

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

Duties and Responsibilities

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.

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.

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.

Agency in Brief

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Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
14	\$1,058,445	\$0	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll report as of June 2005.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1

Operating Expenses

The following table shows the line item that is used to fund the activities of the Board, as well as the enacted appropriations.

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

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)

Implication of the Enacted Budget: In FY 2006, the enacted budget will allow the Board to maintain its current operations.

In FY 2007, the enacted budget requires that the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, along with many other occupational licensing boards, be absorbed into the Department of Health. As such, the enacted budget contains no funding in FY 2007 for the Board. 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, the Governor's Office, and three members selected by the affected boards. 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.