

Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, Board of

	2011-13 Actuals	2013-15 Leg. Approved*	2015-17 CSL LFO	2015-17 Governor's Recommended
Other Funds	877,340	1,128,319	1,225,769	1,517,167
Total Funds	877,340	1,128,319	1,225,769	1,517,167
Positions	4	4	4	6
FTE	3.50	3.50	3.50	4.50

* Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2014

Program Description

The mission of the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists is to set a strong, ethical standard of practice through the regulation of licensed professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists. The Board oversees a voluntary licensing program for professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists who want to use the title of “licensed professional counselor” or “licensed marriage and family therapist.” The Board also registers interns who are completing work experience requirements for licensure. The Board investigates complaints against counselors and therapists; sets standards to establish, examine and pass on the qualifications of applicants to practice professional counseling, or marriage and family therapy in Oregon; adopts a code of ethics for licensees; sets academic and training standards; studies developing trends and issues in counseling, and marriage and family therapy; and establishes Board policies and positions on counseling issues. The eight-member board is appointed by the Governor and composed of three licensed professional counselors, two licensed marriage and family therapists, one faculty from a related program, and two public members.

The Board is funded by revenue generated from application and license fees. Other miscellaneous sources include fines and the sale of mailing lists and copies of public records. Over the last four years, initial licenses and license renewals have increased. The Board expects this trend to continue for two main reasons: (1) retiring licensees choosing to keep their licenses in case they want to return to practice; and (2) although the licensure program is voluntary, insurance companies do not reimburse unlicensed clinicians for their services. As more clients depend on insurance, more counselors and therapists choose to seek licensure. With continued growth the Board expects an increase in legal costs due to an increase in complaints and contested cases.

CSL Summary and Issues

The 2015-17 Current Service Level budget for the Board is \$1,225,769 Other Funds (3.50 FTE). The CSL is \$97,450, or 8.64%, more than the 2013-15 Legislatively Approved Budget. There are no noted differences between the DAS and LFO CSL calculations

Policy Issues

- Policy Package 101: License Fee – Increase Other Funds revenues in the amount of \$90,966 by increasing license application (from \$125 to \$175) and initial license (from \$100 to \$125) fees for professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists, effective July 1, 2015. The last fee increase for the Board was in 2002.
- Policy Package 102: Investigator 2 Position – Increase Other Funds expenditures by \$95,343 to fund one permanent half-time Investigator 2 position (0.50 FTE).
- Policy Package 103: Office Specialist 2 Position – Increase Other Funds expenditures by \$84,833 to fund one permanent half-time Office Specialist 2 position (0.50 FTE) to handle increase in license application and renewal workload.
- Policy Package 104: Background Checks – Increase Other Funds expenditures by \$113,189 for criminal background checks.

Other Significant Issues and Background

- Interagency Collaboration– the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the Board of Psychologist Examiners are currently operating under an intergovernmental agreement to share resources, including an Executive Director and an Operations and Policy Analyst position. The agreement is set to expire on June 30, 2015.
- Staff Turnover – Currently both the shared Executive Director and the Operations and Policy Analyst position are vacant, as well as an Investigator for the Board of Counselors and Therapists. The Board recently appointed the Executive Director of the Board of Licensed Social Workers to act as the Interim Executive Director of both boards.

Co-Chairs' Budget Framework Discussion

No specific budget details or issues were identified in the Co-Chairs' budget framework for this agency.