



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Psychiatric Security Review Board

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TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Human Services

CC: Linda Ames, LFO and Michelle Lisper, BAM Analyst

FROM: Juliet Britton, J.D. *J.B.*
Executive Director, PSRB

DATE: March 31, 2015

SUBJECT: PSRB Board Member Stipend Follow-Up

Dear Co-Chair Nathanson and Co-Chair Bates and members of the Subcommittee,

In follow up to your questions regarding PSRB Adult Panel Member stipend compensation, the PSRB budget historically has only budgeted one stipend payment for each Board member per hearing day. Typically, three Board members sit for each hearing day. As discussed during my testimony, the hearing workload has increased over the last decade as the conditional release client population has grown and the increased effort to effectuate hospital releases has been achieved. This is primarily due to the fact that statutorily, modifications to conditional release require Board approval through a hearings process.

On average, staff schedules 6-8 full hearings and 8-12 administrative hearings per hearing day. Board Members diligently review the voluminous exhibit file which includes risk assessments, progress notes and compliance reports prior to the hearing day which often requires a full day of review. By statute, the stipend amount is set by ORS 161.385(4) which indicates that the stipend is \$289.22, adjusted according to the executive pay plan for the biennium. With cost of living adjustments, Board members currently earn \$334.30 per stipend payment.

I have surveyed the three specialized Board Member disciplines to gather an approximate hourly rate each member is forfeiting by sitting for PSRB hearings instead of billing their private practice. This is evidence that our Board members are dedicated, public servants who apply for appointment to the PSRB even knowing that the compensation is minimal.

Billable Hourly Rate:

1. Psychiatrist in Private Practice - \$260-\$300 or \$150, if employed by community mental health agency

2. Attorney in Private Practice - \$242 per hour
3. Psychologist in Private Practice - \$130 per hour

The Board may decide to request a legislative concept to amend the stipend amount at a future legislative session. In the meantime, the law does allow Board members to be paid for the "prep" hearing day. The Governor's Recommended Budget does not include this second day stipend expense.

If this Subcommittee were to recommend budgeting for this practice until a statutory change can occur, the following is an estimate of what it would cost:

	FY 14 Actuals	Cost if "Two" stipends per day is paid
Stipend Expenses	\$48,497	\$96,993
Soc Sec	\$3,710	\$7,420
WBF	\$15	\$31
Total	\$52,222	\$104,444

As you can see, a policy option package of approximately \$100,000 for the biennium would allow the Board Members to receive compensation for all of the days they conduct Board business.

Please let me know if there are any further questions at (503)229-5596.