

# **Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board**

**Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee**

*Maria E. Seaman, Senior Budget Analyst*

*Legislative Service Commission*

*April 19, 2005*

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**LSC Redbook**  
**for the**  
**Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and**  
**Family Therapist Board**

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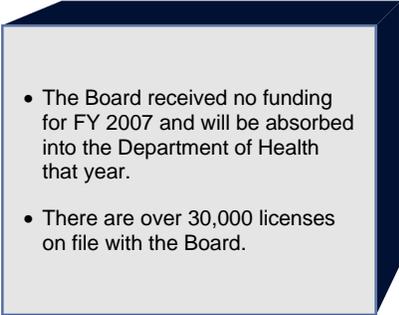
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*April 19, 2005*

# Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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- The Board received no funding for FY 2007 and will be absorbed into the Department of Health that year.
  - There are over 30,000 licenses on file with the Board.

## OVERVIEW

The Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board was created in 1984. The Board currently regulates the professions of counseling, social work, and marriage and family therapy by establishing licensure and practice standards. To accomplish this, the Board administers examinations, reviews academic credentials, evaluates supervised training experiences, and investigates complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and/or impaired practitioners.

There are over 30,000 licenses on file with the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. During FY 2004, the Counselor and Social Worker Board licensed 889 social workers, 277 independent social workers, 342 professional counselors, 253 professional clinical counselors, 18 marriage and family therapists, 123 independent marriage and family therapists, 3 temporary marriage and family therapists and registered 100 social worker assistants. Additionally, the Board has 4,000 individuals registered as counselor trainees who are working toward licensure as professional counselors or clinical counselors.

In FY 2004, the Board completed 198 investigations and completed 3 disciplinary hearings and 3 licensure hearings. The Board entered into 31 consent agreements with licensees who were found to be in violation of the Board's laws or rules. In FY 2004, the Board revoked one license and so far in FY 2005, has revoked two licenses. The average processing time for a complaint is approximately 60 days from the receipt of the complaint.

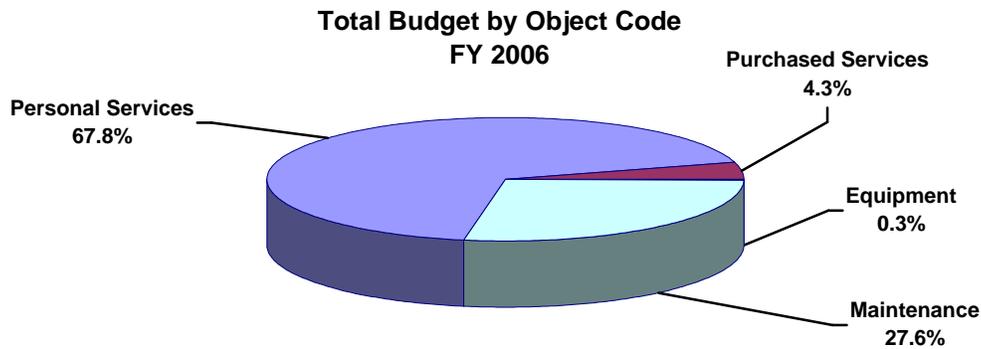
The Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board is part of the 4K9 Fund group. The 4K9 Fund (Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund) is a General Services Fund that is a repository for license fees and other assessments collected by the state's professional and occupational 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.

***Licensing System***

The occupational licensing boards, in partnership with the Department of Administrative Services, are working to implement a new licensing system (CAVU). There were some delays but the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board expects to be phased in before the end of FY 2005. Each board pays their share of the costs out of Fund 4K9. The Board will have to pay approximately \$19,000 during FY 2006 for using this system.

## FACTS AND FIGURES



### Staffing Levels

Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board Staffing Levels						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	<i>Estimated</i>	
	2006	2007*				
Administrative Staff	2	2	2	2	2	2
Investigative Staff	3	3	3	2	2	2
Clerical Staff	6	6	7	8	8	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>

\*In FY 2007, the 27 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 incentive. Remaining staff for the Board will be transferred to the Department of Health in FY 2007. Board members will be retained.

### Board Members

The Counselor and Social Worker Board currently consists of 15 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. Two are licensed independent marriage and family therapists and two are licensed marriage and family therapists. Three represent the public.

***Number of New Licenses Issued in FY 2004 and Current License Fees***

<b>License Type</b>	<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>Fee Amount</b>
Counselor	405	\$60
Clinical Counselor	246	\$75
Social Worker	1,226	\$60
Independent Social Worker	378	\$75
Social Worker Assistant	114	\$40
Marriage and Family Therapist	18	\$60
Independent Marriage and Family Therapist	123	\$75

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

## ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

### Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

**Purpose:** To license and regulate counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists

The following table shows the line item that is used to fund the activities of the Board, as well as the Governor's recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
<b>General Services Fund</b>				
4K9	899-609	Operating Expenses	\$1,058,445	\$0
<b>Total Funding: Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board</b>			<b>\$1,058,445</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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

**Funding Source:** General Services Fund Group (Fund 4K9).

The Board has always contributed more to Fund 4K9 than it has expended. However, since FY 2003, the Board has been generating less revenue than it expends from Fund 4K9. This trend seems to be continuing into the FY 2006-2007 biennium. Section 4757.31 of the Revised Code allows the Board to adjust fees from time to time. Currently, the fees charged may not exceed \$125. However, all the fees are well below that amount. Fees have remained the same since June 1985. According to the Board's Executive Director, the Board is not likely to increase fees during the FY 2006-2007 biennium but may need to discuss an increase for FYs 2008 and 2009.

#### **Implication of Executive Recommendation:**

In FY 2006, the executive recommendation will allow the Board to maintain its current operations.

In FY 2007, the Executive recommends that the 27 independent occupational licensing boards be absorbed into the departments of Health, Commerce, and Public Safety. As such, the Executive recommended no funding in FY 2007 for the Boards. In the case of the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, the Board and its duties will be absorbed into the Department of Health. The specifics of this transfer will be addressed during FY 2006 by a task force consisting of the departments of Commerce, Health, Public Safety, and 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 incentive will be offered to regulatory board staff. Effective July 1, 2006, all remaining regulatory board staff will be transferred to the relevant agency. Board members will be retained.

***Temporary Law Provisions:*** H.B. 66, As Introduced, includes a provision that consolidates the Board into the Department of Health beginning in FY 2007. The provision also includes the creation of a transition team to ensure the consolidation occurs smoothly and on schedule. The temporary language states that the necessary statutory changes and appropriations needed for the consolidation will be introduced in FY 2006.

***Permanent Law Provisions:*** None

## REQUESTS NOT FUNDED

Operating Expenses						
Fund Line Item	FY 2006 Requested	FY 2006 Recommended	Difference	FY 2007 Requested	FY 2007 Recommended	Difference
4K9 899-609	\$1,073,612	\$1,058,445	(\$15,167)	\$1,073,612	\$0	(\$1,073,612)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,073,612</b>	<b>\$1,058,445</b>	<b>(\$15,167)</b>	<b>\$1,073,612</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$1,073,612)</b>

In FY 2006, the Board had requested an additional \$28,800 above the FY 2005 estimated expenditure level. The Board had stated that the requested amount would be used to fund the 4% pay raise for staff that was agreed to in the union contract for FY 2006. The executive recommendation did not include funding for this purpose but did, however, include \$13,633 in appropriation authority above the FY 2005 estimated expenditure level. This additional appropriation is to help pay for costs related to the new computerized licensing system (CAVU). The Board is unsure at this point how it will absorb the 4% pay raise given the executive recommendation but will seek direction from the new executive director who is scheduled to start in March 2005.

In FY 2007, the Board requested funding of \$1,073,612. The Executive recommended funding of \$0. The Board will be absorbed into the Department of Health. Specifics of this transfer will be addressed by a task force made up of the departments of Commerce, Health, Public Safety, and Administrative Services, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Governor's Office.

## General Services Fund Group

### 4K9 899-609 Operating Expenses

2002	2003	2004	2005 Estimate	2006 House Passed	2007 House Passed
\$894,660	\$905,181	\$956,622	\$1,044,812	\$1,058,445	\$0
	1.2%	5.7%	9.2%	1.3%	-100.0%

**Source:** GSF: License fees and other assessments collected by the state's professional and occupational licensing boards, including fee revenue from the licensing of counselors, social workers, and as of April 7, 2003, marriage and family therapists

**Legal Basis:** ORC 4757.03 and 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 10% with Controlling Board approval.

**LSC Budget Spreadsheet by Line Item, FY 2006 - FY 2007**

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ALI</i>	<i>ALI Title</i>	<i>Estimated 2005</i>	<i>As Introduced 2006</i>	<i>House Passed 2006</i>	<i>% Change Est. 2005 to House 2006</i>	<i>As Introduced 2007</i>	<i>House Passed 2007</i>	<i>% Change House 2006 to House 2007</i>
<b>CSW Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board</b>									
4K9	899-609	Operating Expenses	\$1,044,812	\$ 1,058,445	\$ 1,058,445	1.3%	\$ 0	\$ 0	-100.0%
<b>General Services Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 1,044,812</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,445</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,445</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>
<b>Total All Budget Fund Groups</b>			<b>\$ 1,044,812</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,445</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,445</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>

## As Introduced (Executive)

## As Passed by the House

**(CD-794-CSW) Consolidation of Regulatory Boards****R.C. 315.03**

Consolidates the occupational licensing boards into the departments of Health, Public Safety, or Commerce not later than July 1, 2006. In the case of the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, the Board will be consolidated into the Department of Health. The directors of Budget and Management, Administrative Services, Commerce, Health, and Public Safety must appoint representatives to a transition team. The team must develop a plan for the smooth and timely consolidation of the boards and must also address the details of the consolidation. The team must submit a report containing recommendations and the details of the consolidation not later than December 31, 2005 to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate. A bill will be introduced in fiscal year (FY) 2006 that will include the necessary statutory changes and appropriations for consolidation.

Fiscal effect: The Board will receive no appropriation in FY 2007. The total fiscal effect is unknown at this time since the specifics of the transfer will not be addressed until FY 2006.

**R.C. 315.03**

Same as the Executive.

**As Introduced (Executive)**

**As Passed by the House**

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**(CD-1017-CSW) Scope of Practice of Certain Marriage and Family Therapist**

No provision.

**R.C. 4757.30**

Limits the scope of practice of marriage and family therapist and independent marriage and family therapist.

Fiscal effect: None.

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