

Table of Contents
2014-15 Biennial Budget - Optometry, Board of

Agency Profile - Optometry, Board of	1
---------------------------------------------------	----------

Mission:

The board's mission is to protect the public through effective licensure and enforcement of the statutes and rules governing the practice of optometry to reasonably ensure a standard of competent and ethical practice.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Optometry, Board of supports the following statewide outcome(s).

People in Minnesota are safe.

Context:

The Board serves the consumers of optometric services by licensing as optometrists only those persons the board has determined meet the established education, experiential and examination requirements. The board serves the optometric community by providing verification of credentials to other state and federal agencies.

The Board is committed to public protection and to responsible, efficient, and cost-effective services. The seven member Board of Optometry (five licensed optometrists, two public members) sets the direction for the Board and oversees the agency's activities.

The board's strategic plan is focused on electronic advancements for efficient, yet effective licensee/public transparency and ease of use.

The board has 1084 licensed Optometrists in the state of Minnesota and works collaboratively with continuing education and provider associations.

The board is 100 percent fee supported and no general fund tax revenue is used. They are responsible for collecting sufficient revenue to cover both direct and indirect expenditures. The board works directly with licensees to assure fees are used prudently. The Minnesota Board of Optometry fees were last increased in 1995. Board members are committed to operating efficiently.

Strategies:

The quarterly board meetings are attended by seven Governor-appointed board members with other stakeholders in attendance. The agenda reflects quality improvement activities with key statistics tracked and shared with the attendees. Board discussion leads to action steps and directives to staff which are listed in the minutes of each board meeting. Those minutes are posted on the website.

The Executive Committee of the board is comprised of licensed Optometrists, who assure the business aspects of the licensure process are efficient and public members, who assure public involvement and ensure that board actions are meant for public safety. The board has provider associations' reports as part of the standing agenda while assuring key issues are identified, investigated and resolved within the public board structure. This is a board that seeks compromise and works toward problem resolution in an open environment. The board works to achieve a fluid relationship with the public, licensees and key stakeholders.

The Board of Optometry regulates the profession by:

- Setting educational standards for initial licensure.
- Reviewing applicant's education and training to determine compliance with the board's licensure requirements.
- Reasonably ensuring that only applicants who meet licensure requirements are granted a license.
- Issuing initial and renew licensure for qualified professionals.
- Setting continuing education requirements for maintenance of licensure.
- Setting standards of practice and taking disciplinary or corrective action against misconduct for licensees.
- Responding to public and agency inquiries, complaints, and reports regarding licensure and conduct of applicants and licensees.

-
- Providing information about licensure requirements and standards of practice to citizens and other interested persons or agencies.

Results:

The board believes that additional specific measurements should be embraced. The national tracking of measurable outcomes does not exist. The board values information to continuously improve, however, no other state tracks information necessary to make state comparisons on such key topics as days of applicant to successful licensure, or days in complaint resolution cycle. The Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards is reviewing this focus from a national perspective.

The board does engage in survey processes to measure expected outcomes. It does not employ a metric or dashboard of data as the board has not determined what to track or the value added to the board's mission.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
Average days when an applicant is granted their initial license	90 Days	5 Days	Improving
Average days that a complaint remains open	180	180	Stable

Performance Measures Notes:

The board will review other performance measures as the national board(s) investigates comparable data.

Initial license data: previous is 2010, current is 2012.

Complaint data: previous is 2010, current is 2012.

Source is the Small Boards Licensing Database.