

## GOVERNOR'S BALANCED BUDGET 2017-2019

### Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine

Anne Walsh, *Executive Director*

#### AGENCY MISSION

The mission of the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine is to protect the public by licensing and regulating naturopathic physicians. The Board will promote physician excellence and will foster communication within the profession and with the public

#### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Assure the citizens of Oregon that the health received by naturopathic physicians meets the highest standards, and that their right to this care is recognized.

- Work with the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) to assure that the educational institutions continue to raise the standard of education in naturopathic medicine is received prior to practicing.
- Work with the North American Board of Naturopathic Physicians (NABNE) in the administration of the national examinations
- Work with the Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities (FNMRA) to establish standards allowing licensed Naturopathic physicians (ND) to more readily be licensed by reciprocity between states, and provide an avenue for continuing education resources that provide the highest standard of ongoing education
- Require a criminal background check by all new applicants for licensure
- Administer state specific examinations in jurisprudence and formulary prior to licensure
- Issue a specialty certificate in natural childbirth
- Require annual renewal with continuing education
- Enforce the mission of the Board by investigating complaints and disciplining when appropriate.

#### PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Board of Naturopathic Medicine is composed of seven members; 5 licensed NDs and two public members.

- The administration of the Board is fulfilled with 2.5 full-time employees; Executive Director, one Administrative Assistant and on half-time Investigator.
- The Board reviews, considers and makes a determination in all investigated complaints.
- The Board maintains the Key Performance measures
  - Timely investigation of complaints
  - Consumer Satisfaction
  - Best practices

The Board has two bills submitted for amendment to ORS 685.

- SB 22 will repeal the Peer Review Committee (ORS 685.205). It was established in 1989, but not utilized. With an investigator on staff, there is no need for additional review.
- SB 23 will allow Minor Surgery to be further defined in rule (ORS 685.010(3)). The language is archaic and unclear. This revision, with rules providing plain language will offer better clarity.

Currently there are 1,475 naturopaths licensed through this agency.

- There has been a regular increase in the number of licenses issued by the Board. There was approximately 250 licensees in 2000; now there is 1,475 as of January 2017.
- Although the profession continues to grow the number of licensees in Oregon has not grown as quickly as in the past, due to the number of states with licensure.

The Board investigates violations of ORS Chapter 685 and OAR Chapter 850 governing the practice of Naturopathic Medicine

Complaints come from patients, family members, other health professionals, pharmacist and other health regulatory agencies

Complaints can be filed against licensee and those who do not hold a license

Complaints have increased over the last 15 years. This is due to

- Increased consumer education on naturopathic health care and patient rights
- Increased licensee exponentially means more complaints, although,
- The percentage of complaint investigations is less than in 2000: 5% of licensees were investigated in 2000, less than 4% in 2016.
- More insurance companies are reimbursing for ND services

## **FUNDING**

The OBNM is an Other Funds agency and obtains all revenue from fees related to licensing.

The Board is only asking for approval of expenditure limitations within the funds necessary for the operation of the Board

- \$ 747,671

## **OUR FUTURE**

The Board looks to the future with great excitement as the profession grows; scope of practice allows greater care opportunities for consumers and recognition nationally with regulation in more states.

- Outreach by the Board to students in the naturopathic programs
- Implementation of a Board mentorship program for incoming members
- Work with the Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities (FNMRA) to strive for consistency in licensure
- Continue to work with the professional association to attain insurance parity for naturopathic physicians
- Maintain LEDS checks on renewing licensees