

Oregon Mental Health Regulatory Agencies

(The Board of Psychologist Examiners combined with The Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists)

	2013-15 Actual	2015-17 Legislatively Approved	2017-19 Current Service Level	2017-19 Governor's Recommended
Other Funds	2,041,873	2,950,769	2,741,358	3,478,518
Total Funds	\$2,041,873	\$2,950,769	\$2,741,358	\$3,478,518
Positions	8	12	8	11
FTE	7.00	9.00	7.00	11.00
*Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2016				

Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, Board of

	2013-15 Actual	2015-17 Legislatively Approved	2017-19 Current Service Level	2017-19 Governor's Recommended
Other Funds	1,007,274	1,541,759	1,496,994	2,046,571
Total Funds	\$1,007,274	\$1,541,759	\$1,496,994	\$2,046,571
Positions	4	6	4	7
FTE	3.50	4.50	3.50	7.00
*Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2016				

Board of Psychologist Examiners

	2013-15 Actual	2015-17 Legislatively Approved	2017-19 Current Service Level	2017-19 Governor's Recommended
Other Funds	1,034,599	1,409,010	1,244,364	1,431,947
Total Funds	\$1,034,599	\$1,409,010	\$1,244,364	\$1,431,947
Positions	4	6	4	4
FTE	3.50	4.50	3.50	4.00
*Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2016				

In October of 2013, due to staff turnover at both agencies, these two boards entered into an intergovernmental agreement to share resources, including an Executive Director and an Operations and Policy Analyst position. For the 2015-17 biennium, with the agreement in place, the boards were instructed to work towards a proposal for merging by the 2017-19 biennium. The boards have submitted a proposal to establish the Mental Health Regulatory Agencies to oversee both boards, sharing resources while maintaining separate advisory boards and services for licensees, as well as separate revenues and expenditure streams.

Program Description

The mission of the Mental Health Regulatory Agencies (MHRA) is to protect and benefit the public's health and safety by promoting quality and ethical practice in mental health, and by creating and enforcing high standards for education, training, and examination to ensure that only qualified professionals administer mental health services to Oregon consumers. The agency is funded by revenue generated from licensing, applications and examination fees. Other miscellaneous sources include fines and the sale of mailing lists and copies of public records.

The Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists 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 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 of Psychologist Examiners ensures the ethical and legal practice of psychology by issuing and renewing licensees. The Board investigates complaints of professional misconduct made against licensees, and is also charged with safeguarding Oregonians from the dangers of unqualified and improper practice of psychology. The nine-member board consists of six licensed psychologists and three members of the public not associated with the profession. All members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to three year terms. The board has submitted a proposal to change its name to the Oregon Board of Psychology.

CSL Summary and Issues

The current service level budget includes the phase out of Personal Services and related Services and Supplies costs for 4 limited duration positions (2.00 FTE). These positions (2 part-time investigators and 2 part-time office specialist) were established as limited duration positions for the 205-17 biennium in order to allow the two boards to determine the most effective staffing in the case of a merger.

Policy Issues

- Package 100: Merger, and name changes.
- Package 101: Increase limitation by \$509,902 to establish 3 positions and 4.00 FTE. Establish One Investigator 2 position (1.00 FTE), one Office Assistant 2 (1.00 FTE), one Office Specialist 2 (1.00 FTE). Bring two part-time administrative positions to full-time (1.00 FTE). These positions would be partially supported by increasing the renewal fees for counselors and therapists as well as internship licensure by \$40. This increase is anticipated to raise revenue by \$320,600 for the biennium.
- Package 102: Online Database - Increase limitation by \$104,328.
- Package 103: Administrative Hearings Costs for the Board of Psychologist Examiners - Increase limitation by \$103,022.
- Package 104: Attorney General Fees for the Board of Psychologist Examiners - Increase limitation by \$41,319.
- Package 105: Background Check Pass-through for the Board of Psychologist Examiners - Increase limitation by \$14,351.