

Chemical Dependency Professionals Board

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- Enacted budget calls for transferring the Board's funding and duties to the Department of Health in FY 2007
- Greatest challenge is operating within enacted appropriation level.

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Chemical Dependency Professionals Board (CDP) is responsible for administering and enforcing the practice of chemical dependency counseling as defined in Chapter 4758. of the Ohio Revised Code. The Board received authority of the credentialing process from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) at the start of FY 2005. Much of FYs 2006 and 2007 will be directed toward this period of transition to ensure that credentialed professionals retain their ability to practice in the field.

The Board is a thirteen-member panel. Twelve of the thirteen are voting members, appointed by the Governor, and eligible for pay. The remaining member is an ex officio member appointed by the director of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. The twelve voting board members represent the various levels and types of credentials the Board offers the medical profession and the general public. Their membership is broken out as follows: Four individuals who hold a valid Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor (LICDC) credential; Two individuals who hold a valid Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor III (LCDC III) credential; One individual who holds a valid Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor II (LCDC II) credential; Two individuals who hold a valid Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist (OCPS) credential; One individual who is authorized to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery and has experience practicing in a field related to chemical dependency counseling; Two individuals who represent the public and have not practiced chemical dependency counseling or alcohol and other drug prevention services and have not been involved in the delivery of those services.

In addition to the twelve board members, the Board employs a staff of five full-time equivalents (FTEs) to perform licensure and ethics enforcement activities. The mission of the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board is to assure professionally competent chemical dependency professionals in Ohio by regulating examinations and licensure, enforcing continuing education compliance, monitoring continuing education quality, renewal of licensure, and enforcement of the laws and administrative rules as found in Chapter 4758. of the Ohio Revised Code.

4K9 Fund

The Chemical Dependency Professionals Board is part of the 4K9 Fund group. The 4K9 Fund (Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund) is a General Services Fund that is a repository for license fees and other assessments collected by the state's professional and occupational licensing boards. The 4K9 Fund was established by Am. Sub. H.B. 152 of the 120th General Assembly. Prior to the creation of the fund, appropriations for each licensing board were made from the GRF. This created some problems as some boards contributed more revenues than they expended and others had to be subsidized by the GRF since the revenues generated did not meet their expenditures. The 4K9 Fund eliminated these

problems. The philosophy of the fund is that each board must generate enough revenues to cover their expenses. It is also quite common for the boards to develop a surplus in the fund to cover unforeseen economic hardships.

Licensure

The licensure activities of the Board include the testing and certification of chemical dependency counselors, as well as renewing the licenses of practicing chemical dependency counselors annually. Currently the Board regulates 8,230 chemical dependency professionals.

Board Consolidation

The enacted budget merges 20 independent occupational licensing boards into the departments of Health, Commerce, and Public Safety. As such, the enacted budget contains no funding in FY 2007 for the boards. The specifics of the consolidation will be addressed during FY 2006 by a task force consisting of the agencies acquiring the boards, as well as the Department of Administrative Services, the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), and the Governor's Office. According to OBM, current staff will be retained through FY 2006 and a hiring freeze and early retirement incentives will be offered to regulatory board staff. These incentives should result in staff reductions. Effective July 1, 2006, all remaining regulatory board staff will be transferred to the relevant agency. Board and commission members for each board will be retained and continue to serve in the manner in which they were appointed.

Enacted Budget

The greatest challenge the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board faces in the FY 2006-2007 biennium is operating within the appropriation level. With the exception of a small portion (approximately \$3,000) set aside for CAVU, the Board's appropriation authority is based loosely on old revenue and expenditure amounts from the time the credentialing process was carried out by a former private, nonprofit Ohio Credentialing Board and has remained unchanged since the first full fiscal year the credentialing process became a state function (2002). While the appropriation amount is a concern, the Board states that it should be able to cover its fixed costs (salaries, rent, telecommunications, etc.), but will need to find other ways to fully cover items like postage, printing, and office supplies. The Board is working on cost containment to minimize these costs, however, the Director anticipates requesting additional spending authority from the Controlling Board sometime in FY 2006. The Board states that it has the revenue to support reasonable and realistic increases in its appropriation authority that will match its operating costs.

Agency in Brief

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Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
5	\$452,976	\$0	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

* Employee count obtained from the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board.

* In FY 2007, 20 occupational licensing boards will be consolidated into various agencies. According to OBM, current staff will be retained through FY 2006. However, it is expected that some staff reductions will occur as a result of the implementation of a hiring freeze and early retirement incentives. Remaining staff for the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board will be transferred to the Department of Health in FY 2007. Board members will be retained.

Vetoed Provisions

There were no vetoed provisions in the enacted budget that affect the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1**License/Registration/Enforcement**

Purpose: To license and certify chemical dependency professionals and alcohol and drug prevention professionals in Ohio.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the License/Registration/Enforcement program series, as well as the enacted budget funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Services Fund				
4K9	930-609	Operating Expenses	\$452,976	\$0
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$452,976	\$0
Total Funding: License/Registration/Enforcement			\$452,976	\$0

This analysis focuses on the following specific programs within the License/Registration/Enforcement program series.

License/Registration/Enforcement

Program Description: The Board's responsibilities as laid out in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4758. are to regulate the licensing and certification of chemical dependency counselors and prevention

specialists, issue and renew those licenses and certifications, investigate ethics complaints in order to protect the interests of Ohioans who receive alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment services, and review and approve the content of education and training as it pertains to chemical dependency professionals and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) prevention professionals.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The greatest challenge the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board faces in the FY 2006-2007 biennium is operating within the appropriation level. While the appropriation amount is a concern, the Board states that it should be able to cover its fixed costs (salaries, rent, telecommunications, etc.), but will need to find other ways to fully cover items like postage, printing, and office supplies. The Board is working on cost containment to minimize these costs; however, the Director anticipates requesting additional spending authority from the Controlling Board sometime in FY 2006. The Board states that it has the revenue to support reasonable and realistic increases in its appropriation authority that will match its operating costs.

Temporary and Permanent Law Provisions: ***Consolidation of Regulatory Boards (Section 315.03)***. The enacted budget contains a temporary law provision that: (1) expresses the intent to consolidate 16 health-related regulatory boards, including the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board, within the Department of Health not later than July 1, 2006, (2) creates a transition team to develop a plan to ensure the smooth and timely transition of those boards into the Department, and (3) expresses the intent to introduce a bill in FY 2006 that will include the necessary statutory changes to effect the consolidation and include revised appropriations for FY 2007.