropriate care and to discourage repeat offenders.
- ◆ Electronic services – the agency will continue to make greater use of technology by working towards a more paperless work environment.
- ◆ Licensure and related functions – the agency will continue to create rules and agency procedures to streamline and shorten the road to psychology licensure, license renewal and reporting continuing education activities. The agency includes increased use of technology in this goal.

At A Glance

Minnesota Board of Psychology License Statistics

As of June 30, 2008:

Staff: 10.8 Full-time equivalent employees

Total Licensees: 3,646 LPs - 142 LPPs

New Licensees: 226 LPs - 110 LPPs

Total Open Complaints: 301 (22.82% decrease)

New Complaints: 273 (9.64% increase)

Closed Complaints: 206 (11.59% increase)

LP=Licensed Psychologist

LPP=Licensed Psychological Practitioner

Key Measures

- ◆ Public protection – the board’s website offers several services to the public, including a list of disciplinary orders, access to information on the complaint process, information regarding how to file a complaint, and access to information, instructions, and forms to apply for admission to examination and to licensure.
- ◆ During fiscal year 2008 – the board admitted 109 applicants to the national standardized licensure examination; admitted 124 applicants to the state licensure examination; licensed 226 new licensed psychologists; licensed 110 new licensed psychological practitioners, who are working towards converting their licensure as explained further below; renewed 1,810 licensees; approved 233 continuing education activities; verified 4,749 licenses for the purpose of credentialing or licensure in other jurisdictions.
- ◆ Conversion of licensure of licensed psychological practitioners to licensed psychologists – During fiscal year 2005, the board sponsored a legislative change to allow qualified LPP’s, with two years of post-licensure supervised psychological employment, to convert their licensure to licensed psychologist licensure. Since the law went into effect, the board has converted the licenses of 42 LPP’s to LP licensure. The process will continue until on 12-31-2011, when the licensure of LPP’s in Minnesota shall be eliminated.
- ◆ Online services – the board will offer on-line license verification, address and contact information changes, license renewals, other information for licensees by the end of FY 10.
- ◆ Public information – the board offers a public website, presentations, public outreach, informational materials, applications and real people to answer the phone during business hours.
- ◆ Services to licensees – the board has begun a series of continuing education (CE) presentations to licensees once a biennium that is free-of-charge to licensees of this board. The CE activities reflect topics that emphasize issues essential to the protection of the public. The 2007 CE activity was attended by 273 licensees at a St. Paul site and by 93 licensees at eight additional sites located throughout greater Minnesota. We measured the success of the presentation through attendee evaluations that produced an overall satisfaction rating of 3.83 out of a possible five points.

Budget

Total direct and indirect expenditures for FY 2008-9 are estimated to be \$2.177 million, which includes 10.8 FTE employees. Direct expenditures include salaries, rent and other operating costs. The board receives a direct appropriation for these costs. Indirect expenditures include costs of services received from the Attorney General’s Office, Health Professional Services Program, Office of Mental Health Practice 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 \$2.179 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 sponsors of continuing education programs.

Contact

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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	788	806	806	806	1,612
Recommended	788	806	806	806	1,612
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					1.1%
 <u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Carry Forward					
State Government Spec Revenue	7	61	0	0	0
Direct Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	643	951	806	806	1,612
Open Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	4	11	9	9	18
Total	654	1,023	815	815	1,630
 <u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	485	678	644	636	1,280
Other Operating Expenses	169	345	171	179	350
Total	654	1,023	815	815	1,630
 <u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Psychology, Board Of	654	1,023	815	815	1,630
Total	654	1,023	815	815	1,630
 Full-Time Equivalentents (FTE)	 8.8	 11.8	 11.1	 10.5	

PSYCHOLOGY 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	1,133	1,028	1,132	1,132	2,264
Other Revenues:					
State Government Spec Revenue	15	3	3	3	6
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	1,148	1,031	1,135	1,135	2,270
<u>Dedicated Receipts:</u>					
Total Dedicated Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Total Revenue					
	1,148	1,031	1,135	1,135	2,270