



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Board of Naturopathic Medicine

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Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Senator Arnie Roblan
Senator Chuck Thomsen
Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
Representative Christine Drazan
Representative Mark Meek
Representative Mike Nearman

Dear Co-Chairs and Members:

Thank you for hearing our budget request. I am Mary-Beth Baptista, executive director of the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine.

Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine: Mission and Program Information

The mission of the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine is to regulate, through the Oregon Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules, the practices of naturopathic medicine in order to ensure protection of the public. We promote excellence in the practice of naturopathic medicine by assuring quality education, regulating naturopathic practices, and fostering ongoing public outreach. In this manner, the Board cultivates public trust and safety by ensuring the State of Oregon is served by naturopathic professionals providing the highest standards of care.

The Board of Naturopathic Medicine consists of seven members appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate. Of the members on the Board, five must be naturopathic physicians who each practiced continuously in the state for five years immediately prior to the date of appointment. Two are members of the general public without any connection to a naturopathic physician. The current board is comprised of a five naturopathic doctors that hail from all parts of the state, and have training, experience and expertise in diverse practice fields. One public member is an attorney, the other is a practicing physical therapist who was previously the Chair of the Oregon Board of Physical Therapy. The Board meets bi-monthly, the second Monday of all even months.

The Board currently Licenses 1155 Naturopathic Physicians.

The Board staff consists of three full time employees, an Administrative Assistant, a Licensed Private Investigator, and myself, the Executive Director of the Board since February 2017. I have been a licensed attorney in the State of Oregon since 2001.

Board Complaint, Investigation and Discipline Process

Since beginning of my tenure as the Executive Director, I have spent an extensive amount of time on developing a streamlined, efficient, and transparent investigative process to ensure an equitable and consistent disciplinary system.

House Bill 2090: Peer Review

The Board introduced House Bill 2090 to abolish ORS 685.020, which established the Peer Review committee and process in 1989. The Board introduced this legislation because over the last twenty years the Board's processes have evolved, making the Peer Review process a relic of the Boards' past structure and limitations of authority. The Board's complaint and investigation process is now in the hands of professional Board staff, the Board has jurisdiction over all 1155 Licensees to determine whether or not a Licensee committed a violation of statute or rule. Further, the Board has the authority to impose discipline on an extensive range of violations as listed in Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules. Since the statute was enacted in 1989, multiple attempts were made, but failed to establish a Peer Review Committee. To date, a Peer Review Committee has never been seated and the process was never implemented.

Eliminating this statute has no fiscal impact. However, if the Board had to establish this committee, it would create inefficiencies in the system that would undoubtedly financially impact the Board.

Annual Investigation Statistics

Year	2017	2018
# of Complaints Received	60	49
# of Investigations Board Reviewed	26	34
#of Cases Resulting in Discipline	6	11
Average time Between Complaint and Disposition	6 months	TBD

Board Accomplishments and Goals:

In the last two years as the Executive Director of the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine, I have worked collaboratively with the members of the Board and stakeholders to accomplish long standing Board goals and set priorities for the upcoming biennium.

Board accomplishments from the 2017-2019 Biennium include:

- Adopted the "Oregon Acute Opioid Prescribing Guidelines."
- Developed and published the "Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine Statement of Philosophy on Telemedicine."

- Revised Oregon Administrative Rule 850-050-0010(1)(b)(C) adopting the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians Code of Ethics.
- Revised Oregon Administrative Rule 850-040-210 to promote best practices and parity with other health boards
- Revised Oregon Administrative Rule 850-050-0090 and 850-030-0195, to clarify license renewal requirements, and ensure Board rules were in compliance with the Board's governing Statutes.
- Revised Oregon Administrative Rules 850-060-0223 and 850-060-0226 to clarify inclusions and exclusions on the Formulary Compendium.
- Held a Board retreat to clarify the Board's mission and responsibilities.
- Increased outreach and improved communication with stakeholders and Licensees.

The Board is committed to achieving the following measurable outcomes in the next Biennium:

- Establish and clarify Oregon Administrative Rules and Naturopathic practice guidelines/policies.
- Work in conjunction with other boards, commissions, professional associations and schools to increase diversity in the Naturopathic medical health profession as a means to better serve the consumer.
- Decrease the time between date of complaint, Board disposition, and discipline.

Program Option Package 116 – Information Technology (IT)

The Board is in the process of transitioning away from a long-time service provider to a combination of in-house and contracted support. The Board with its sister boards is transitioning to a new licensing data base, and the budget includes staff training and support. With the approval of this package the Board will be able to:

- Increase security in maintaining confidential materials.
- Incorporate new database software and infrastructure to improve case tracking, investigative quality and equitable discipline.
- Incorporate new database software and infrastructure to reduce the time from complaint to Board disposition and Licensee discipline.
- Engage in proactive measures to improve the practice of Naturopathic Medicine for the benefit of public health and safety.

In conclusion, approval of the Board's 2019-21 budget is respectfully requested. We welcome your questions.

Sincerely,



Mary-Beth Baptista
Executive Director