

**Minnesota Board of Podiatric Medicine
Biennial Report
July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2002**

Costs to prepare this report include several hours of the Executive Director's time and the Board's share of Administrative Service Unit staff time in the preparation of the summary data.

I. General Information

A. Board Mission and Major Functions

Board of Podiatric Medicine Mission

The mission of the Board of Podiatric Medicine is to promote the public's interest in quality podiatric health care from competent podiatric health professionals by ensuring that podiatrists' qualifications meet the specifications established by the board.

Board of Podiatric Medicine functions

Setting and administering educational requirements and examination standards for licensure as a podiatrist:

- Reviewing podiatric functions and required knowledge, skills and abilities to aid in determining requirements for initial and continuing licensure
- Setting licensure requirements through the rules process
- Developing and administering the state examination to determine candidate knowledge of Minnesota statutes and rules governing podiatric medicine
- Reviewing continuing education programs submitted by sponsors or individuals to determine if they meet requirements
- Reviewing individual applicant/licensee documentation of completion of requirements for initial and continuing licensure

Responding to public and agency inquiries, complaints and reports regarding licensure and conduct of applicants, permit holders, licensees and unlicensed practitioners

- Accepting complaints and reports from the public and health care providers and regulators
- Deciding whether a complaint or inquiry is jurisdictional and what type of action to pursue to resolve the matter
- Referring inquiries and complaints to other investigative, regulatory or assisting agencies
- Responding to complainants and agency reports by informing the complainants/agencies of action taken to resolve their complaints while observing provisions of the data practices act regarding the legal status of data obtained during the course of an investigation and disciplinary proceeding

Pursuing educational or disciplinary action with licensees as deemed necessary based upon results of investigations conducted in response to complaints/reports.

- Setting standards of conduct and a basis for disciplinary action through the rules process
- Seeking information directly from the licensee as well as securing investigation and fact finding information from other agencies in response to complaints or inquiries
- Holding conferences with licensees to identify their roles and responsibilities in a matter under investigation
- Providing applicants and licensees with education to improve their respective practices and to prevent recurrence of problems
- Obtaining voluntary agreements to disciplinary actions, or pursuing disciplinary action through a due process, contested case hearing or court action, as needed

Providing information and education about licensure requirements and procedures and standards of practice to the public and other interested audiences

- Providing information to the community concerning requirements for podiatric licensure
- Providing information about careers in podiatric medicine and licensure requirements to prospective applicants for licensure
- Providing information to licensees to prevent inappropriate practice and for improved practice resulting in higher quality podiatric health care
- Providing the public with information about whether persons are licensed with the board and if they have had disciplinary action taken against their licenses
- Providing information to legislative committees on statute changes and biennial budgets
- Providing information and discussing legislation with the association representative
- Providing information to the Executive Director's Forum and the Council of Health Boards' meetings

B. Major activities during the biennium

The board accomplished the following major activities during the biennium:

- Entered all disciplinary action for podiatrists required by the national Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDP)
- Implemented use of the national Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDP) for background checks of applicants for licensure
- Developed and implemented a web page for the Board
- Additional improvements made to the computer system used for licensing and license renewals of podiatrists
- Computer-based testing for the national examination for licensure was implemented, ensuring easier, faster access to exams for applicants and improving the security of the examination process
- Participated in planning with other health licensing boards for a network administrator to furnish services to all 14 health related boards
- The former Executive Director, a long time state employee retired and a new Executive Director was hired

C. Emerging issues regarding regulation of doctors of podiatric medicine

The emerging issues regarding regulation of doctors of podiatric medicine fall into two areas: budgetary and legislative.

The current budget shortfall in the State government may result in severe budget cuts for the board. If enacted, these cuts would seriously affect the board's ability to process complaints filed with the board office.

Legislatively, the board is seeking a change in the provisions of M.S. statutes, section 153 to remove a loophole that exists with respect to civil penalties.

II. Board's Members, Staff, and Budget

A. Board composition

Statute requires the board to have seven members, five resident podiatrists and two public members. The names of persons holding the seats on the board as of June 30, 2002 are as indicated below.

The Governor appointed the following for staggered four year terms:

Troy J. Boffeli, St. Paul – Podiatrist
Eugene Dela Cruz, Northfield – Podiatrist
Steven Kavros, Rochester – Podiatrist
Stephen H. Powless, Minneapolis – Podiatrist
Judith Sperling, Golden Valley – Podiatrist
Jane P. Jones, White Bear Lake, Public Member
Roderic Marschke, Little Canada – Public Member

B. Employees

The board has one half-time equivalent position. The position is filled by a half-time Executive Director.

C. Receipts and disbursements and major fees assessed by the board

Item	FY 2001	FY 2002
Receipts	\$52,370	\$76,756
Disbursements	\$62,034	\$58,963

Fee	Amount
Application	\$600
Biennial Renewal	\$600
Temporary Permit	\$250

III. Licensing and Registration

A. Persons licensed as of June 30, 2002

168 persons licensed as podiatrists on June 30, 2002.

B. New licenses issued during biennium

FY	By Exam & Education	By Reciprocity
2001	6	(Exam Required)
2002	20	(Exam Required)

IV. Complaints

A. Complaints Received

Item	FY 2001	FY 2002
1. Complaints Received	14	7
2. Complaints Per 1,000 Regulated Persons	88	41
3. Complaints By Type of Complaint		
a. Failure to Satisfy Req. for License	1	
b. Obtaining License by Fraud		
c. Felony Conviction		
d. Revocation, suspension in another state		
e. False Advertising		
f. Violating Bd. Rule or narcotics law		
g. Unethical Conduct		1
h. Failure to supervise preceptor or res.		
i. Aiding unlicensed person		
j. Court adjudication		
k. Unprofessional Conduct	8	6
l. Inability to Practice		
m. Revealing Privileged Communication		
n. Improper Management of Records		
o. Fee Reduction for Referrals		
p. Fraudulent Billing inc. Medicare	3	
q. Addiction to drug or intoxicant	1	
r. Prescribing other than authorized		
s. Sexual conduct	1	
t. Failure to Report		
u. Providing False Information		

B. Open Complaints on June 30

Item	FY 2001	FY 2002
1. Complaints Open	6	5
2. Open Less Than 3 Months	1	0
3. Open 3 to 6 Months	2	0
4. Open 6 to 12 Months	3	5
5. Open More Than 1 Year (explain)	0	0

C. Closed Complaints on June 30

Item	FY 2001	FY 2002
1. Number Closed	10	9
2. Disposition by Type		
A. Revocation		
B. Voluntary Surrender		
C. Suspension		
D. Restricted, Limited, Or Conditional License		
E. Civil Penalties		
F. Reprimand		
G. Agreement for Corrective Action		
H. Referral to HPSP	1	
I. Dismissal or closure	9	9
3. Cases Closed That Were Open For More Than One Year (explain)	0	0

V. Trend Data as of June 30

Year	A. Persons Licensed	B. Complaints	C. Complaints Per 1,000 Licensees	D. Open Cases
2002	168	7	41	5
2001	159	14	88	6
2000	155	7	45	3
1999	142	12	85	2
1998	142	7	49	3
1997	146	7	48	Unavail
1996	137	9	66	Unavail
1995	131	13	99	Unavail
1994	128	13	101	Unavail
1993	122	18	148	Unavail
1992	122	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavail
1991	NA	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavail