

Executive Director: Debra Rinaudo

JLBC Analyst: Steve Grunig

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Estimate	FY 2006 Approved	FY 2007 Approved
OPERATING BUDGET				
<i>Full Time Equivalent Positions</i>	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
Personal Services	394,700	431,500	557,000	550,200
Employee Related Expenditures	118,000	150,300	194,800	172,600
Professional and Outside Services	103,900	92,300	355,200	349,800
Travel - In State	5,200	10,000	10,000	10,000
Travel - Out of State	2,000	8,300	8,300	8,300
Other Operating Expenditures	117,900	144,900	228,400	165,800
Equipment	44,300	3,100	48,900	3,100
AGENCY TOTAL	786,000	840,400	1,402,600^{1/2/}	1,259,800^{2/}

FUND SOURCES

Other Appropriated Funds

Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund	786,000	840,400	1,402,600	1,259,800
SUBTOTAL - Other Appropriated Funds	786,000	840,400	1,402,600	1,259,800
SUBTOTAL - Appropriated Funds	786,000	840,400	1,402,600	1,259,800
TOTAL - ALL SOURCES	786,000	840,400	1,402,600	1,259,800

AGENCY DESCRIPTION — The board certifies and regulates behavioral health professionals in the fields of social work, counseling, marriage and family therapy, and substance abuse counseling. Beginning in FY 2004, the board also began licensing and regulating professionals engaged in the practice of psychotherapy.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2006 Approved
• Average days to resolve a complaint	244	307	244
• Average days to renew a license	23	20	19
• Customer satisfaction rating (Scale 1-8)	6.8	6.6	6.7

Comments: The average days to resolve a complaint increased from FY 2003 to FY 2004 due to higher complaint volume associated with the beginning of psychotherapist licensure. The board will focus more resources on reducing the complaint backlog, including \$200,000 for Contract Investigators appropriated in FY 2006 and FY 2007. As a result, it is expected that the average time to resolve a complaint should decrease.

Operating Budget

The budget provides \$1,402,600 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund for the operating budget in FY 2006 and \$1,259,800 in FY 2007.

The approved amount includes an increase of \$43,600 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 and an increase of \$5,400 in FY 2007 for statewide adjustments. (Please see the *Statewide Adjustments* section at the end of this *Appropriations Report* for details.)

Contract Investigators

The approved amount includes an increase of \$200,000 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 and FY 2007 for one-time Contract Investigator costs. Laws 2003, Chapter 65 required that all health professionals practicing psychotherapy be licensed by the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners. Licensure has significantly increased the board's workload. The number of new and existing licenses issued has increased 31% from FY 2002 to FY 2004 (5,876 to 7,700). An increase in licensing activity has led to a 90% increase in complaints about licensees from FY 2002 to FY 2004 (59 to 112). The board received 45 complaints in the first 2 months of FY 2005. The complaints received under licensure are

1/ This appropriation is available for use pursuant to the provisions of A.R.S. § 35-143.01C and is exempt from the provisions of A.R.S. § 35-190, relating to lapsing of appropriations until June 30, 2007. (General Appropriation Act footnote)

2/ General Appropriation Act funds are appropriated as a Lump Sum by Agency.

typically more time consuming than those received under voluntary certification.

The approved amount includes funds to hire temporary contract investigators rather than new FTE Positions because it is hoped that the new Chief Investigator position can process complaints in the future, once the current backlog of 117 complaints has been reduced. Contract investigators charge approximately \$3,000 per resolved complaint. The funds will enable 66 complaints to be resolved by contract services in both FY 2006 and FY 2007. The board's first priority will be to take action against licensees presenting the greatest danger to the public. The approved amount is one-time for FY 2006 and FY 2007.

Chief Investigator

The approved amount includes an increase of \$82,100 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 and an increase of \$80,700 in FY 2007 for a Chief Investigator. The board will hire the Chief Investigator using a currently vacant position. The board requires an individual who can conduct complex investigations, negotiate with attorneys, testify in hearings and supervise other members of an investigative staff. Hiring a Chief Investigator will allow the board to process complaints in a more timely way and also allow other board staff to return to their regular duties. The starting salary of \$70,000 is above the E1 midpoint for this position, but reflects the difficulty in finding a capable individual. The approved amount includes \$1,400 of one-time expenditures for equipment in FY 2006.

Lead Investigator

The approved amount includes an increase of \$43,500 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 and an increase of \$42,100 in FY 2007 for a Lead Investigator. The board will hire the Lead Investigator using a currently vacant position. The board requires an individual to conduct background investigations for licensed applicants where issues that may adversely affect the ability to practice psychotherapy have arisen. The starting salary of \$36,500 is the minimum for the grade 21 range. The approved amount includes \$1,400 of one-time expenditures for equipment in FY 2006.

Compliance Officer Reclassification

The approved amount includes an increase of \$5,400 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 and FY 2007 for reclassification of a compliance officer position. The approved amount will allow an individual classified at a grade 15 to be reclassified at the minimum level for a grade 19 position. The board requires the reclassification in order to use resources to ensure compliance with probation terms for licensees subject to disciplinary action.

Executive Director Salary

The approved amount includes an increase of \$5,800 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 and an increase of \$8,600 in FY 2007 for a salary

increase for the Executive Director. The approved amount will provide a salary increase in FY 2006 of 6% above FY 2005 for the Executive Director and 9% above FY 2005 in FY 2007.

Increased Attorney General Services

The approved amount includes an increase of \$56,500 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 and an increase of \$57,500 in FY 2007 for Attorney General Services. The board currently has an Interagency Service Agreement for 50% of the board's Assistant Attorney General. The cost of this contract was \$57,400 in FY 2005. The Assistant Attorney General's workload for the board exceeds the time he is contracted to provide. The board believes that a lack of sufficient legal support has impaired the board's ability to take timely disciplinary action against professionals who are a danger to the public. The board will increase its ISA to 100% of its Assistant Attorney General's time.

Electronic Recording

The approved amount includes a one-time increase of \$4,000 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 for electronic recording equipment costs. The equipment will be used to record board hearings and other related activities.

Compressed File System

The approved amount includes a one-time increase of \$39,000 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 for compressed file system and related supply costs. The board has experienced an increased need for filing capacity. The compressed file storage system will allow the board to maintain its files in an accessible format while significantly reducing the amount of storage space required.

Moving Costs

The approved amount includes an increase of \$82,300 from the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Fund in FY 2006 and an increase of \$19,700 in FY 2007 for office moving costs. Office moving costs include a one-time increase of \$58,000 for tenant improvements and a one-time increase of \$4,600 for relocation expenses in FY 2006. Office moving costs include an increase of \$19,700 in FY 2006 and FY 2007 for rent and other ongoing expenses.