

Narrative Information for Biennial Agencies—DA 400

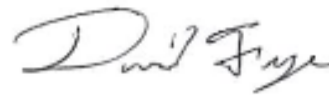
Division of the Budget
State of Kansas

Agency Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board_

I, David B. Fye, JD, Executive Director of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, do hereby submit to the Division of the Budget, our actual expenditures for FY 2023 and our realigned expenditures for FY 2024 and FY 2025 both in electronic form and paper. All statements and explanations contained in the requests submitted herewith are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Dated: September 15, 2023



David B. Fye, JD
Executive Director

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BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD

(All appointed by the Governor)

Mary Jones, Chair of the Board, Wichita, KS – Marriage and Family Therapy Member

David Anderson, Vice-Chair of the Board, WaKeeney, KS – Master’s Level Psychology Member

Jill Flessing, Lawrence, KS – Addiction Counseling Member

Linda Heitzman-Powell, McLouth, KS – Licensed Psychology Member

Donna Hoener-Queal, Pratt, KS – Public Member

Jim Kilmartin, Shawnee, KS – Public Member

Jacqueline Lightcap, Topeka, KS – Public Member

Richard Nobles, Overland Park, KS – Licensed Psychology Member

Andrea Perdomo-Morales, Kansas City, KS – Social Work Member

Laura Shaughnessy, Roeland Park, KS – Professional Counseling Member

Cynthia Schendel, Overland Park, KS – Social Work Member

David Stevens, Roeland Park, KS – Public Member

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ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Addiction Counselor Advisory Committee – Jill Flessing, Chair, Lawrence, KS

Behavioral Analyst Advisory Committee – Linda Heitzman-Powell, Chair, McLouth, KS

Licensed Psychology Advisory Committee – Richard Nobles, Chair, Overland Park, KS

Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Committee - Mary Jones, Chair, Wichita, KS

Master Level Psychology Advisory Committee - David Anderson, Chair, WaKeeney, KS

Professional Counseling Advisory Committee - Laura Shaughnessy, Chair, Roeland Park, KS

Social Work Advisory Committee - Andrea Perdomo-Morales, Co-Chair, Kansas City, KS

Social Work Advisory Committee - Cynthia Schendel, Co-Chair, Overland Park, KS

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**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD STAFF
SUPERVISORY HIERARCHY (Total Staff 11.5 FTE/Non-FTE)**

Executive Director (1.0)

Licensing Staff

- Assistant Director/Licensing Manager (1.0)
- Clinical Licensing Specialist (0.6)

Investigation and Discipline Staff

- Lead Investigator (1.0)
- Special Investigator (0.4)

Assistant Director/Licensing Manager

Clerical Staff

- Senior Administrative Assistant (1.0)
- Administrative Specialist (1.0)

Licensing Staff

- Licensing Specialists (4.5)
- Renewal Specialist (1.0)

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AGENCY MISSION:

The agency's mission, as statutorily established by the Legislature through its enactment of K.S.A. 74-7501, which created the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare from unlawful or unprofessional practitioners who fall under the board's jurisdiction. To this end, the agency has defined the statutory credentialing qualifications by establishing, through rules and regulations, minimal educational and experiential requirements that applicants seeking credentialing in each of the regulated groups must satisfy before the board grants the applicable credential. Also, to this end, the board has defined statutorily prohibited conduct through rules and regulations and has defined those acts that constitute unprofessional or incompetent practice.

AGENCY PHILOSOPHY:

The agency will act in accordance with the statutes and regulations and will ensure that standards are applied uniformly to all applicants and credentialed professionals and will act in accordance with the highest standards of ethics, accountability, efficiency and openness. The agency will also ensure that its regulated professionals and the public are treated in a respectful, helpful and nondiscriminatory manner.

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SUB-PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST WITH AGENCY MISSION:

1. Licensing and Renewal activity for the following seven credentialed professional groups:
 - a. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (Masters and Clinical)
 - b. Licensed Masters Level Psychologists (Masters and Clinical)
 - c. Licensed Professional Counselors (Masters and Clinical)
 - d. Licensed Psychologists
 - e. Licensed Social Workers (Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters, and Specialist Clinical)
 - f. Licensed Addiction Counselors (Baccalaureate, Masters, and Clinical)
 - g. Licensed Applied Behavioral Analysts and Assistant Behavioral Analysts

2. Investigation and Disciplinary actions from the following activity:
 - a. Investigation
 - b. Adjudication

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AGENCY GOALS

LICENSING AND RENEWAL SUB-PROGRAM GOAL:

To timely and accurately issue and renew licenses to individuals meeting the required qualifications.

OBJECTIVE #1:

To grant licensure to those applicants who demonstrate that they meet the statutorily established minimal levels of competence to provide mental health services to Kansas consumers.

Strategies for Objective #1:

1. Continually revise and update applications to ease completion by applicants and expedite processing by staff.
2. Utilize an increasing amount of information available through electronic means from other state boards, national associations and data banks to expedite receipt of credential verification and examination scores.
3. Maintain current staffing levels used to process new applications for licensure.
4. Provide complete user training to all staff so that utilization of online licensure database is successful.
5. Enable applicants and select other persons and entities to obtain status of an application and determine missing requirements by electronic means.
6. Utilize online database to create up-to-date tracking system for licensure denials.
7. Explore the feasibility of an online application process.

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- 8. Create uniformity and clarity among all professional licensure forms.
- 9. Maintain timely review of all applications for licensure, renewal, and training plans.
- 10. Continue to review rules and regulations for all the BSRB professions and make any necessary changes.

OBJECTIVE #1

OUTPUT MEASURES:

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
1. Number of new permanent licenses issued	1,540	1,536	1,598	1,525	1,475

Note: Due to the passage of several multi-state compacts, it is anticipated that some individuals who may have chosen to become licensed from other states will begin to choose to practice under those compacts as an alternative to licensure.

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OBJECTIVE #2:

To promptly process biennial renewals and ensure continued compliance with continuing education requirements by those practicing in this state.

Strategies for Objective #2:

1. Maintain current staffing levels used to process licensure renewals within current time frames.
2. Continue to provide electronic filing of renewal forms and deposit of renewal fees.
3. Regularly evaluate the online renewal process for effectiveness and ease of use.
4. Perform random audits of licensure renewal according to statistically sound auditing practices.

OBJECTIVE #2

OUTPUT MEASURES:

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
1. Number of renewal applications processed	4,947	6,214	5,789	6,000	5,200
2. Percent of license renewals processed within 14 days	90%	90%	98%	95%	95%
3. Percent of license renewals processed within 30 days	98%	100%	100%	99%	99%
4. Number of continuing education audits performed	0	625	587	610	530

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Note: During the early stages of the state of emergency in Kansas related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor issued a series of executive orders to delay the enforcement of expiration of certain licenses, including licenses under the BSRB. Due to the inability to enforce expiration of licenses during this timeframe, the agency paused audits in FY 2021 and concentrated resources on renewal of licenses. All licensed psychologists renew licenses by the end of June in even numbered years, whereas other licenses have a two-year renewal cycle from original receipt of license, so the number of renewals and audits will be higher in even numbered fiscal years than in odd numbered fiscal years. While the agency has implemented new processes to encourage more licensees to renew and reinstate their licenses, the creation of several multi-state compacts will allow individuals the option to practice in Kansas through those compacts, rather than pursue traditional licensure. Currently, for some professions, as many as one-third of our licensees live out-of-state. We expect a portion of those individuals to begin to fail to renew their licenses and choose to practice through (1) authority from compact commissions (PSYPACT for licensed psychologists); (2) obtaining a privilege to practice rather than licensure (Counseling Compact for clinical level counselors); and (3) through obtaining a multi-state license in their home-state rather than a Kansas license (which is the model utilized by the recently introduced social work compact, though this compact has not passed in Kansas as of September 15, 2023).

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES:

To increase awareness of the role and programs of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board and to accurately and promptly provide information to all the board's customers, including the legislature, public, other states, government agencies, private entities, applicants, licensees and state and national data banks.

OBJECTIVE #3:

To meet statutory time limit in responding to open records requests and, when appropriate, to disseminate accurate information to all those who request such.

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Strategies for Objective #3:

1. Expand and make more user friendly the information available by electronic means to increase public accessibility to the Board’s public information related to licensees.
2. Continue development of methods to ensure accuracy of information maintained in the Board’s database.

OBJECTIVE #3

OUTPUT MEASURES:

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
1. Percent of open record requests initially responded to within 3 days.	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%

OBJECTIVE #3

OUTCOME MEASURES:

Increase in the number of reports generated through computer querying and decrease in the amount of staff time devoted solely to providing information on licensees and registrants which can be accessed electronically.

OBJECTIVE #4:

To continue accuracy and promptness in providing reports and information disseminated by the Board.

Strategies for Objective #4:

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1. Increase information for dissemination to the public and licensees and registrants of the Board by updating the information contained on the Board's website.
2. Continually review all database information and correct all inaccuracies.
3. Assure ADA compliance of agency website.

OBJECTIVE #4

OUTCOME MEASURES:

1. Assure information on agency website is current.
2. Provide timely announcements on the front page of agency website.
3. Post handouts and other materials from Board and Advisory Committee meetings on the agency website.

OBJECTIVE #5:

Develop and enhance internal and external relationships through effective communication with all stakeholders.

Strategies for Objective #5:

1. Maintain positive working relationships with other state agencies.
2. Inform and communicate with potential educators and licensees about Kansas licensure requirements.

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- 3. Involve appropriate Board members in legislative processes.
- 4. Continue to maintain effective communication with the professional associations related to professions licensed by BSRB.

OBJECTIVE #5

OUTPUT MEASURES:

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
1. Number of formal presentations made to educators, students, national organizations, and the public.	15	18	16	16	16
2. Board and Advisory Committee meetings broadcast live or uploaded to the BSRB YouTube channel.	25	42	50	48	48

OBJECTIVE #5

OUTCOME MEASURES:

- 1. Invite and encourage Board members to attend Budget Committee meetings during the Legislative Session.
- 2. Work to maintain a liaison relationships with state or professional associations to keep the association members aware of BSRB issues related to them.

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OBJECTIVE #6:

Establish and maintain regulatory procedures and standards reflective of the developing and emerging professional practice trends within each regulated discipline.

Strategies for Objective #6:

1. Identify emerging practices and determine applicability to current statutes and regulations.
2. Develop an annual legislative agenda for those items selected by the Board.
3. Involve appropriate Board members in legislative processes.

OBJECTIVE #6

OUTCOME MEASURES:

1. Throughout the Legislative session, Board members whose professions are affected by any new legislation will be invited to attend relevant Legislative hearings.
2. Consult with the Reviser's Office regarding necessary legislation that could affect agency licensees and/or operation.
3. Continue to attend meetings of – and be an active member in national regulatory board meetings (Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), Behavior Analyst Certification Board, and others). This will allow the BSRB to maintain effective communications concerning national trends of regulatory activity.
4. Continue to identify priority topics to be researched and/or implemented as new regulatory procedures.

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INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINE SUB-PROGRAM GOAL:

To provide public protection by ongoing evaluation and improvement of the disciplinary process of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board.

OBJECTIVE #1:

Maintain an average length of time from receipt of alleged violations to completion of investigations of 120 days.

Strategies for Objective #1:

1. Keep to a maximum of 30 days the time from receipt of alleged violations until commencement of investigation.
2. Maintain current quality of investigations.
3. Prioritize complaints according to potential harm to the public.
4. Maintain current process for complainants to file complaints.

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OBJECTIVE #1

OUTPUT MEASURES:

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
1. New Reports of Alleged Violations reviewed	132	205	200	210	215
2. Percentage of investigations commencing within 10 days of receipt of complaint	89%	90%	94%	90%	90%
3. Percentage of investigations commencing within 30 days of receipt of complaint	98%	100%	100%	98%	98%

Note: Reports of Alleged Violation (RAVs) were lower in FY 2021. This trend was consistent with national trends in other states during this timer period. Part of this decrease in Kansas was due to the Governor’s Executive Orders to delay enforcement of expiration of licenses which had expired during the pandemic, therefore audits were paused and RAVs relating to audits were less frequent.

OBJECTIVE #1

OUTCOME MEASURES:

1. Continue improvement in the efficiency and quality of disciplinary investigations through the provision of training, investigative techniques and report writing.
2. Maintain effort to decrease the number of pending investigative cases.

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OBJECTIVE #2:

To take swift and decisive action when investigations reveal probable cause of conduct for which disciplinary measures are appropriate. To effectively enforce orders of the Board and to identify and prevent individuals from unlawful and unauthorized practice of professions regulated by the Board.

Strategies for Object #2:

1. Maintain the speed and urgency associated with the process of sending cases to the Complaint Review Committee in a timely manner.
2. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the Complaint Review Committee processes.
3. Employ appropriate monitoring and surveillance methods to ensure compliance by those subject to limitations imposed by Board order and to identify and take immediate steps against those not in compliance.
4. Refer those cases that cannot be resolved informally to the appropriate County/District Attorney.
5. Prosecute matters under the Administrative Procedure Act thoroughly and swiftly when voluntary stipulations cannot be reached.
6. Report all relevant disciplinary actions to National Practitioner Data Bank as required.

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OBJECTIVE #2

OUTPUT MEASURES:

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
1. Percent of investigative reports finalized and submitted to Complaint Review Committee within 90 days of receipt of complaint	23%	40%	24%	35%	35%
2. Percent of investigative reports finalized and submitted to Complaint Review Committee within 180 days of receipt of complaint	72%	92%	81%	85%	85%

Note: Investigation of a complaint is a highly complex process, and the components of an investigation include, but are not limited to, clarifying the facts and circumstances for the complaint with the person who made the complaint; obtaining releases for the review of potentially confidential records; providing an opportunity for the licensee to respond in detail to any complaint filed; interactions with legal counsel for both complainants and licensee; granting of reasonable extensions of time (whenever requested) for individuals and legal counsel in order to respond to a formal complaint; and interviewing individuals who might have knowledge of the facts and circumstances associated with the complaint.

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BOARD ACTIONS

The Board has ensured compliance with the rules, regulations and State Statutes governing the practice of the behavioral sciences in the State of Kansas. The following are the statistics for Report of Alleged Violations (RAVs) received from FY 2014 through FY 2023:

Cases Open at the End of FY 2023: 119

COMPLAINTS/REPORTS OF ALLEGED VIOLATION (RAVs) RECEIVED

FY	TOTAL RAVs	LP	LMLP	LCP	LMFT	LCMFT	LPC	LCPC	LASW	LBSW	LMSW	LSCSW	LAC	LMAC	LCAC	LBA	NL
2014	129	8	3	2	3	7	4	3	0	23	27	24	18	0	4	0	3
2015	141	10	2	4	5	1	9	6	0	21	34	22	12	0	6	0	9
2016	137	8	5	6	5	2	10	4	0	15	35	21	11	0	5	0	10
2017	139	14	1	0	6	10	5	7	1	20	29	21	14	1	4	0	6
2018	126	6	3	6	9	6	8	4	0	13	26	22	13	3	1	0	6
2019	201	17	9	3	8	11	9	12	0	21	35	48	8	2	3	2	13
2020	199	22	5	9	4	12	15	15	0	14	26	31	19	4	5	1	17
2021	132	9	3	7	3	10	14	10	0	20	16	19	7	2	0	0	12
2022	205	21	4	5	12	16	16	14	0	5	43	39	4	2	2	2	20
2023	200	25	9	11	5	18	24	8	0	3	39	31	7	2	1	0	17
TOTAL	1,609	140	44	53	60	93	114	83	1	155	310	278	113	16	31	5	113

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LICENSURE KEY

- RAV Report of Alleged Violation
- LP Licensed Psychologist
- LMLP Licensed Masters Level Psychologist
- LCP Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist
- LMFT Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- LCMFT Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist
- LPC Licensed Professional Counselor
- LCPC Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
- LASW Licensed Associate Social Worker
- LBSW Licensed Bachelor Social Worker
- LMSW Licensed Masters Social Worker
- LSCSW Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker
- LAC Licensed Addiction Counselor
- LMAC Licensed Masters Addiction Counselor
- LCAC Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor
- LBA Licensed Behavior Analyst
- NL No License

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STATUTORY HISTORY

The 1980 session Laws of Kansas, Chapter 242, for the purpose of certifying psychologists (changed to licensing in 1986) and licensing social workers created the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory board. The Board of Psychology Examiners and the Board of Social Work Examiners formerly regulated these two professional groups, respectively. The Legislative action to sunset each board as of July 1, 1980, occurred under the provisions of K.S.A. 74-7502 -K.S.A. 74-7505. Fee monies contained in the accounts of the former boards were transferred to the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board fee fund, pursuant to K.S.A. 74-7505.

The board's jurisdiction was expanded to include the registration of professional counselors and masters level psychologists by the 1987 Session Laws of Kansas, Chapter 315 and 306 respectively, amended by L. 1988, Ch.263, Ch.245, and Ch.304; and to include the registration of marriage and family therapists; and by the 1992 Legislature, (L.1992, Ch.184) to include the registration of alcohol and other drug abuse counselors.

The 1996 Legislation Session significantly amended the statutes governing the registration of professional counselors, master's level psychologists and marriage and family therapists. These credentialed groups, effective January 1, 1997, converted from "registration" to "licensure." The legislation also amended the requirements for credentialing in each of the following areas: Education, experience, and examination. The Board was increased in size from seven members to eleven members by adding one member from each of the three new licensure groups and adding two public members. The Governor makes all board appointments for staggered four-year terms.

The 1999 Legislature (Ch.117 in the 1999 Session Laws of Kansas) created three new clinical levels of licensure for the master level psychologists, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors, effective July 1, 2000. These new clinical level practitioners are given the right to diagnose and treat mental disorders in independent practice.

The 2007 Legislature (Ch.13 in the 2007 Session Laws of Kansas) created a temporary out of state permit for professionals to work in Kansas for 15 days and a one-time renewal of that permit which allows a total of 30 days annually.

The 2010 Legislature created two new professions, the licensed addiction counselor and the licensed clinical addiction counselor, effective July 1, 2011. The 2010 Legislature (updated in L. 2011, Ch. 114, Sec. 12 of Session Laws of Kansas) passed the Licensed Addictions Counselors Act with HB2577 and then modified it with Sub HB2182 in the 2011 Legislature.

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The 2014 Legislature passed HB 2744 which established the applied behavior analysis licensure act. The agency promulgated rules and regulations to enforce this act effective July 1, 2016.

The 2018 Legislature passed SB 386, which amended the educational degree requirement for licensure of Professional Counselors. The new educational requirement allows a graduate degree in a field of study related to Professional Counseling as long as completion of 60 total graduate hours has been achieved with 45 of these graduate hours having been taken in specific courses in the discipline of Professional Counseling.

The 2019 Legislature passed SB 15 which amended in-state and out-of-state licensure requirements for clinically licensed social workers. This legislation aligned the Kansas standards with those of many other states. One of the many positive results of this legislation is that it is less cumbersome for an individual to be licensed as a clinical social worker by reciprocity with another state.

The 2021 Legislature passed Senate Sub. for HB 2208 which amended licensure requirements for several professions by decreasing the number of hours of required post-graduate supervised work experience towards a clinical license, lowering the total number of required direct supervision hours for a clinical license, authorizing clinical supervision hours to be completed over televideo for several professions, decreasing the number of direct-client contact practicum hours required for licensure as a clinical professional counselor and striking statutory language previously requiring 350 hours of direct client contact practicum hours for clinical social workers, and increasing the length of a temporary professional counselor license. The bill also made modifications to the BSRBs disciplinary statutes, set a fee cap to be a Board-approved clinical supervisor for professional counselors or marriage and family therapists, and made changes to the out-of-state temporary permit.

The 2022 Legislature enacted SB 453 which allowed most master's-level and clinical-level licensees to use their license to satisfy some of the educational requirements to test for a licensed addiction counselor license. Also, the bill added language allowing the BSRB to consider alternate requirements for applicants for a clinical-level social work license, if those applicants did not have a clinical practicum.

The 2023 Legislature enacted SB 131 which included significant changes to many professions regulated by the BSRB. The base bill was originally requested on behalf of the Board, though the Legislature made several changes were made to the final version. Sub for SB 131 included the following changes: (1) authorized the BSRB to issue two-year temporary licenses (rather than one-year temporary licenses) for four professions; (2) decreased the length of licensure necessary for certain reciprocity applicants

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from 48 of 54 months down to 12 months; (3) created a process for licensees in most professions to be able to request additional time to complete continuing education hours to allow licenses to remain active while those hours were finished; (4) decreased the cost for individuals to reinstate an expired license if their license had been expired for at least one year, as a method to motivate individuals to re-enter the professions; (5) created a new 6-month Temporary Reinstatement License to allow individuals to practice a limited amount of time under supervision while completing the continuing education hours necessary for their license to be fully reinstated; (6) created a new Student Temporary Addiction Counselor license as a pathway for individuals taking coursework towards the requirements for an addiction counseling license; (7) created a new Temporary Candidacy Social Work license for applicants from bachelor's and master's social work programs that are seeking accreditation and are in candidacy status, but are not yet accredited; (8) included statutory language for the BSRB to draft regulations to allow Behavior Analyst licenses to be reinstated, rather than those individuals needing to reapply if their license was expired; (9) added disciplinary remedies for the behavior analyst profession so that their remedies would be more consistent with other professions, rather than merely being able to suspend or revoke a license; (10) modernized the requirements for licensure for licensed psychologists from "good moral character" to "meriting the public trust," which is a criteria more consistent with the other professions and the requirements to be licensed as a psychologist in other jurisdictions; (11) created Community-Based Licenses for several professions as an alternative to traditional temporary licenses; (12) removed certain coursework and other requirements for applicants seeking to become clinical social workers; (13) added new license processing procedures; (14) added language for the Board to create an expedited application review process for an additional fee; and (15) other statutory cleanup.

Also, the 2023 Legislature enacted HB 2288, which added Kansas to a multi-state compact for clinical professional counselors. As of September 15, 2023, sufficient states have joined the Counseling Compact for the Compact Commission to hold meetings to determine rules for the Counseling Compact, however the Counseling Compact is not yet operational for the purpose of issue privileges to practice in other Compact states.

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Overview of Agency Total Budget at Each Level

Current Year FY 2024 Revised Estimate

The agency's **FY 2024** revised estimate totals **\$1,173,036**, all from the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) Fee Fund, which is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. This level of expenditure funds the agency's eleven and a half permanent positions. Also, if necessary during peak licensure renewal activity, the BSRB utilizes a temporary position to assist the full-time staff in processing licensure applications to assure a timely response to individuals applying for licensure. The FY 2024 revised estimate does not include any supplementals in FY 2024.

Budget Year FY 2025 Total Budget Revised Estimate

The agency's **FY 2025** revised estimate totals **\$1,195,945**, all from the BSRB Fee Fund, which is an increase of \$25,776 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The increase is attributable to a supplemental request which serves as a technical correction to continue the Legislative pay plan implemented by the 2023 Legislature for FY 2025. Due to a technical error, funding for the pay plan was only added for FY 2024, however biennial agencies, which had a FY 2025 budget approved by the 2023 Legislature, did not receive expenditure authority to continue the pay plan for FY 2025. This means that biennial agencies would need to cut the salaries for their employees for FY 2025 or request a supplemental as a technical correction for the error. **Absent the supplemental request**, the revised estimate for FY 2025 totals **\$1,170,169**, all from the BSRB Fee Fund, which is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. (*Note:* For comparison totals mentioned after this point in this document, the amount for the supplemental request will be included in total expenditures for the agency for FY 2025.)

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Agency Behavioral Sciences Regulatory

NARRATIVE INFORMATION JUSTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES

Account Code 100 – Salaries and Wages

Summary: Traditionally, expenditures in this category include salary and fringe benefit costs for the agency’s employees and expenditures for Board members to attend meetings. In FY 2023, the agency had 9.5 FTE positions. The BSRB received authority to add 2.0 FTE licensing specialists beginning in FY 2024, due to the passage of 2023 Sub. for SB 131. Therefore, as of July 1, 2023, the agency’s budget includes 11.5 FTE positions to administer all the programs that are necessary for licensing, regulating, and providing information on the seven (7) behavioral science professions for which the Board is statutorily responsible. The agency’s two sub-programs are (1) Licensing and Renewal and (2) Investigation and Discipline. Temporary staff to help with credentialing new applicants for licensure, as well as assisting with the application renewal process, could be utilized during a very busy licensure periods.

FY 2024 Total Agency Revised Estimate for Salaries and Wages – \$776,862

The **FY 2024** agency-wide revised estimate for **salary and wages** totals **\$776,862**, all from the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) Fee Fund. This is an increase of \$3,288 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The increase is primarily attributable to a revised estimate in fringe benefit costs. The 2023 Legislature increased the expenditure limitation for 2.0 FTE licensing specialist positions and the Legislative pay plan, however associated fringe benefit costs were not determined at the time that expenditures limitation was increase, so a preliminary estimate was included and has now been revised. Overall, expenditures in this category include salary and wages and fringe benefits for 11.5 FTE positions, as well as payments to Board members for attending authorized meetings. The budget also includes funding for a part-time temporary position that helps to combat seasonal fluctuations in workload.

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FY 2024 Revised Estimate – Licensing and Renewal Sub-Program– \$680,102

The **FY 2024** revised estimate for **salary and wages** for the **Licensing and Renewal sub-program** totals **\$680,102**, which is an increase of \$2,233 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The increase is primarily attributable to a revised estimate for fringe benefit costs.

FY 2024 Revised Estimate – Investigation and Discipline Sub-Program– \$96,760

The **FY 2024** revised estimate for **salary and wages** for the **Investigation and Discipline sub-program** totals **\$96,760**, which is an increase of \$1,055 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The increase is primarily attributable to a revised estimate for fringe benefit costs. One employee works full-time in this sub-program and another employee splits their time between this sub-program and the Licensing and Renewal sub-program.

FY 2025 Total Agency Revised Estimate for Salaries and Wages – \$776,962

The **FY 2025** agency-wide revised estimate for **salary and wages** expenditures totals **\$776,962**, all from the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) Fee Fund. This is an increase of \$24,813 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The increase is primarily attributable to the agency’s supplemental request of \$25,776, all from the BSRB Fee Fund, to continue the pay plan implemented by the 2023 Legislature. Due to a technical error, funding for the pay plan was only added for FY 2024, however biennial agencies, which had a FY 2025 budget approved by the 2023 Legislature, did not receive expenditure authority to continue to pay plan for FY 2025. This means that biennial agencies would need to cut the salaries for their employees for FY 2025 or request a supplemental as a technical correction for the error. (*Note:* Expenditures for the supplemental request are split between the agency’s two sub-programs, apportioned based on salaries of staff members in those two sub-programs.) Overall, expenditures in this category include salary and wages and fringe benefits for 11.5 FTE positions as well as payments to Board members for attending authorized meetings. The budget also includes funding for a part-time temporary position that helps to combat seasonal fluctuations in workload.

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FY 2025 Revised Estimate – Licensing and Renewal Sub-Program– \$680,063

The **FY 2025** revised estimate for **salary and wages** for the **Licensing and Renewal sub-program** totals **\$680,063**, which is an increase of \$21,241 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The increase is primarily attributable to the agency’s supplemental request for a technical correction to continue the pay plan implemented by the 2023 Legislature for FY 2025.

FY 2025 Revised Estimate – Investigation and Discipline Sub-Program– \$96,899

The **FY 2025** revised estimate for **salary and wages** for the **Investigation and Discipline** sub-program totals **\$96,899**, which is an increase of \$3,572 above the amount approved by the 2025 Legislature. The increase is primarily attributable to the agency’s supplemental request for a technical correction to continue the pay plan implemented by the 2023 Legislature for FY 2025.

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Account Codes 200 – 290 Contractual Services

Summary: Traditionally, the majority of the anticipated expenses in this category are fixed costs that are essential for agency operation. These fixed costs include expenses for office rent, copy machine rent, communication, data storage, information technology infrastructure, network user services, the monumental building surcharge, and cyber security fees. The BSRB launched a new licensing database on August 31, 2020, hosted by the Board of Healing Arts, and funding for expenses associated with the operation of this database are included in this expense category.

The agency budgets in-state travel expenditures for reimbursement of Board member mileage to attend some meetings in person and for BSRB staff to drive to educational institutions in Kansas to discuss the licensure requirements for new graduates who have degrees in professions licensed by the agency. Legal expenses associated with expert witness fees, court reporter fees, contract litigators (if necessary), and anticipated expenses for administrative hearings are included in this category. Memberships in national board associations – which are essential to the success of licensing activities – are funded at this level of expenditure. A hospitality fund of \$1,000 is also included in this expenditure category.

In an effort to reflect shared costs between the agency's two sub-programs, the agency attempts to apportion expenditures for large items between the sub-programs. Currently, 85% of expenditures for large items are apportioned to the Licensing and Renewal sub-program and 15% of expenditures to the Investigation and Discipline sub-program. These shared costs include the agency's contract for legal services, the memorandum of understanding with the Board of Healing Arts for hosting the agency's licensing system, office space and storage rent, and the monumental building surcharge.

Regarding the agency's expenditures for legal services, the BSRB previously received legal services from the Attorney General's office for many years. For most of this time period, the services were provided at no additional cost to the BSRB, because the services were compensated through the BSRB's statutory required contribution of up to 10% of all revenue to the State General Fund. However, in FY 2020, the BSRB started being billed by the Office of the Kansas Attorney General for the work performed by staff attorneys who were specifically assigned to assist the BSRB. The amount for that agreement originally totaled \$75,000 each fiscal year. At the beginning of FY 2023, the Attorney

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General's sent a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the BSRB reflecting an increased yearly cost of \$87,200. The BSRB attempted contract negotiations to come to a compromise amount that was not as significant an increase and was more reflective of the hours of services the BSRB was receiving. Contract negotiations were unsuccessful, so the BSRB signed the MOU and submitted a supplemental request in the revised budget estimate for consideration by the 2023 Legislature for the increase of \$12,200 in legal fees. While the MOU was written to last for all of FY 2023, on November 16, 2022, the Attorney General's office sent a letter to the BSRB terminating the agreement to provide legal services, effective December 31, 2022. The BSRB attempted to meet with representatives from the Attorney General's office to reach a different arrangement, but the Attorney General's office was not interested in an alternate arrangement.

The BSRB reached a short-term agreement for legal services from Kearney and Associates in December 2022. Next, the BSRB entered into a 6-month MOU with representatives from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) through June 30, 2023. This arrangement was designed to serve as a short-term solution to ensure the BSRB had sufficient time to find a provider of legal services to the agency on a long-term basis. The BSRB issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for legal services and ultimately entered into a contract for legal services with Friedman and Forbes LLP, beginning on June 12, 2023, and continuing until June 30, 2028. During the length of this contract, the BSRB will be paying a set hourly rate for legal services.

FY 2024 Total Agency Revised Estimate for Contractual Services – \$378,411

The **FY 2024** agency-wide revised estimate for **contractual services** totals **\$378,411**, all from the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) Fee Fund. This is a decrease of \$3,163 below the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. Overall, expenditures primarily include contracted services noted in the summary of contractual services for the agency.

FY 2024 Revised Estimate – Licensing and Renewal Sub-Program—\$319,129

The **FY 2024** revised estimate for **contractual services** for the **Licensing and Renewal sub-program** totals **\$319,129**, which is a decrease of \$3,163 below the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The decrease is attributable to

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decreases in legal services expenditures; communication expenditures; expenditures for postage and other mailings; and credit card transaction expenditures. The decrease in legal services expenditures is due to the agency revising the estimate for the cost of legal services, due to transitioning from receiving legal services from the Attorney General's office to a contract with a set hourly rate for legal services from a private law firm through the end of FY 2028. The decrease is partially offset by an increase in expenditures for temporary staffing and associated services. The agency is in the process of converting to electronic records storage and will be utilizing an increased amount of services from temporary staffing entities to assist in facilitating this transition.

FY 2024 Revised Estimate – Investigation and Discipline Sub-Program– \$59,282

The **FY 2024** revised estimate for **contractual services** for the **Investigation and Discipline sub-program** totals **\$59,282**, which is a decrease of \$1,500 below the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The decrease is attributable to a decrease in legal services expenditures in FY 2024. The agency previously estimated an increase in legal services expenditures each fiscal year, however the agency's new contract for legal services includes a set hourly rate for services which will remain consistent through the end of FY 2028.

FY 2025 Total Agency Revised Estimate for Contractual Services – \$405,958

The **FY 2025** agency-wide revised estimate for **contractual services** expenditures totals **\$405,958**, all from the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) Fee Fund. This is an increase of \$1,638 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. Overall, expenditures primarily include contracted services noted in the summary of contractual services for the agency.

FY 2025 Revised Estimate – Licensing and Renewal Sub-Program — \$346,037

The **FY 2025** revised estimate for **contractual services** for the **Licensing and Renewal sub-program** totals **\$346,037**, which is an increase of \$4,548 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The increase is primarily attributable to an increase in expenditures for temporary staffing and associated services, as the agency is transitioning

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to storing records electronically. This increase is partially offset by a decrease in legal services expenditures; communication expenditures; expenditures for postage and other mailings; and credit card transaction expenditures.

FY 2025 Revised Estimate – Investigation and Discipline Sub-Program– \$59,921

The **FY 2025** revised estimate for **contractual services** for the **Investigation and Discipline sub-program** totals **\$59,921**, which is a decrease of \$2,910 below the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The decrease is attributable to a decrease in legal services expenditures for FY 2025.

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Commodities Expenditures

Summary: Traditionally, expenses in this budget category include office supplies (paper, envelopes, staples, pens, etc.), professional supplies (replacement phone cords, small shredders, small scanners, label makers, printer ink, etc.), and other miscellaneous items needed for day-to-day operations of the office (cleaning supplies, paper towels, tissues, first aid kit, etc.)

FY 2024 Total Agency Revised Estimate for Commodities – \$10,825

The **FY 2024** agency-wide revised estimate for **commodities** expenditures totals **\$10,825**, all from the BSRB Fee Fund. This is an increase of \$1,375 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. Overall, the revised estimate includes stationery, office supplies, and data processing supplies.

FY 2024 Revised Estimate – Licensing and Renewal Sub-Program—\$9,100

The **FY 2024** revised estimate for **commodities** for the **Licensing and Renewal sub-program** totals **\$9,100**, which is an increase of \$1,375 above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The increase is primarily attributable to purchasing supplies for two new licensing specialists authorized in conjunction with the passage of 2023 Sub. for SB 131. This increase is partially offset by a decrease in other office supplies and data processing supplies, after comparing previous estimates to actual expenditures in FY 2023.

FY 2024 Revised Estimate – Investigation and Discipline Sub-Program—\$1,725

The **FY 2024** revised estimate for **commodities** for the **Investigation and Discipline sub-program** totals **\$1,725**, which is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature.

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FY 2025 Total Agency Revised Estimate for Commodities – \$9,275

The **FY 2025** agency-wide revised estimate for **commodities** expenditures totals **\$9,275**, all from the BSRB Fee Fund. This is a decrease of \$675 below the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. Overall, the revised estimate includes stationery, office supplies, and data processing supplies.

FY 2025 Revised Estimate – Licensing and Renewal Sub-Program—\$7,350

The **FY 2025** revised estimate for **commodities** for the **Licensing and Renewal sub-program** totals **\$7,350**, which is a decrease of \$675 below the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. The decrease is primarily attributable to a decrease in office supplies and data processing supplies after comparing previous estimates to actual expenditures in FY 2023.

FY 2025 Revised Estimate – Investigation and Discipline Sub-Program—\$1,925

The **FY 2025** revised estimate for **commodities** for the **Investigation and Discipline sub-program** totals **\$1,925**, which is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature.

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Capital Outlay Expenditures

Summary: Traditionally, expenses in this budget category included replacement of computers, office furniture, and other large items. Recently, the agency began replacing aging computer technology with leasing agreements for laptops through the state’s “Desktop as a Service” program. This process involves paying a monthly fee to the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) or an approved vendor who furnishes computer equipment to a state agency. Future capital outlay expenses for the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board will include the replacement certain board room furniture, network printers, scanners, shredders, FAX machine, and desktop printers. These items will be replaced over a rotating basis, depending on the items. The agency anticipates other small purchases of computer equipment to better support the staff’s remote work now and in the future. The agency replaced seating for some staff members and replaced all Boardroom seating in FY 2023, using the state’s agreement with Kansas Correctional Industries. Replacement of other seating and furniture will be staggered, based on condition of items. The agency has started to experience an increased number of issues with some desktop printers, so the agency anticipates replacing some of these printers and other devices in the next few years. Also, the agency received authority to hire two new licensing specialists with the passage of 2023 Sub. for SB 131 and it is expected that the agency will have an increase in expenditures on equipment for these new employees.

FY 2024 Total Agency Revised Estimate for Capital Outlay – \$6,938

The **FY 2024** agency-wide revised estimate for **capital outlay** totals **\$6,938**, all from the BSRB Fee Fund. This is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. Overall, this capital outlay revised estimate will include the purchase of office equipment or two new employees and the replacement of other equipment and office furniture on a rotational basis.

FY 2024 Revised Estimate – Licensing and Renewal Sub-Program—\$6,388

The **FY 2024** revised estimate for **capital outlay** for the **Licensing and Renewal sub-program** totals **\$6,388**, which is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature.

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FY 2024 Revised Estimate -- Investigation and Discipline Sub-Program—\$550

The **FY 2024** revised estimate for **capital outlay** for the **Investigation and Discipline sub-program** totals **\$550**, which is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature.

FY 2025 Total Agency Revised Estimate for Capital Outlay – \$3,750

The **FY 2025** agency-wide revised estimate for **capital outlay** totals **\$3,750**, all from the BSRB Fee Fund. This is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. Overall, this capital outlay revised estimate will include the replacement of office equipment and board room furniture on a rotational basis.

FY 2025 Revised Estimate – Licensing and Renewal Sub-Program—\$3,200

The **FY 2025** revised estimate for **capital outlay** for the **Licensing and Renewal sub-program** totals **\$3,200**, which is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature.

FY 2025 Revised Estimate -- Investigation and Discipline Sub-Program—\$550

The **FY 2025** revised estimate for **capital outlay** for the **Investigation and Discipline sub-program** totals **\$550**, which is the same amount approved by the 2023 Legislature.