

Counselor and Social Worker Board

House Human Services Subcommittee

Maria Seaman, Budget Analyst

Legislative Service Commission

February 25, 2003

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LSC Redbook

for the

Counselor and Social Worker Board

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February 25, 2003

Counselor and Social Worker Board

- The executive recommendation for FY 2004 is \$1,021,524 (a 7.1% increase over estimated FY 2003 expenditures) and for FY 2005 is \$1,044,812 (a 2.3% increase over the recommended appropriation for FY 2004)
- As of April 7, 2003, the Board will be responsible for licensing marriage and family therapists

OVERVIEW

The Counselor and Social Worker Board was created in 1984. The Board currently regulates the professions of counseling and social work by establishing licensure and practice standards. To accomplish this, the Board administers examinations, reviews academic credentials, and evaluates supervised training experiences.

During fiscal year (FY) 2002, the Counselor and Social Worker Board licensed 1,226 social workers, 378 independent social workers, 405 professional counselors, and 246 professional clinical counselors and registered 114 social worker assistants. In FY 2002, the Board completed 166 investigations and completed 4 disciplinary hearings. The Board also entered into 22 consent agreements with licensees who were found to be in violation of the Board's laws or rules. The average processing time for a complaint is three months from the receipt of the complaint.

There are over 30,000 licenses on file with the Counselor and Social Worker Board. Additionally, the Board has over 3,500 individuals registered as counselor trainees who are working towards licensure as professional counselors or clinical counselors.

Effective April 7, 2003, Am. Sub. H.B. 374 of the 124th General Assembly changes the name of the Board to the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. At that time, the Board will become responsible for also licensing marriage and family therapists. The act requires that marriage and family therapists be licensed beginning April 7, 2004.

Licensing System

The occupational licensing boards, in partnership with the Department of Administrative Services, are working to implement a new licensing system. The system will be phased in over the next biennium and each board will pay their share of the costs out of Fund 4K9. The Counselor and Social Worker Board will have to pay \$25,107 over the FY 2004-2005 biennium for using this system.

Administrative Fees

During the current biennium, occupational licensing boards have had to absorb increased administrative costs charged by other state agencies. Many boards contracted for services that were once provided for free such as lock-box services and computer technical support.

The Board estimates that administrative fees will cost approximately \$46,071 in FY 2004 and \$48,752 in FY 2005 for DAS Central Service Agency fees, computer technical support, and license renewal banking and revenue processing fees.

ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

Counselor and Social Worker Board

Purpose: License and regulate counselors and social workers (and marriage and family therapists beginning in April 2003)

The following table shows the line item that is used to fund this program series, as well as the executive recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2004	FY 2005
4K9	899-609	Operating Expenses	\$1,021,524	\$1,044,812
Total funding: Counselor and Social Worker Board			\$1,021,524	\$1,044,812

Counselor and Social Worker Board

Program Description: In accordance with Chapter 4757. of the Revised Code, the Counselor and Social Worker Board regulates the professions of counseling and social work by establishing licensure and practice standards. The Board administers examinations, reviews academic credentials, and evaluates supervised training experiences.

Beginning in April 2003, the Board will also be responsible for licensing marriage and family therapists.

Funding Source: General Services Fund Group (Fund 4K9). Currently all revenue from 24 occupational licensing boards is placed in Fund 4K9 and then reallocated to each board. Each board must raise enough revenue through its license fees to cover its expenses.

The Board has always contributed more to Fund 4K9 than it has expended. However, it seems that in FY 2003, the Board may generate less revenue than expected, which means the Board will expend more than it will contribute to Fund 4K9. This trend will continue into the next biennium as projected revenues for FYs 2004 and 2005 are estimated to be less than the recommended appropriations for the Board in those years. Fees have remained the same since June 1985. Section 4757.31 of the Revised Code allows the Board to adjust fees from time to time. Currently the fees charged may not exceed \$75. However, Am. Sub. H.B. 374 of the 124th General Assembly (effective April 7, 2003) raises the fee cap to \$125. The Board will set the fees for licensing marriage and family therapists, but does not expect any revenue from these fees until late 2003 or early 2004.

Line Items: 899-609 Operating Expenses

Implication of the Executive Recommendation: The Executive recommends that the FY 2004 funding for the Counselor and Social Worker Board be increased by 7.1% (\$67,961) over the estimated FY 2003 expenditures. For FY 2005, the Executive is recommending an increase of 2.3% (\$23,288) over the FY 2004 recommended appropriations. According to the Board's Executive Director, the recommended funding level will allow the Board to maintain its operations and to hire one additional clerical staff person to assist in the additional responsibility of licensing marriage and family therapists.

ADDITIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES

Counselor and Social Worker Board Staffing Levels						
Program Series/Division	2000	2001	2002	2003	Estimated	
					2004	2005
Administrative Staff	2	2	2	2	2	2
Investigative Staff	3.5	3.5	3	3	3	3
Clerical Staff	5.5	5.5	6	6	7	7
Totals (Full Time Equivalents)	11	11	11	11	12	12

Board Members

The Counselor and Social Worker Board currently consists of 11 members appointed by the Governor. Four of the members are licensed professional clinical counselors or professional counselors. Two are licensed independent social workers. Two are licensed social workers. Three represent the public. Am. Sub. H.B. 374 of the 124th General Assembly (effective April 7, 2003) increases the Board's membership to 15. Two of the four additional members are to be licensed independent marriage and family therapists and the other two are to be licensed marriage and family therapists.

Number of New Licenses Issued in FY 2002 and Current License Fees

License Type	FY 2002	Fee Amount
Counselor	405	\$60
Clinical Counselor	246	\$75
Social Worker	1,226	\$60
Independent Social Worker	378	\$75
Social Worker Assistant	114	\$40

The fees listed above are for a two-year period, as the Board renews licenses biennially.

Counselor Trainees

In addition to the license categories listed above, the Board also registers counselor trainees. The Board has over 3,500 registered trainees, who are working toward licensure as professional counselors or professional clinical counselors. Trainees are required to register and submit paperwork for every supervisor they work with, and every site they work in, for the experience credit needed for licensure. Trainees do not pay a registration fee.

REQUESTS NOT FUNDED

Counselor and Social Worker Board						
Fund Line Item	FY 2004 Requested	FY 2004 Recommended	Difference	FY 2005 Requested	FY 2005 Recommended	Difference
4K9 899-609	\$68,861	\$44,281	(\$24,580)	\$61,048	\$37,224	(\$23,824)

The Board had requested \$68,861 in FY 2004 and \$61,048 in FY 2005 to fund the cost of Am. Sub. H.B. 374 of the 124th General Assembly (effective April 7, 2003). The funds were requested to cover the cost of four new board members and their travel costs and the cost of an additional clerical staff person to assist in the additional responsibilities of licensing marriage and family therapists. The Executive recommended \$44,281 in FY 2004 and \$37,224 in FY 2005, which is \$24,580 and \$23,824 less than requested, respectively. According the Board’s Executive Director, the staff will be able to carry out its responsibilities, pursuant to H.B. 374, at the recommended funding level.

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY LAW

There are no permanent or temporary law provisions contained in the executive budget that will affect the Board.

General Services Fund Group

4K9 899-609 Operating Expenses

2000	2001	2002	2003 Estimate	2004 Executive Proposal	2005 Executive Proposal
\$812,246	\$769,220	\$894,660	\$953,563	\$1,021,524	\$1,044,812
	-5.3%	16.3%	6.6%	7.1%	2.3%

Source: GSF: Fee revenue from the licensing of counselors, social workers, and as of April 7, 2003, marriage and family therapists.

Legal Basis: ORC 4743.05 (Originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 152 of the 120th G.A.)

Purpose: Funds are used for general operating expenses, including payroll, supplies, and equipment. The appropriated amount may be increased by a maximum of ten percent with Controlling Board approval.

LSC Budget Spreadsheet by Line Item, FY 2004 - FY 2005

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ALI</i>	<i>ALI Title</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>Estimated 2003</i>	<i>Executive 2004</i>	<i>% Change 2003 to 2004</i>	<i>Executive 2005</i>	<i>% Change 2004 to 2005</i>
<i>CSW Counselor and Social Worker Board</i>								
4K9	899-609	Operating Expenses	\$ 894,660	\$953,563	\$ 1,021,524	7.1%	\$ 1,044,812	2.3%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 894,660	\$ 953,563	\$ 1,021,524	7.1%	\$ 1,044,812	2.3%
Total All Budget Fund Groups			\$ 894,660	\$ 953,563	\$ 1,021,524	7.1%	\$ 1,044,812	2.3%