

Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners Five-Year Strategic Plan

(September 1, 2017)

Mission

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of Arizona citizens by regulating the professions of psychology and behavior analysis

Agency Description

The State Board of Psychologist Examiners licenses and regulates professionals to practice in the fields of psychology and behavior analysis. The Board accepts complaints against licensees, investigates allegations, and administratively adjudicates complaints.

Strategic Issues and Strategies

Issue 1: The agency is unable to offer online initial applications for licensure.

Description: Effective February, 2017, the agency implemented an online application for license renewal. There is currently no online application for initial licensure. The initial application is available for downloading on the agency website; however, applications may not be completed online and must be printed, completed and sent to the agency. The agency would like to offer applicants the option to apply for licensure through the agency website. Establishing an online application would increase convenience and efficiency for all applicants. Due to budget limitations, the agency has postponed the necessary system development that would be required to implement such a feature on the website.

Solutions: In the FY2018 budget, the agency was authorized an increase in appropriation to participate in the State's e-Licensing system, which will include development of online applications for licensure. System development is scheduled to begin in September, 2017, and is anticipated to be complete within six months. It is anticipated that additional improvements and enhancements will be necessary over approximately the following two years in order to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

Issue 2: Arizona does not currently participate in the Psychology Licensure Universal System (PLUS) offered through the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB).

Description: The ASPPB PLUS system allows applicants to submit one electronic application for licensure as a psychologist across multiple states. ASPPB provides each state their respective application materials and the state maintains the authority to determine whether the applicant meets licensure requirements. Currently, 14 jurisdictions participate in the PLUS system. Some jurisdictions require individuals to apply through the PLUS while other jurisdictions make application through the PLUS an option.

Solutions: The agency is currently working with ASPPB to offer the PLUS as an option for applicants. It is anticipated that the PLUS may be available to applicants during FY 18. Once implemented, the effectiveness and efficiency of the PLUS will be studied to determine whether it may be more beneficial to use the PLUS system for all psychology licensing applications.

Issue 3: The agency currently maintains paper files for licensure, complaints, and administrative matters.

Description: Paper files require substantial office space and physical maintenance.

Solutions: The Arizona Department of Administration is seeking a vendor to provide an electronic document maintenance system. Once identified, the agency will explore the cost to participate and may request a future appropriation.

Issue 4: The agency has statutory authority to establish a confidential reporting program for impaired psychologists. An appropriation was authorized for FY 17 for purposes of monitoring the program.

Description: In FY 17, the agency began reviewing various options for establishing the confidential reporting program.

Solutions: It is anticipated a proposal will be presented to the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners during FY 18 for direction and approval. Implementation of the program would follow.

Issue 5: Over the next few years, the agency will implement the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT).

Description: During the 2016 Legislative Session, the Arizona Legislature enacted the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT), which was signed into law by Governor Ducey. The PSYPACT will allow qualified psychologists to provide psychological services across state lines into other compact states. The agency will begin implementation once seven states enact the PSYPACT. To date, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah have enacted the PSYPACT.

Solutions: The agency will participate in implementation once seven states enact the PSYPACT. Participation in the PSYPACT will cost the agency an estimated \$6,000 per year, which has been included in the FY 19 budget request.

Resource Assumptions

	FY2019 Estimate	FY2020 Estimate	FY2021 Estimate
Full-Time Equivalent Positions	4.0	4.0	4.0
General Fund	0	0	0
Other Appropriated Funds	480,600	480,600	480,600
Non-Appropriated Funds	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0