

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

**I. General Information**

**A. Board Mission and Major Functions**

**Board of Psychology Mission**

The mission of the Board of Psychology is to protect the public from the practice of psychology by unqualified individuals and from unethical and unprofessional conduct by individuals licensed to practice psychology.

**Board of Psychology functions**

The Board's functions are related to licensure and enforcement in accordance with the Provisions of the Psychology Practice Act. Its functions are to:

- Ensure that only applicants who meet the qualifications for licensure are granted licensure.
- Resolve consumer complaints received about licensees and applicants and make enforceable decisions regarding the future licensure of applicants and licensees who violate the Act.

The Board's functions are fulfilled by:

- Adopting and enforcing rules for licensing psychologists and psychological practitioners and for regulating their professional conduct;
- Adopting and enforcing rules of conduct governing the practice of psychology;
- Adopting and implementing rules for examinations to assess applicants' knowledge and skills;
- Issuing licenses to individuals qualified to practice under the Psychology Practice Act;
- Issuing copies of the rules for licensing to all applicants;
- Establishing and maintaining a register of current licenses;
- Establishing and collecting fees for the issuance and renewal of licenses and other services by the board;
- Educating the public about the requirements for licensing of psychologists and psychological practitioners and about the rules of conduct and assisting the public in filing complaints against applicants or licensees who may have violated the Psychology Practice Act; and
- Adopting and implementing requirements for continuing education.

The Board employs these key service strategies to carry out its functions.

- Review applicants' education and training for compliance with board requirements for licensure;
- Administer to applicants a state examination on state laws and rules affecting the practice of psychology;

- Admit qualified applicants to sit for a national standardized examination on the practice of psychology;
- Require and approve continuing education for licensees;
- Accept and investigate complaints from the public (including other licensees), which allege violations of the Psychology Practice Act.

## **B. Major activities during the biennium**

The board accomplished the following major activities during the biennium:

- Updated provisions of Psychology Practice Act.
- Continued with the development of an application for tracking applicant and licensee information and tracking complaint data.
- Continuing to update agency's rules of licensure and rules of conduct, with input from a Public Advisory Committee.
- Increased communication with licensees through a series of articles about the Board.
- Developed a website for communication and interaction with the public.
- Eliminated a lingering backlog of complaints under investigation.
- Improved the quality of informational sheets and forms.
- Streamlined internal operating procedures.

## **C. Emerging issues regarding regulation of licensed psychologists and licensed psychological practitioners.**

- Master's prepared individuals who have not already qualified for licensure for independent practice can no longer become licensed as a licensed psychologist. Currently, master's prepared individuals with degrees in psychology may qualify for licensure to practice psychology only under supervision, making insurance reimbursement possibilities slim to non-existent. This level of licensure is called a licensed psychological practitioner. As a result, master's level applications for examination and licensure are dramatically reduced. Heretofore, master's prepared applicants made up about half of the Board's revenue from application and licensure fees. Because of this loss of income, Board revenues have had to be adjusted through a fee increase in order to continue operations.
- The Board has experienced a record number of disciplinary cases requiring complex investigations and/or contested case hearings, as well as other litigation heard in the Minnesota Court of Appeals. This has caused the Board to spend more to resolve these cases. This is a second reason the Board had to adjust fees so that revenues are sufficient to cover both operational and legal expenses.
- The Board continues to work with computer professionals to refine and expand its computer functioning in order to enhance and facilitate increased communications with applicants, licensees, and the public.
- The trend towards the practice of psychology over the internet has emerged as an issue, which the Board has begun to discuss. Key concerns center around privacy issues and jurisdictional laws.

## **II. Board's Members, Staff, and Budget**

### **A. Board composition**

Statute requires the board to have 11 members. The names of persons holding the seats as of June 30, 2002 are as listed below.

The following members are appointed by the Governor for staggered four year terms:

- ✓ *four persons licensed as licensed psychologists who have a doctoral degree in psychology*—Nicholas Ruiz, Inver Grove Heights, Jack Schaffer, St. Paul; Mryla Seibold, New Brighton; and Scott Terhune, Apple Valley;
- ✓ *two persons licensed as licensed psychologists who have a master's degree in psychology*—Ralph Maves, White Bear Lake and Jane White Schneeweis, Maplewood;
- ✓ *two psychologists, not necessarily licensed, one with a doctoral degree in psychology who represents a doctoral training program in psychology, and one who represents a master's degree training program in psychology*—John Romano, Minneapolis, and Jane Hovland, Duluth;
- ✓ *three public members*—Marcia Farinacci, St. Paul; Susan Hayes, St. Louis Park; and James Peterson, Medina

### **B. Employees**

The board has 7.3 full-time equivalent positions. They are: a full-time executive director, a full time administrative assistant, a full time state programs administrator, a full time office services supervisor, 2 full time investigators, an 80 percent time office manager, and one half time student worker-support staff.

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

Item	FY 2001	FY 2002
Receipts	\$1093677	\$1139281
Disbursements	\$1045698	\$882702

Fees	Amount
Application to EPPP	\$150.00
Application to PRE	\$150.00
Application for LP licensure	\$500.00
LP Renewal	\$500.00
LP Late Renewal Fee	\$250.00
Application for LPP licensure	\$250.00
LPP Renewal	\$250.00
LPP Late Renewal Fee	\$125.00
Application for Converting from master's to doctoral level licensure	\$150.00
Application for guest licensure	\$150.00

### III. Licensing and Registration

#### **A. Persons licensed as of June 30, 2002**

3622 persons licensed as licensed psychologists as of June 30, 2002.

51 persons licensed as licensed psychological practitioners as of June 30, 2002.

#### **B. New licenses issued during biennium**

##### **Licensed Psychologist**

<b>FY</b>	<b>By Exam</b>	<b>By Reciprocity</b>
2001	83	0
2002	73	0

##### **Licensed Psychological Practitioners**

<b>FY</b>	<b>By Exam</b>	<b>By Reciprocity</b>
2001	7	0
2002	10	0

### IV. Complaints

#### **A. Complaints Received**

<b>Item</b>	<b>FY 2001</b>	<b>FY 2002</b>
1. Complaints Received	117	151
2. Complaints Per 1,000 Regulated Persons	31.06	39.22
3. Complaints By Type of Complaint (See attached explanation.)		
A. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (1)	72	69
B. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (2)		1
C. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (3)	10	46
D. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (4)	1	
E. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (5)	1	
F. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (6)	1	1
G. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (7)		
H. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (8)		
I. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (9)	1	1
J. MS 148.941, Subd 2a (10)	2	5
K. MS 148.941, Subd 6	7	3
L. MS 148.96	3	7
M. Non-jurisdictional	19	18

## B. Open Complaints on June 30

Item	FY 2001	FY 2002
1. Complaints Open	380	255
2. Open Less Than 3 Months	36	42
3. Open 3 to 6 Months	23	24
4. Open 6 to 12 Months	19	33
5. Open More Than 1 Year (explain)	302	156

### B.5. Explanation:

- several complaints are in the negotiation process regarding a Stipulation and Consent Order or an Agreement for Corrective Action
- a number of complaints are involved in litigation
- a number of complaints are lower priority cases
- a number of complaints remain open while licensees are fulfilling the requirements of an Agreement for Corrective Action

## C. Closed Complaints on June 30

Item	FY 2001	FY 2002
1. Number Closed	197	276
2. Disposition by Type		
A. Revocation	1	4
B. Voluntary Surrender	1	1
C. Suspension	2	
D. Restricted, Limited, Or Conditional License	3	5
E. Civil Penalties		
F. Reprimand	1	
G. Agreement for Corrective Action	3	2
H. Referral to HPSP		
I. Dismissal or closure	186	264
3. Cases Closed That Were Open For More Than One Year (explain)	133	173

### C.5. Explanation:

- several complaints are in the negotiation process regarding a Stipulation and Consent Order or an Agreement for Corrective Action
- some complaints are involved in litigation
- a number of complaints are lower priority cases

**V. Trend Data as of June 30**

<b>Year</b>	<b>A. Persons Licensed</b>	<b>B. Complaints</b>	<b>C. Complaints Per 1,000 Licensees</b>	<b>D. Open Cases</b>
2002	3850	151	39.22	255
2001	3767	117	31.06	380
2000	3677	151	41.14	460
1999	3698	161	43.75	473
1998	3652	194	53.15	449
1997	3385	161	47.63	416
1996	3257	191	58.76	358
1995	3119	192	61.73	314
1994	3036	236	77.88	313
1993	2902	167	57.58	266
1992	2562	153	59.76	156
1991	2591	139	53.66	189