

Agency Purpose

The Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy acts as the official licensure agency for marriage and family therapists. The purpose of the board is to protect the public by ensuring that licensees comply with the board’s rules and practice in a professional, legal and ethical manner per Minnesota Statutes 148B.01 – 148B.39 and Minnesota Rules 5300.0100-0350.

The mission of the board is to protect the public through licensure of qualified professionals and to provide timely and impartial resolution of complaints against licensees by:

- granting licensure to individuals who meet the statutory education, employment, and ethical requirements and who pass both the national and oral examination as required by rule;
- establishing and implementing procedures designed to assure that licensed marriage and family therapists comply with the board's rules;
- reviewing complaints of alleged violations of statutes and rules, holding disciplinary conferences with licensees, and taking legal action to condition, suspend or revoke the licenses of therapists who fail to meet standards;
- studying and investigating the practice of marriage and family therapy within the state in order to improve the standards imposed for the licensing of marriage and family therapists and to improve the procedures and methods used for enforcement of the board's standards; and
- providing information and education about licensure requirements and standards of practice to the public, faculty and students and other interested parties.

At a Glance

(annual data as of 6/30/10)

Licensing

- 1259 Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists
- 280 Lic. Associate Marriage & Family Therapists
- three Professional Firms Registered

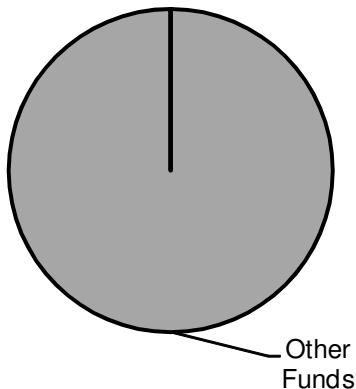
Professional Development/Continuing Education

- 274 board approved continuing education programs for licensees

Complaints & Discipline

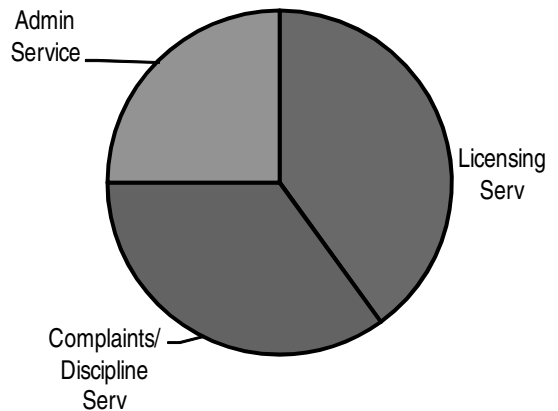
- Investigate 30 complaints against regulated marriage & family therapist professionals
- Resolve seven complaints through corrective action
- Resolve one complaint through disciplinary action

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement.

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Service



Source: Board expenses allocated to the services provided by the board.

Strategies

Core functions of the board are established to protect the public by ensuring that professionals comply with the board’s rules and practice in a professional, legal, and ethical manner. The board’s core functions are:

- Establishing minimum standards for initial licensure (education, testing, etc)

- Ensuring that those who are awarded a professional credential by the board continue to meet established standards throughout their careers
- Identifying those who fail to maintain the minimum standards necessary to render quality care safely to patients
- Responding to complaints and taking timely and appropriate disciplinary or corrective actions when warranted
- Providing accurate and current information to the public to enable them to make informed decisions about marriage & family therapists.

Operations

- Licensure affects marriage and family therapists who are mental health professionals trained in psychotherapy and family systems, and licensed to diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders within the context of marriage, couples, and family systems.
- The board consists of seven members and normally meets on the third Friday of each month.

Key Activity Goals & Measures

The Minnesota Board of Marriage & Family Therapy operates under goals that are consistent with *Minnesota Milestones* that promote the health of Minnesotans and the cost effectiveness of government by designing services to meet the needs of Minnesotans through appropriate regulation of professions.

The board continually reviews and evaluates its systems to ensure the relevance of board regulations, enhance communications with the public and licensees, and to maximize efficiencies and effectiveness.

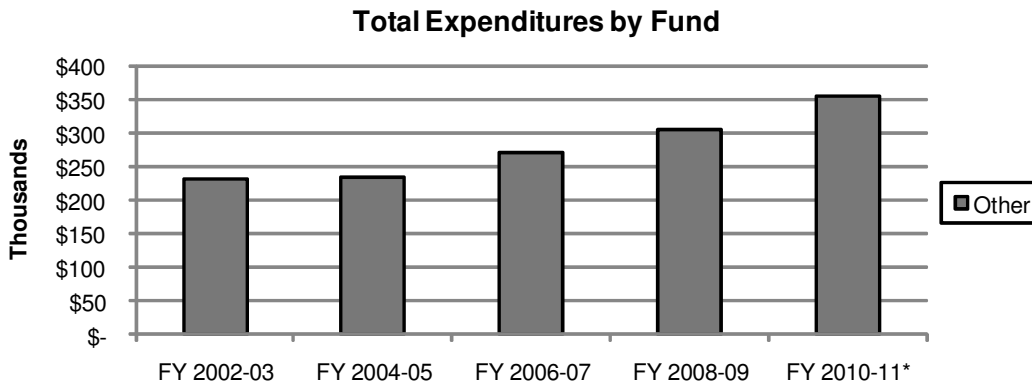
Key Measures

- Public protection – the board’s website offers several services to the public including access to information on complaint process and obtaining forms and information regarding how to file a complaint, viewing individual licensee disciplinary history.
- Online services – the board offers address and contact information changes, license renewals, information for licensees and applicants. All board forms and printed material may be downloaded.
- Public information – board website, online license verification, presentations, public outreach, brochures, real people answering the phone and replying to email during business hours.
- Currently the board has 73% of its licensees using the online renewal service.
- An ongoing survey of 12 academic institutions training students for Minnesota licensure shows 800 current enrollees.

Budget Trends Section

The board is responsible for collecting sufficient revenue to cover both direct and indirect expenditures. The board is estimated to collect \$547,000 in FY 2010-11, which is deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund.

From this fund, the board receives a direct appropriation to pay for agency activities such as salaries, rent, costs for disciplinary/contested cases and operating expenditures. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation. In FY 2010-11, total expenditures for these purposes are estimated at \$366,000. The chart below shows funding trends over the last five biennia for the direct and open appropriation.



* FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual; Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 7/31/10.

Board fees are also responsible for covering a prorated share of support functions provided outside of the Board itself. These include legal support (Attorney General), statewide e-licensing system development and operations (Office of Enterprise Technology), centralized administrative support (Health Boards Administrative Services Unit) and funding for services to health professionals (Health Professionals Services Program). In FY 2010-11, some of the health boards' reserves in the state government special revenue fund were also transferred to the general fund. The table below displays direct and open appropriation expenditures, external support costs (prorated share), and the general fund transfers (prorated share) estimated in FY 2010-11.

	FY 2010-11 (in thousands)
Board's Direct and Open Appropriations	\$ 366
Board's External Support Costs and Transfers (prorated Share)	
• Attorney General support	41
• E-licensing support	18
• Central administrative service unit	20
• Health professional service program	5
• General fund transfer	218
	Total 668
 Fees Collected by Board	 \$547
	Prorated Surplus/(Deficit) (121)

In most years, Board fee revenues exceed direct expenditures and external support costs, and as directed by law, the surplus is used to maintain a reserve in the state government special revenue fund. It should be noted here that the FY 2010-11 transfers to the General Fund, along with unanticipated increases in the support costs discussed above, have resulted in the board's fee revenue not covering its prorated costs and transfers.

The number of licensees regulated by the board continues to rise, as do the number of complaints and the complexity of the cases.

Contact

Board of Marriage & Family Therapy
2829 University Avenue South East, Suite 330
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414-3222

The website at: <http://www.bmft.state.mn.us> gives visitors easy access to useful information about marriage and family therapy. Types of information available through the website include: regulatory news and updates, rules and Minnesota statues, public notices, and forms. License renewals and address changes may be done online and the public may file complaints on line. All board forms and printed materials may be download from this site

E-mail: mft.board@state.mn.us
Phone: (612) 617-2220
Fax: (612) 617-2221

Jennifer L. Mohlenhoff, Executive Director