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Mission:

The Board's core public safety mission is to "ensure residents of Minnesota quality social work services by establishing and enforcing professional standards". [Board Strategic Plan September 1994]

Statewide Outcome(s):

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

People in Minnesota are safe.

Context:

The Legislature established the Board in 1987, and by law, it exists to "perform the duties necessary to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare through the licensure and regulation of persons who practice social work in the state". The Board of Social Work holds social workers accountable by ensuring that licensed social workers are qualified, professional, ethical, and accountable. It does this initially through the examination and licensure process and, on an ongoing basis, by license renewal, continuing education, supervision requirements to ensure continued competence, and through the complaint resolution process when professional standards are not met. Staff and volunteer Board Members currently serve members of the public, 12,583 licensees, applicants, employers, credentialing entities, academic programs, and state and federal entities. The Board is entirely fee supported and receives no General Fund dollars. It must collect fees to cover both direct and indirect expenditures, which are deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the State Government Special Revenue Fund (SGSRF).

Strategies:

Effective public safety outcomes and efficient government services are accomplished through: licensing qualified professionals; resolving complaints in a fair and timely manner; promoting a diverse and qualified workforce by modifying licensing exemptions through 2012 legislation; increasing outreach and education to stakeholders, especially consumers and employers; maximizing technology with online services, and implementing "paperless" meetings and digital records; reducing fees by 30% since 2006; and streamlining business processes. The Board partners collaboratively with the 17 Health Licensing Boards and its Administrative Services Unit, MN Management and Budget, MN Department of Health and Human Services, Legislators, the Governor's Office, other state and federal regulatory entities, its Advisory Committee, and its stakeholder groups.

Results:

Through its regular Strategic Planning, the Board identifies strategic objectives and measures quantitative and qualitative performance outcomes. Licensing and complaint resolution data is provided regularly to the Board, and in reports required by the Legislature and state agencies. License applications have increased by 43 percent, and licenses granted have increased by 25 percent, in the last ten years. Disciplinary or corrective action reduces the likelihood of future violations and unethical practice from licensees. Based on 91 actions taken in 2002- 2011 there is a recidivism rate of 2.2 percent.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
Total number of persons licensed ¹	9,703	12,583 (30% increase)	Improving
Complaint Resolution: ¹			
Complaints received ¹	123	173 (41% increase)	Improving
Complaints dismissed or closed ¹	93	98 (5% increase)	Improving
Actions taken ¹	16	24 (50% increase)	Improving
Resolution time ²	74% in less than 6 months	42% in less than 6 months	Worsening
Utilization of online services:			
Online renewal services ³	7,048	7,761 (10% increase)	Improving
Online license application services ³	1,624	2,459 (51% increase)	Improving
Online license lookup/verification ⁴	67,700	77,000 (14% increase)	Improving

Performance Measures Notes:

1. Previous year is FY 2002. Current year is FY 2012.
2. Previous year is FY 2008. Current year is FY 2012.
3. Previous year is FY 2006. Current year is FY 2012.
4. Previous year is FY 2011. Current year is FY 2012.

Data source is the Board of Social Work. Additional information on performance outcomes are identified in great detail in the following recent Board of Social Work reports and documents, available at the Board's website, <http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/>

2011 Strategy Map (<http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/Portals/0/BOSW%20Strategy%20Map%202011.pdf>)

2012 Self-Evaluation Report For The Minnesota Sunset Advisory Commission (<http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/Portals/0/Whats%20New/BOSW%20Sunset%20Commission%20Report%20December.pdf>)

& Minnesota Board of Social Work Report to the Minnesota Sunset Advisory Commission (<http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/Portals/0/BOSW%20Sunset%20Advisory%20Commission%20Supplemental%20Report.pdf>)

2008 - 2010 Biennial Report (<http://www.asu.state.mn.us/Portals/0/Biennial%20Report%202008-2010.pdf>)

2012 Legislation Licensing Changes (<http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/>)