

Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners
Report to the Legislative Committee On Health Care
Per AB457, Section 35

Cost and Fee Analysis

- The Board developed a 2-year budget to align with our biennial licensing schedule. The Board monitors actual versus projected revenue and expenses at our monthly meetings.
- The Board operates on revenue derived primarily from application, registration, examination, and licensing fees for Psychologists, Behavior Analysts, Behavior Analyst Assistants, Psychological Assistants, and Psychology Interns
 - Following the passage of SB162 in the 79th legislative session, we will begin to charge a fee for the new registration of Psychological Trainees.
 - Licensing fees for Psychologists have not changed in over 20 years.
- 2019 will bring reduction in income (\$54,000) as the result of the Behavior Analysts (BA) removal from our mandate to the Division of Aging and Disability
 - Revenue may balance with increased registration costs from psychological trainees, reduced administrative costs of overseeing BAs and implementing cost-saving measures (e.g. on-line applications, registrations and license renewal and becoming paperless).
- The Board has been and continues to be financially stable.
 - Our income covers all essential expenses: Payroll, Professional Services, Legal Expenses, Travel for training in-state and at national conferences (i.e. The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation), Office Rent and Operations, Exam Development and Administration.
 - We enter each 2-year budget cycle with reserves¹ and maintain “rainy day” savings in 3 CDs.

Recognition of Licenses from Outside Jurisdictions

- Since January 2014, the Board has recognized 80 licensees from jurisdictions outside of Nevada, each of whom was eligible for immediate and full temporary licensure and granted 1 year to complete the final requirement of passing the state law and ethics examination. (See also Efforts to Comply with AB457, Subcommittee activities)

Efforts to Comply with AB457

We are in compliance with the following requirements of AB457:

- Board member orientation within 60 days
- Annual performance reviews of Board staff
- Annual report regarding complaint process
- Clear standards concerning locations of supervised experience and presence of supervisors required for licensure (NAC 641.156)

We are actively working to fully comply with AB457 as follows:

- Sub-Committee: The Board established a sub-committee charged with evaluating all states (and jurisdictions) to determine the extent to which their licensing requirements are corresponding/equivalent to those in Nevada.
 - The committee developed 3 lists:
 1. States with fully-equivalent licensing requirements (Per NAC 641). Individuals applying with a license from these states will be granted a license by endorsement.
 2. States with substantially equivalent licensing requirements but for minor differences in required supervised, direct-service training hours. Individuals applying with a license from these states and 5 years of licensure will be granted a license by endorsement. Without 5 years of licensure, the application requires additional Board review.
 3. States with substantially non-equivalent licensing requirements. Individuals applying from these states must complete a full application with the Board and undergo an individualized assessment of their training and credentials.

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- Meeting with employees of DHHS, and the mental health commission to receive clarification of the expectations of this Act. As well, our Board Executive Director works closely with representatives of the other mental and behavioral boards to share and receive information.
- Our Executive Director is actively working with our current database developers to build out the online application and renewal feature. We are on track to have our next renewal cycle be entirely online by October 1, 2018.
- The Board held a full-day strategic planning retreat on January 28, 2018 and further evaluated the requirements of AB457. We developed the following action items:
 - *Developing compensation policies for Board staff:* Board AG will gather policies from Cosmetology and Nursing Boards
 - *Obtain technical assistance* and space from DHHS to hold board meetings via tele-conferencing.
 - *Improving communication regarding qualifications for issuance or renewal of a license.* In addition to our website and regular mailings (e.g. newsletters and bi-annual renewal instructions,) we will sponsor information tables at Nevada Psychological Association (NPA) events and develop FAQ videos online; NPA will send a liaison to Board Meetings.

Revision of Board Regulations and Looking Ahead to the 80th Session

After each legislative session, the Board evaluates the need for regulation changes.

- One challenge to efficiently making necessary regulation changes (e.g. for SB162) this fall, was the absence of codified regulation changes that had been approved prior to the 78th legislative session.
 - The Board finally received a codified version for review and edits on January 5, 2018.
- The Board has begun the process to make the appropriate changes to mirror the changes made in the 79th legislative session and looks forward to changes that are needed to assist the profession as a whole.
- Our highest priority in regulation changes at this time are providing for SB162's addition of Psychological Trainees as registrants and providers of services eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.
- We are also finalizing the language regarding substantially equivalent qualifications per SB69. These and other NAC changes were sent to LCB on January 24 and February 28. We are awaiting a response and assignment of R-Numbers.
- Regarding recommendations for the 80th session of the Nevada legislature,
 - As noted under Cost and Fee Analysis, the Board's licensing fees have not increased since the 1990s.
 - The Board respectfully requests that a 7th member be placed back on the Board.
 - With the removal of the Behavior Analyst licensees, our BA member was removed, leaving our Board at 6 members creating logistical problems associated with an even number of board members (e.g. tie votes that result in confusion regarding choices or best decisions).
 - We believe that a 7th member should be designated to be a Psychologist who has previous years of experience as a core or full-time faculty at an accredited program or internship who understands national standards of education and training and who could lead the Board in maintaining clear equivalency standards and staying up to date with the profession's expectations for competency. Indeed, the profession's ability to self-regulate and protect the public is stronger when the education/training and regulatory worlds work in tandem. Having a designated seat on the Board for an educator would ensure this cooperation and partnership.

ⁱ According to the Biannual Status Report on Audits by Rocky Cooper, Legislative Auditor, Dated January 16, 2018, we have 5.3 months of operating expenses in reserves.

