

Agency Purpose

The Board of Social Work was established in 1987 and is mandated by Minnesota Statutes 214 and 148D.001-148D.290 to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare through the licensure and regulation of persons who practice social work in this state. The Board's mission is to *ensure residents of Minnesota quality social work services by establishing and enforcing professional standards*. The Board's vision is to *protect the public through licensure of qualified social workers and to provide timely and impartial resolution of complaints against social workers*.

Core Functions

The Board accomplishes its regulatory mission by:

- ◆ setting and administering minimum educational, supervision, and examination requirements for initial licensure as a social worker, and setting and administering requirements for renewal of licensure;
- ◆ setting and enforcing standards of ethical practice; and responding to inquiries, complaints and reports regarding applicants, licensees, temporary license holders, and unlicensed practitioners;
- ◆ investigating complaints of alleged violations of statutes, holding educational and disciplinary conferences, and taking legal action when appropriate against licensees who fail to meet minimum standards of practice;
- ◆ approving continuing education providers; and
- ◆ providing information about licensure and standards of practice, through public education outreach efforts, the Board's website, online license verification services, brochures, and telephone and email inquires.

Operations

- ◆ The Board benefits and affects the public safety by ensuring minimum standards of competence and ethical practice of persons licensed as social workers, by enforcing the Board's Social Work Practice Act, 148D.
- ◆ The Board consists of 10 social work licensees, and five public members appointed by the governor.
- ◆ The Board normally meets six times per year, although additional Board committees meet as needed.
- ◆ The Board does not provide any direct social work services to consumers or clients, but provides regulatory services of social workers, to ensure public protection to the residents of Minnesota.
- ◆ The Board provides services to the general public, social work applicants and licensees, and stakeholder groups including academic programs, employers, supervisors, other state and local agencies, and state and national professional social work associations.
- ◆ Current issues affecting the Board are posted on the Board's website.

Key Goals

The Board strives to achieve key goals, including initiatives that will 1) ensure and promote public protection through standards for practice, 2) meet the diverse needs of the residents of Minnesota, and 3) maintain a cost-effective, efficient operation to meet its mandate, while providing excellent customer service.

- ◆ The Board is conducting a study to promote greater access to persons licensed as social workers for consumers from diverse and underserved groups. A Board committee is working with stakeholder and community groups to comply with the 2007 Legislative mandate to "study and make recommendations to the legislature by 12-15-08, on how to increase the numbers of licensed social workers serving underserved communities and culturally and ethnically diverse communities, and also explore alternative paths to licensure that does not include a standardized examination."
- ◆ The Board is implementing its Strategic Plan, with emphasis on promoting licensure and providing leadership through public information and outreach, increasing the number and quality of diverse licensed social workers, streamlining operations, increasing online services, reviewing Board governance operations, promoting ongoing education of Board members and promoting diversity.
- ◆ The Board is implementing increased clinical and other licensing standards, in response to directives from the legislature to the Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS was charged to "evaluate qualifications of all licensed mental health professionals...". DHS Task Force recommendations established a baseline of clinical

At A Glance

Statistics For the Period 7-1-2007 – 6-30-2008

Total new licenses issued:	925
Total licenses renewed:	4,525
Total licensees:	10,314
Total new complaints received:	121
Total complaints resolved:	111
Staff FTE:	10.6

standards for coursework, supervised practice, and the report "Baseline of Competency: Common Licensing Standards for Mental Health Professionals" (A Report to the Minnesota Legislature – 1-15-2007).

- ◆ The Board is implementing a regular review of its compliance process, to ensure effective and timely resolution of complaints against licensees and their practice, and increasing methods to report pertinent data.

Key Measures

- ◆ Public Protection – The Board's website offers services to the public including 24,535 online verifications since 2006; viewing disciplinary orders; information on the complaint process; obtaining forms and information regarding how to file a complaint; viewing individual licensee disciplinary history; and a compliance video.
- ◆ Complaint Resolution – The Board is mandated to receive, investigate and resolve complaints against licensees and their practice. During FY 2007, 107 new complaints were received, and 94 complaints were resolved. During FY 2008, 121 new complaints were received, and 111 complaints were resolved. Complaints received increased 16% percent from FY 2006 to FY 2007, and increased 13% from FY 2007 to FY 2008. Complaints are generally resolved within two to four months. Complex cases may take longer.
- ◆ Licensing Services – The Board received 1,231 applications for licensure during FY 2006; 1,333 during FY 2007; and 1,418 during FY 2008. The Board granted 748 new licenses during FY 2006, an increase of 9% from the previous fiscal year, for a total of 8,552 current status licensees; 881 during FY 2007, an increase of 18% from the previous fiscal year, for a total of 9,389 current status licensees; and 925 during FY 2008, an increase of 5% from the previous fiscal year, for a total of 10,314 current status licensees. The Board renewed 3,945 licenses during FY 2007; and 4,604 licenses during FY 2008. The Board received and processed 1,010 supervision plan forms during FY 2007; and 1,141 during FY 08. The Board received and processed 1,686 supervision verification forms during FY 2007; and 1,719 during FY 08. The Board received and processed 266 continuing education provider applications during FY 2007; and 255 during FY 2008.
- ◆ Online Services – The Board offers online services to applicants and licensees including license verifications, address changes, license renewals and license application services, and license requirement information. Online license renewal services have increased from 4% to 67% since 2004. Online licensure application services have increased from 45% to 69% since mid-2006.
- ◆ Public Education – The Board provides information regarding licensing requirements and standards of practice to the public and stakeholder groups. Board members and staff provided approximately 26 public education programs during FY 2008 at state and national conferences, and presentations to bachelors and masters social work academic programs throughout the state.

Budget

The Board expects to collect \$2.020 million in FY 2008-09, which is deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund. All revenue is collected from fees charged to applicants, licensees, and providers of continuing education programs. Total direct and indirect expenditures for FY 2008-09 are estimated to be \$2.559 million, which includes 10.6 FTE employees. The Board receives a direct appropriation for direct expenditures including salaries, rent and other operating expenditures. Indirect expenditures include costs for services received by the Attorney General's Office, Health Professional Services Program, Office of Mental Health Program and the Administrative Services Unit. The Board is responsible to collect sufficient revenue to cover both direct and indirect expenditures.

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2010-11
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
State Government Spec Revenue					
Current Appropriation	997	1,022	1,022	1,022	2,044
Forecast Base	997	1,022	921	921	1,842
Change		0	(101)	(101)	(202)
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					-8.8%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Carry Forward					
State Government Spec Revenue	55	251	0	0	0
Direct Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	824	1,195	921	921	1,842
Open Appropriations					
State Government Spec Revenue	12	18	18	18	36
Statutory Appropriations					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	10	24	12	12	24
Total	901	1,488	951	951	1,902
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	703	746	696	692	1,388
Other Operating Expenses	198	742	255	259	514
Total	901	1,488	951	951	1,902
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Social Work, Board Of	901	1,488	951	951	1,902
Total	901	1,488	951	951	1,902
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	10.8	11.0	10.1	9.7	

SOCIAL WORK BOARD

Agency Revenue Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2008	Budgeted FY2009	Current Law		Biennium 2010-11
			FY2010	FY2011	
<u>Non Dedicated Revenue:</u>					
Departmental Earnings:					
State Government Spec Revenue	1,032	964	1,310	1,310	2,620
Other Revenues:					
State Government Spec Revenue	0	1	1	1	2
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	1,032	965	1,311	1,311	2,622
<u>Dedicated Receipts:</u>					
Other Revenues:					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	12	14	12	12	24
Total Dedicated Receipts	12	14	12	12	24
Agency Total Revenue	1,044	979	1,323	1,323	2,646