

Agency Purpose

M.S. 148B.50-148B.593 require the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy to license professional counselors and regulate the practice of professional counseling in the state of Minnesota. The board was established in May 2003, board members were appointed in the fall of 2003, and the first board meeting was held in December 2003. As of 7-1-05, the board will take over the licensing and regulation of licensed alcohol and drug counselors from the Department of Health. The board is authorized to promulgate rules.

The board's mission is to protect the public through effective licensure and enforcement of the statutes and rules governing the practices of professional counseling to ensure a standard of competent and ethical practice.

Core Functions

The board accomplishes its mission by:

- ◆ setting and administering minimum educational, supervision, and examination requirements for initial licensure as a licensed professional counselor;
- ◆ setting and administering requirements for renewal of licensure;
- ◆ setting standards of ethical practice;
- ◆ responding to inquiries, complaints, and reports regarding applicants and licensees;
- ◆ investigating complaints of alleged violations of statutes and rules, holding educational and disciplinary conferences with licensees, and taking legal action when appropriate against licensees who fail to meet minimum standards of practice;
- ◆ approving continuing education programs; and
- ◆ providing information about licensure requirements and standards of practice to the public and other interested parties.

Operations

- ⇒ The 13-member board consists of five licensed or license-eligible professional counselors, five licensed alcohol and drug counselors, and three public members appointed by the governor.
- ⇒ The board has met eight times between December 2003 and July 2004, and subcommittees of the board meet regularly to review license applications and licensure issues, draft rules, plan for the transition of licensed alcohol and drug counselors to occur in July 2005, and perform other duties required for the operation of the board.
- ⇒ The board benefits and affects the public by ensuring that licensed professional counselors meet and maintain minimum standards of competence and ethical practice.
- ⇒ Current issues affecting the board are posted on the board's web site.

Budget

Total direct and indirect expenses for FY 2004-05 biennium are \$792,000. The board staff includes 3.0 full-time equivalent employees.

Of the total budget for the FY 2004-05 biennium, \$156,000 will be collected as non-dedicated revenue and deposited into the state government special revenue fund. The board collects fees charged to applicants and licensees and is responsible to collect enough revenue to recover all direct and indirect costs.

The board is responsible for the costs of services received from the Attorney General's Office, Health Professional Services Program, and the Administrative Services Unit. A direct appropriation is given to each of

At A Glance

Biennial Budget – FY 2004-05:

Total Estimated Expenses: \$792,000

Total Estimated Revenues: \$156,000

Staff: 3.0 Full-time equivalent employees

MN Licensed Professional Counselor Statistics

(As of June 30, 2004):

Total Licensed: 47

these programs from the state government special revenue fund. The board must ensure that sufficient revenue is collected through its fees to fund their portion of these programs costs.

Contact

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The web site at: www.bbht.state.mn.us gives visitors easy access to useful information about Behavioral Health and Therapy. Types of information available through the web site include: regulatory news and updates, rules and Minnesota Statutes, and public notices.

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
State Government Spec Revenue					
Current Appropriation	350	350	350	350	700
Forecast Base	350	350	673	673	1,346
Change		0	323	323	646
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					92.3%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	210	490	673	673	1,346
Open Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	0	0	5	12	17
Total	210	490	678	685	1,363
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	82	200	397	414	811
Other Operating Expenses	128	290	281	271	552
Total	210	490	678	685	1,363
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Behavioral Health & Therapy	210	490	678	685	1,363
Total	210	490	678	685	1,363
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	1.3	3.4	7.0	7.0	