



Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine

2025-2027 Biennium Budget

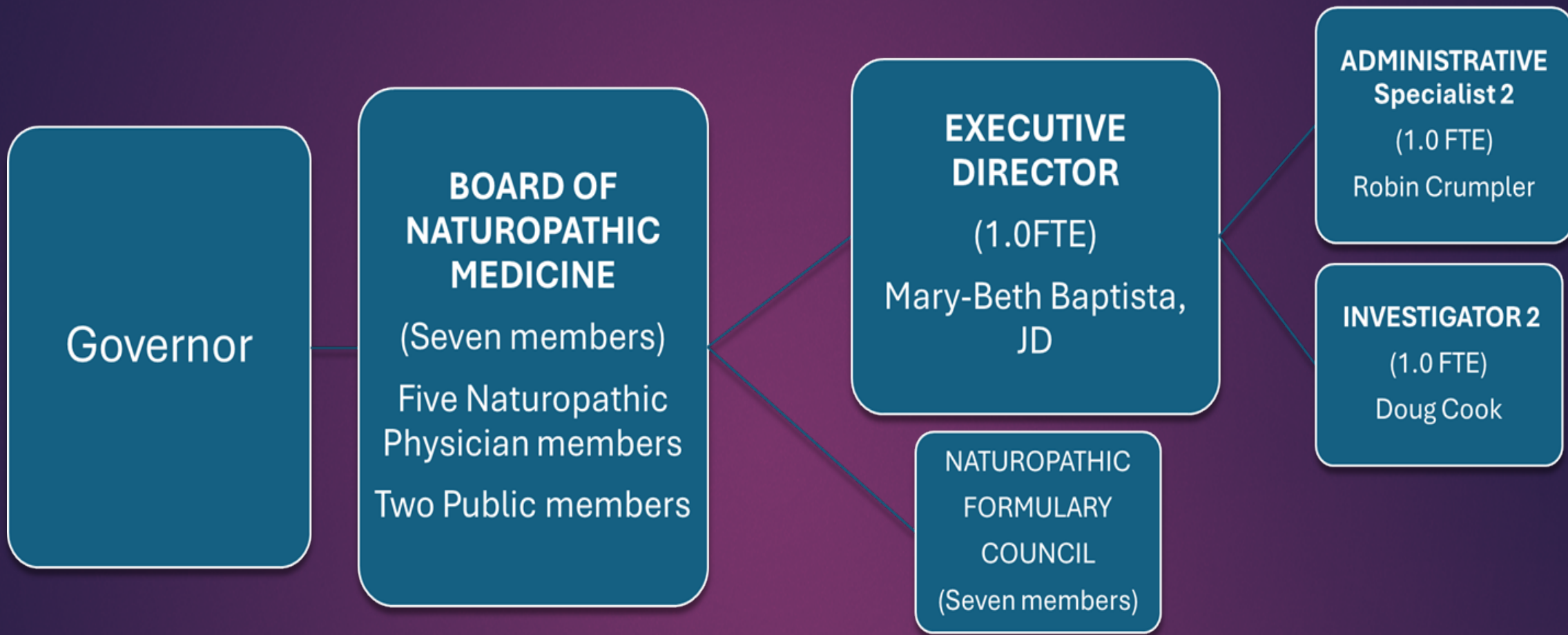
MARY-BETH BAPTISTA, J.D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Board Mission

- ▶ The mission of the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board) is to regulate, through the Oregon Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules, the practices of naturopathic medicine in order to ensure protection of the public.
- ▶ The Board promotes 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.

Historical Context: Oregon Board - National Leader Of The Field

- ▶ The Oregon Legislature established the Board of Naturopathic Medicine in 1927.
- ▶ The **1200 licensed naturopathic doctors** in the State of Oregon have one of the most **expansive scopes of practice in the country**.
- ▶ Oregon Naturopathic Doctors are **defined as primary care physicians** by statute, and engage in the prevention, diagnosis, management, and treatment of both acute and chronic health conditions.
- ▶ Naturopathic physicians may **perform minor surgery, practice natural childbirth, and administer injection therapies**.



Board Organizational Structure

Agency Structure: Board of Naturopathic Medicine

The Board of Naturopathic Medicine consists of **seven members** appointed by the Governor for three- year terms and eligible for reappointment. Membership consists of **five licensed Naturopathic physicians and two public members**.

Each new Board member receives a **comprehensive half-day on-boarding session, with the Executive Director, Board Investigator and Administrative Specialist, and Board Assigned AAG**. The On- boarding covers Board member responsibilities, application of the law; how to review board investigations, office/Board meeting procedures & responsibilities, required trainings, and resources.

The Board holds **bi-monthly meetings**, the second Monday of each even month. The Board holds both an **executive session and a public session at each meeting**. During the executive session, Board members review investigations and deliberate whether a licensee's conduct violated a statute or rule, and if so, discuss the appropriate proposed discipline.

Current Board Composition



Chair Dr. Ryan Minarik, ND LAc, is a dually licensed naturopathic physician and acupuncturist practicing in Portland. He specializes in treating chronic pain, sports injuries, and joint conditions. He co-founded and practices at FoRM Health, a large, multi-disciplinary functional medicine and orthopedic clinic in the Southeast Sellwood neighborhood.

Identification:

- ▶ Four (4) males
- ▶ Three (3) Females
- ▶ One member identifies as LGBTQ+; one member identifies as Hispanic Latino; one member identifies as Caucasian/White & Hispanic/Latino.

Geographic Data:

- ▶ Two (2) Members reside in Multnomah County
- ▶ One (1) Member hails from each of the following counties:
 - ▶ Lane – Linn – Hood River – Washington – Yamhill

Agency Structure: Formulary Compendium & Formulary Council

- ▶ Oregon naturopathic physicians may prescribe medication from one of the **most comprehensive formularies in the nation**, currently containing **over 1700 drugs**.
- ▶ Naturopathic Doctors may **prescribe all pharmaceuticals needed in a primary care practice** as well as the natural therapeutics.
- ▶ Oregon Revised Statute 685.145 established a **Council on Naturopathic Physicians Formulary**. The formulary is composed of seven members. The Board appoints two licensed NDs, one currently serving on the Board, two members who hold an advanced degree in either pharmacology or pharmacognosy. The Oregon Medical Board appoints one licensed member, and the Oregon Pharmacy Board appoints two licensed members.

Formulary Council & Members



Formulary Chair Natalie Gustafson,
RPh, PharmD, Portland, OR

Natalie Gustafson, PharmD,
specializes in a holistic approach
to medicine, with a focus on how
compounded medications can
help accomplish this goal.

The Formulary Council meets twice a year – March and September. The purpose of the Council is to revise, maintain, and update the prescribing formulary compendium.

The four (4) female and two (2) male members reside / work in the following counties

- ▶ Benton
- ▶ Hood River
- ▶ Lane
- ▶ Multnomah
- ▶ Washington (2 members)

Two members identify as two or more races.

(** the MD position is currently vacant
– appointment in March)

Agency Regulatory Authority

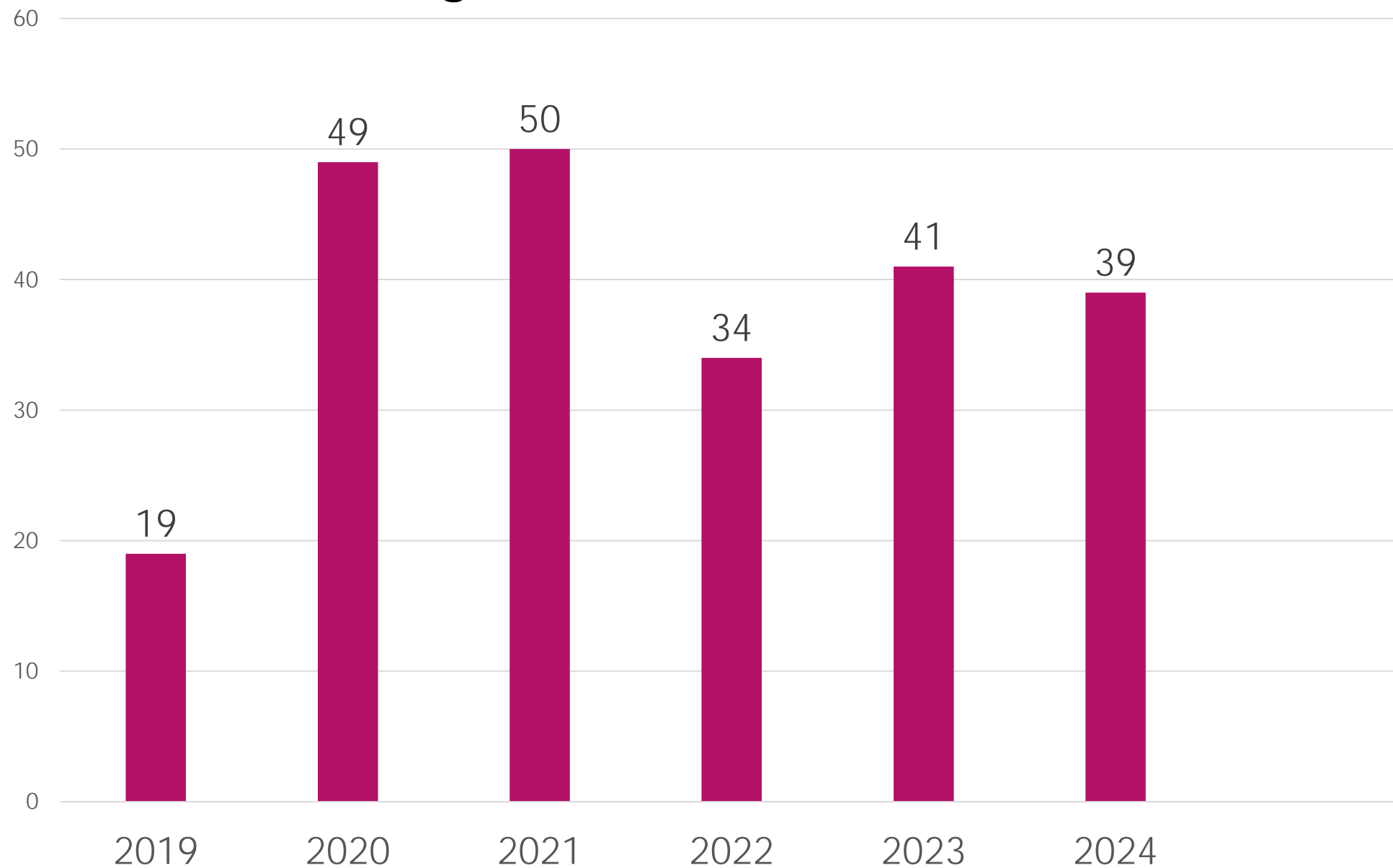
- ▶ Oregon Revised Statutes - Chapter 685 and Oregon Administrative Rules - Chapter 850 give the Board the authority to:
 - ▶ Investigate complaints regarding licensee conduct and impose discipline
 - ▶ Draft and pass administrative rules and submit legislative concepts.
 - ▶ Set requirements for licensure, required continuing education areas and hours, and grounds for discipline, and scope of practice.

Agency Services: Complaint Intake & Investigation

- ▶ The Board Office is the **intake point for all complaints regarding Naturopathic Physicians**. Complaints are submitted from patients, members of the public, insurance & medical providers, naturopathic physicians, or another licensing authority.
- ▶ **Complaints range in scope** from negligent treatment, negligent prescribing, inadequate charting, ethical violations, substance abuse.
- ▶ **Board Investigator investigates all complaints submitted.** At the conclusion of the investigation, he writes a report summarizing the evidence for each allegation in the complaint and attaches any relevant exhibits.
- ▶ **Board deliberates all investigations** at the Bi-Monthly Board meeting to **determine whether there is a violation of statute or rule, and appropriate discipline.**

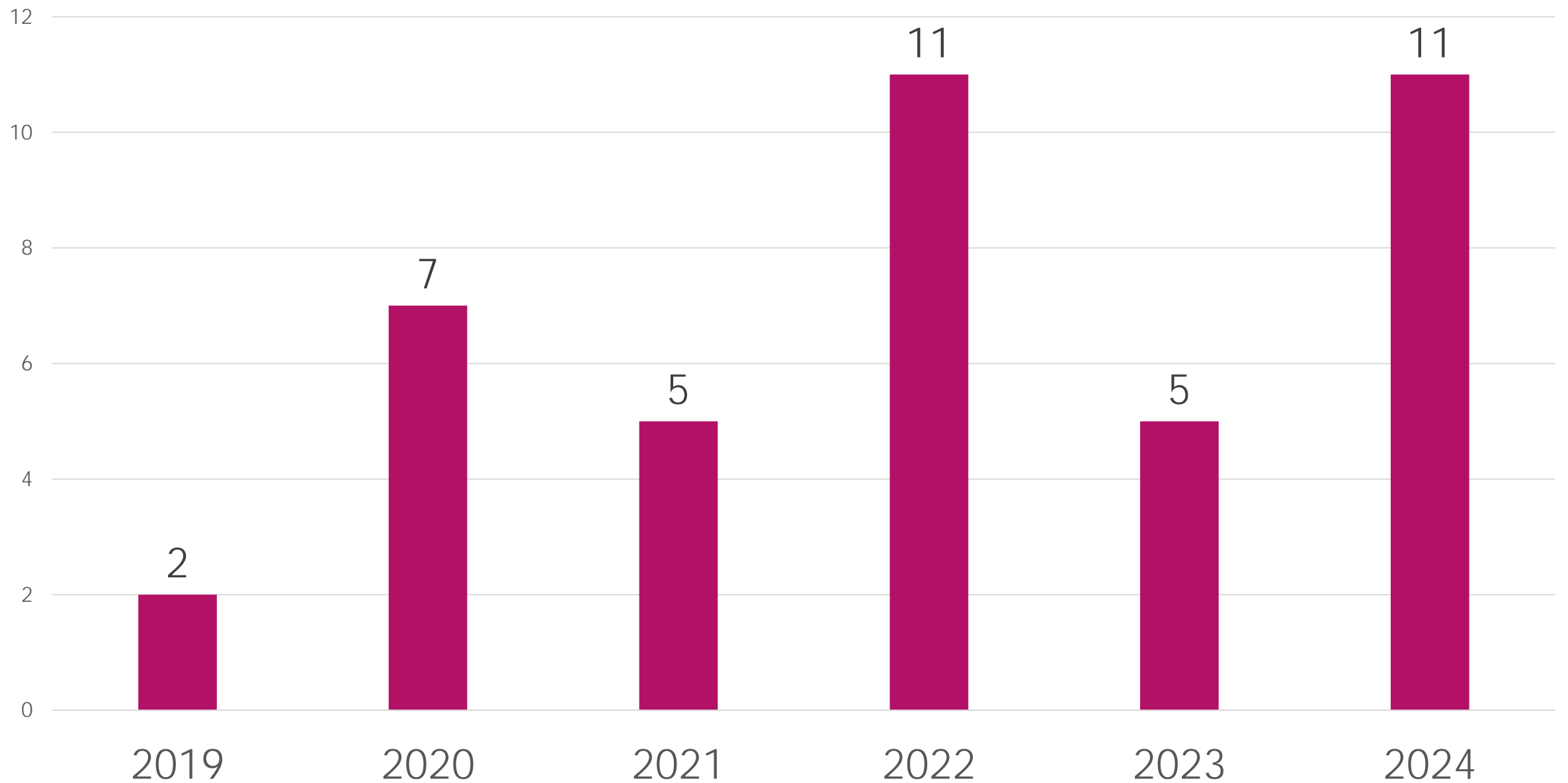
Agency Services: Complaint Investigations

Investigations Per Year 2019-2024



Agency Services: Impose Discipline and Monitor Probation Cases

Number of Cases Resulting in Discipline 2019-2024



Agency Programs / Services: Continuing Education Course Approval

- Licensees are required by Administrative Rule to **obtain 32 hours of continuing education (CE) annually**. In addition to general education, education is offered and / or required in prescription drugs, injection therapy, pain management, and ethics, natural childbirth cultural competence or suicide awareness.
- Through Chapter 40 of OAR 850, the Board approves continuing education programs based on **established standards of professional responsibility and scope of practice**. The purpose of the program is to protect the public by ensuring practitioners meet and maintain high standards of practice.
- **Board Revision of OAR 850 Chapter 40 - CE approval process and CE education criteria**. After multiple discussions in several public meetings, and considering all public comment received the **Board amended continuing education rules for the following reasons:**
 - **Increase in Board / Staff Efficiency:** Approving applications for CE approval became an arduous and an expensive task for Board members and staff. Out of state and profit driven program providers submitted most of these applications, with the vast majority not attended by / serving a significant number of Oregon licensees. Changing the current process was **imperative for increased cost efficiency, economical use of staff and Board resources, and improved quality of a process and education**.
 - **Equitably benefit Oregon licensees** by enhancing the diversity of approved education, and set transparent and accountable standards for continuing education eligible for approval. **The positive impact on licensees, includes but is not limited to:**
 - **EXPANDS** the number of **preapproved courses** accredited, or provided by certain providers, and agencies
 - **INCREASES** the number **CE topic areas eligible for approval** to fit licensees' individual practice needs
 - **MAINTAINS** options eligible for **approval for self-directed activities** that directly benefit licensees and colleagues and maintains licensees' ability to **apply for approval for specialized CE course categories**.

Agency Programs: Fitness for Licensure

Determines the **qualifications for fitness of applicants** for licensure.

Conducts a Law Enforcement Database Services (LEDS) and FBI **criminal history check** of each initial licensure applicant as an additional means of assuring public safety.

Administers the **state jurisprudence exam** four times annually, in coordination with the national licensing exams.

Annually reviews fitness for licensure during each renewal period through a fitness for licensure questionnaire and LEDS and FBI criminal history check.



Agency Goals: Six Year Plan / Two Year Plan

OBNM Strategic Plan 2024

In April 2024, Board members and staff held Board retreat to develop a six-year and two-year strategic plans. This six-year strategic plan identifies action items —tasks the Board and the Executive Director agreed to undertake in the next six and two years relative to areas of the Board’s primary responsibilities. The Board is committed to advancing and improving the Board’s performance of its duties through the following concrete actions.



SIX YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

- **Seek legislative options to find an additional revenue stream.** Due to the increase of costs of goods and services, legislatively mandated salary increases for Board members and Board staff, and inflation; an additional revenue stream would be instrumental in maintaining the legislatively required six-month limitation.
- **Develop an outreach strategy to create an inclusive and equitable recruitment and application process.**
- **Revise “OAR 850-030-0030 Fitness for Licensure”** through the rule making process to remove real and perceived barriers to licensure.

TWO YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

- **Enhance community engagement** when developing and creating Administrative Rules related to the practice of naturopathic medicine, including:
 - **Communication using plain and inclusive language** when conducting outreach regarding proposed changes to administrative rules and policies.
 - **Listen and learn about the possible impact and barriers rules and policies** have on licensees from underrepresented communities – with emphasis on licensees practicing outside of urban areas, specifically eastern Oregon, and rural areas.
 - **Create opportunities for licensee/Board engagement** through in-person and virtual activities, including in-person “open house” forums, virtual “town hall” meetings, recorded webinars.

OBNM Budget History:

2021-2023

**Leg Approved Budget:
\$1,126,407**

The Board raised licensure fees by rule in September 2020, the licensure fee increase was approved by the legislature for the 21-23 biennia.

The legislature also approved a program option package for the six HRLBs for I.T. licensing database software and infrastructure support.

2023-2025

**Leg Approved Budget
\$1,193,030**

The legislature approved increase of licensure fees for the 23-25 biennia. Board raised licensure fees by rule on / about August 2023.

2025-2027 (CSL)

**Current Service Level:
\$1,285,177**

OBNM has no long-term vacancies and did not submit policy packages this biennium

No additional licensure fee increases projected for 25-27 biennia.

**Due to continued increase in service costs and inflation the Board may have to raise licensure fees in the 27-29 biennium.*

Governor's Recommended Budget

The Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine is funded solely by Other Funds.

Application, examination, and license fees make up approximately 89% of the Board's revenue, with the remainder derived from the sale of license lists and civil penalties.

All agency program expenditures/regulation of naturopathic medicine are funded through Other Funds revenue.

Ending balance projected for 25-27 biennium: \$321,974

Agency Reductions 25-27 Biennium

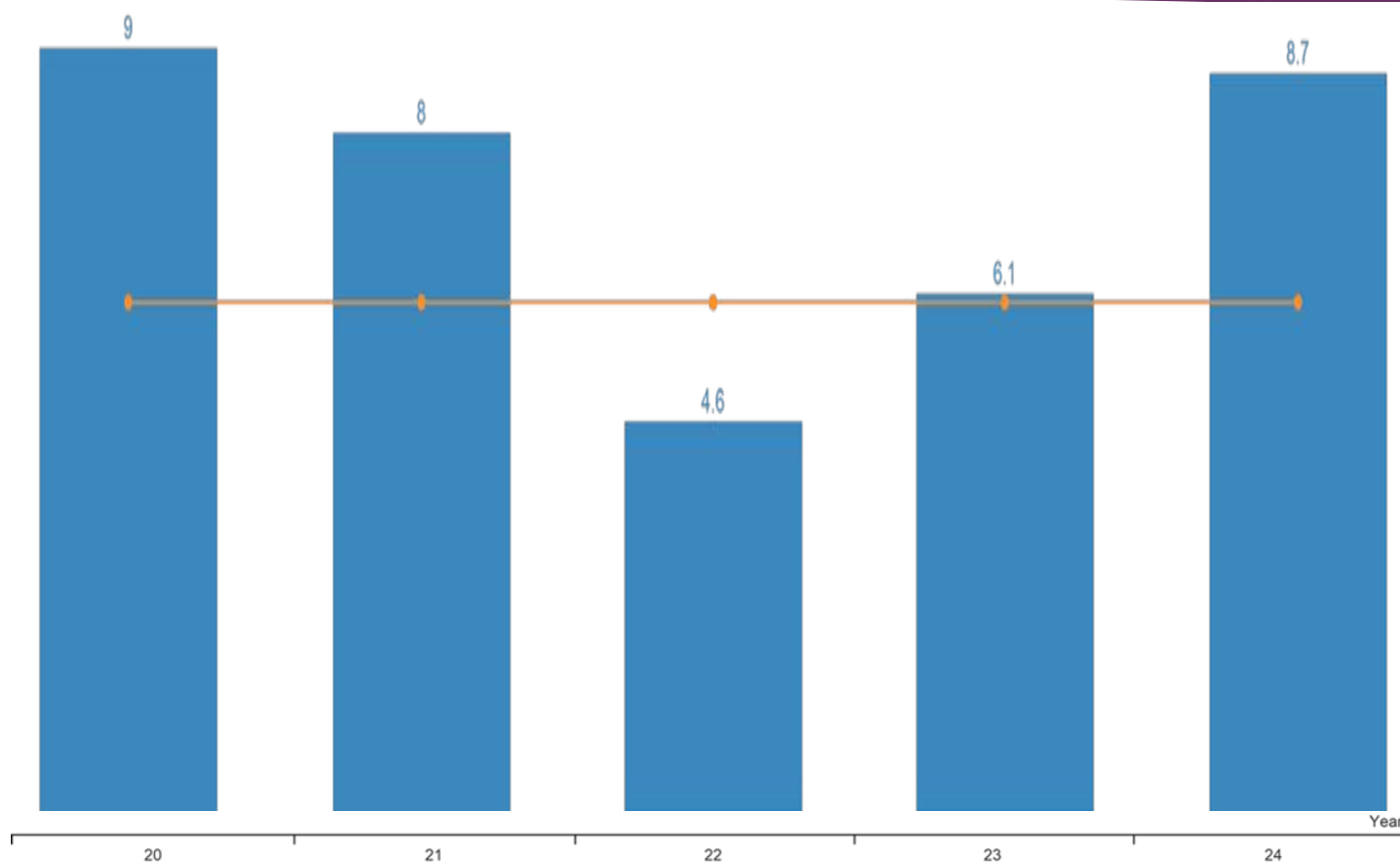
OBNM made some small reductions to services and supplies to build up the appropriate ending balance. This included reductions to rent and travel, among other items.

Business Licensure and Fees:	1,133,200	89.2%
Non-Business Licensure and Fees	2000	0.16%
Fines and Forfeitures	81750	6.4%
Interest Income	41421	3.3%
Other Revenue	12000	0.94%
	\$1,270,371	100%

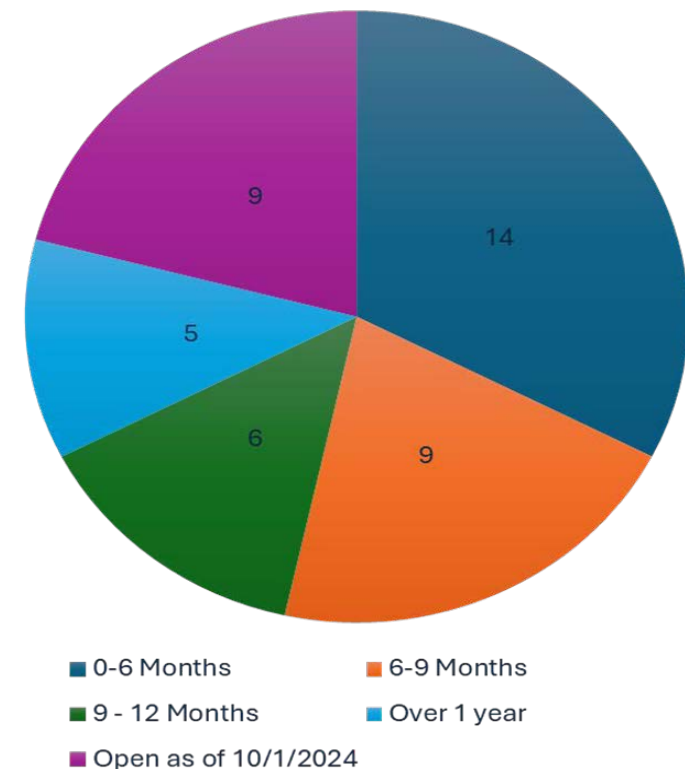
Summary of 10% Reduction Options

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction <small>(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29)</small>	Amount and Fund Type									Rank and Justification <small>(RANK THE ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS NOT UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER OF LOWEST COST FOR BENEFIT OBTAINED)</small>
		GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	Total Funds	Pos.	FTE	
RENT / FACILITIES REDUCTION	OBNM has an excess of office space			\$ 45,000				\$ 45,000	-	-	1
EMPLOYEE TRAINING / PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	OBNM will not provide outside training to employee or board members			\$ 11,000				\$ 11,000			2
Out of State Travell	OBNM will not provide outside training to employee or board members			\$ 1,500				\$ 1,500			2
OTHER SERVICES / SUPPLIES	OBNM will eliminate inperson board meetings and Board retreats			\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000	-	-	3
INSTATE TRAVEL	OBNM will eliminate inperson board meetings and Board retreats			\$ 15,000				\$ 15,000	-	-	3
OFFICE EXPENSES	OBNM will eliminate inperson board meetings and Board retreats			\$ 6,000				\$ 6,000	-	-	3
Total				\$ 128,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128,500	-	-	

Key Performance Measure #1-Receipt Of Complaint To Completion Of Investigation – Target 6 Months January 1- December 31, 2023.



2023 Investigations Complaint to Completion

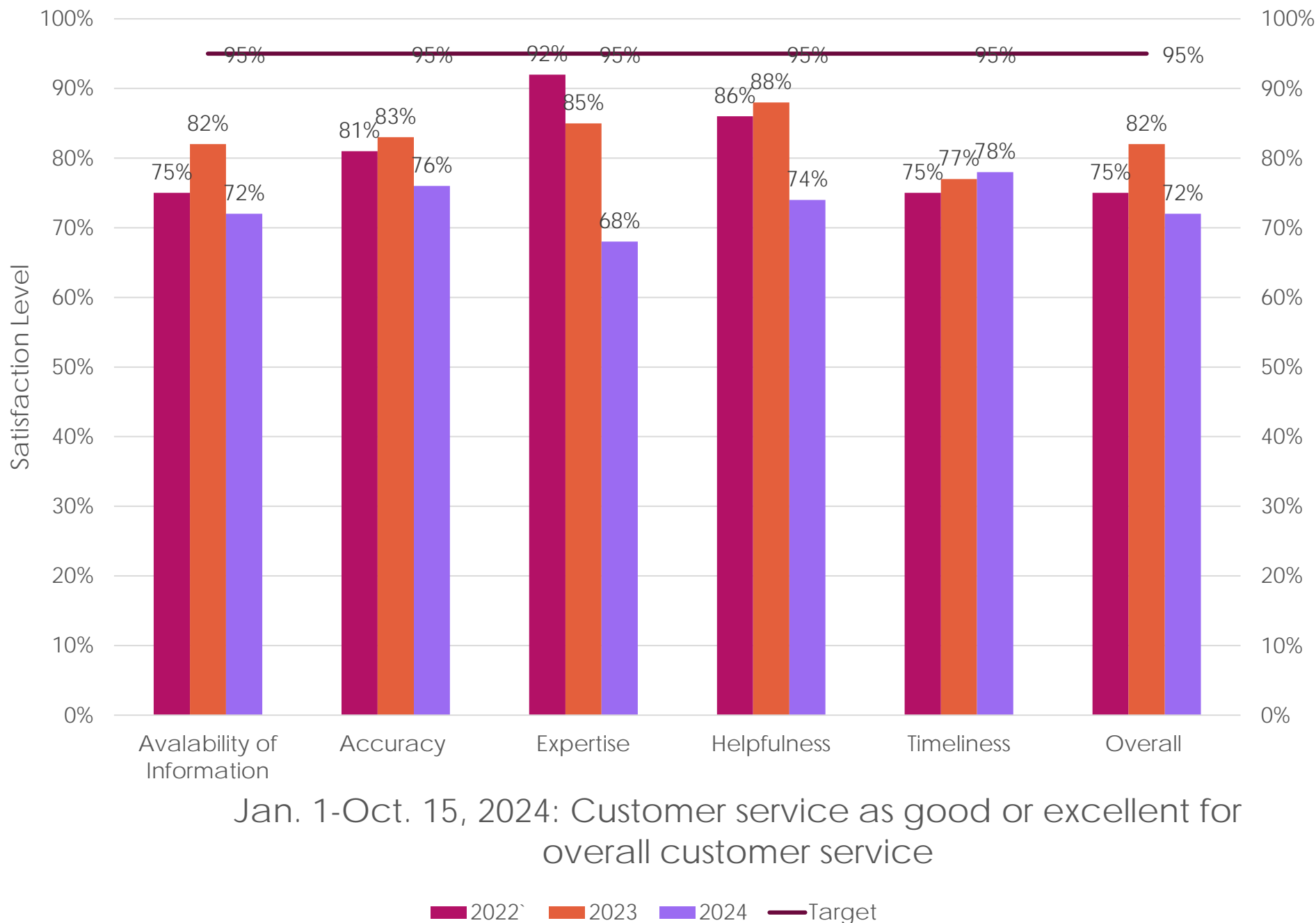


One-third of the cases were completed within six-months; nine (9) cases in nine (9) months, and six (6) within one year. Five (5) investigations took 13-18 months to complete, of those three (3) took 14 months complete due to: Licensee's failure to cooperate; jurisdictional challenges; and the complexity of the complaint. One took 16 months because of licensee's failure to cooperate; one took 18 months because the board combined the investigation with a second complaint.

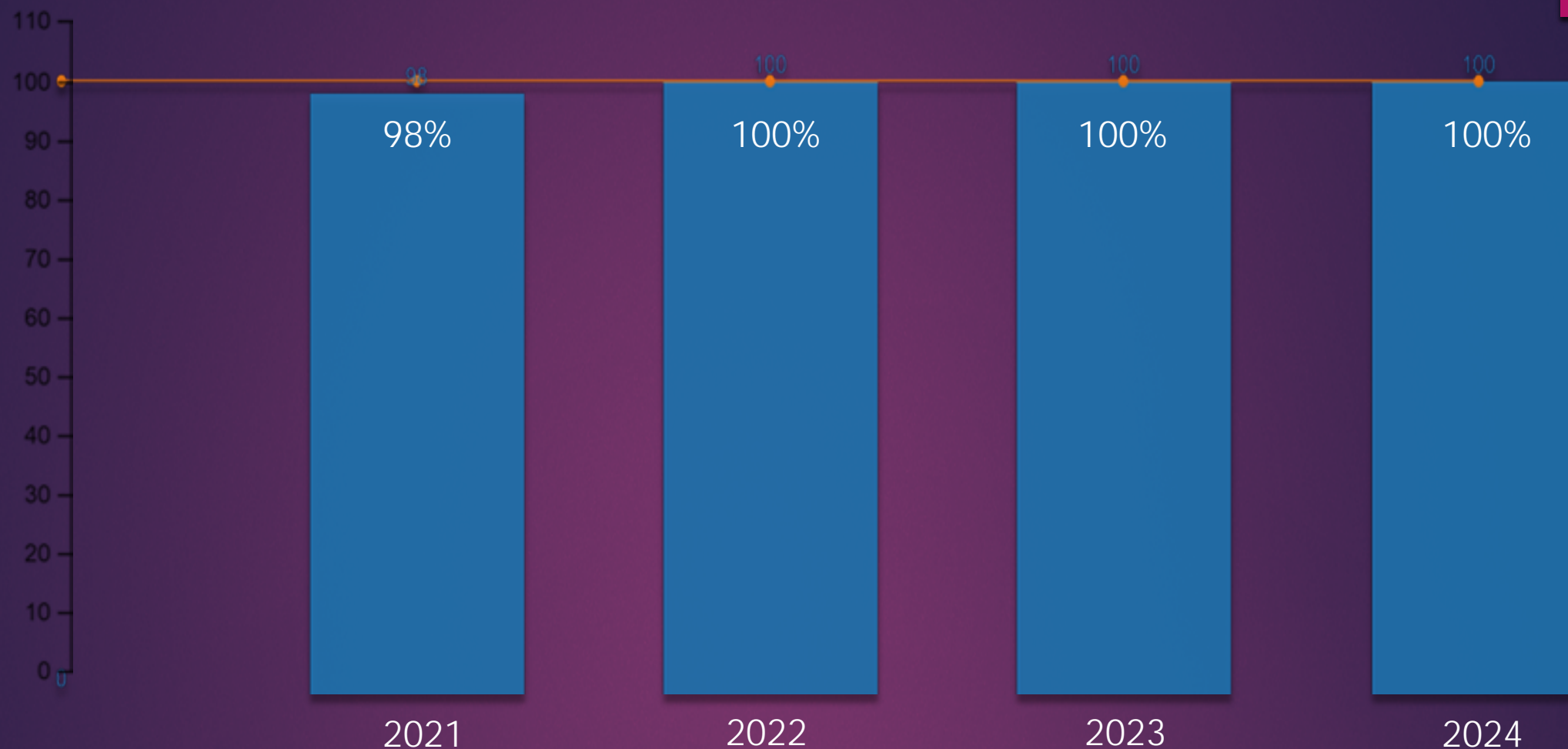
In October 2024, nine (9) cases remained open, six were open for nine(9) months to a year. Three (3) cases open for more than one year; two were on hold pending civil litigation, one pending criminal investigation.

UPDATE As of December 2024, Four (4) of the remaining nine (9) cases opened in 2023 were completed.

KMP #3 – Customer Service/ Satisfaction Survey



Factors Affecting Results
 The response rate was slightly higher in 2024, but because of the small sample size, a few responses can impact the statistical significance of results. For example, the category “Expertise” shows 68% of respondents rated the Board's performance as excellent or good, while 20% responded “I don't know.” Small samples hinder the ability to draw inferences across varying data points leading to misleading conclusions, that the reported percentages may not be representative of the opinions of the population interacting with the Board.



KPM #4 – Best Practices –
Percentage of Best Practices Met by
the Board