

# State Board of Medical Examiners

STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX  
Executive Hills West  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

January 1, 1981

Phone 515/281-5171

RONALD V. SAF  
Executive Director

Senator John Nystrom, Chairman  
Representative Reid Crawford, Chairman  
Senate and House Standing Committees  
on State Government  
Iowa State Legislature  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Sirs:

This report is submitted in compliance with Section 258A.4(2) of the 1979 Code of Iowa.

- A. The Board of Medical Examiners filed its rules relating to the duties of the Board on November 29, 1978, and these rules became effective March 29, 1979.
  - B. 1980 Caseload:
    - (1) Cases carried forward January 1, 1980 . . . . . 142
    - (2) Cases opened in 1980 . . . . . 293
    - (3) Cases closed in 1980 . . . . . 63
  - C. Total number of cases open as of January 1, 1981 . . . . . 372
  - D. Categories of complaints received during the calendar year 1980:
    - Drug related . . . . . 33
    - Alcohol related . . . . . 3
    - Ethics and conduct . . . . . 33
    - Competency . . . . . 112
    - Mental Problems . . . . . 3
    - Insurance reports of suits . . . . . 82
    - Miscellaneous . . . . . 7
    - License discipline from other states . . . . . 6
    - Violation of probation . . . . . 1
    - Practicing without license . . . . . 13
- TOTAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED . . . . . 293

E. Categories of complaints closed during calendar year 1980:

	<u>Total Number Closed</u>	<u>Unfounded</u>	<u>Sanctions</u>	<u>Other</u>
Drug related	13	4	7	1 refer 1 died
Alcohol related	2	1	1	0
Ethics and Conduct	7	3	4	0
Competency	16	11	11	1 died
Mental Problems	0	0	0	0
Insurance Reports of suits	10	8	2	0
Miscellaneous	1	0	1	0
License discipline from other states	5	2	3	0
Violation of proba- tion	2	0	2	0
Practicing without license	7	2	5	0
<b>TOTALS . . .</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36*</b>	<b>3</b>

\*(There were 7 letters of warning imposed on one file)

F. Peer Review Committee Disciplinary Actions . . . . . 12

G. Judgements and Settlements reviewed or investigated  
by the Board . . . . . 10

H. Number of formal disciplinary proceedings commenced  
before the Board or Court . . . . . 12

I. Number and type of Sanctions imposed by the Board:

1. License revocation . . . . .	4
2. Licenses suspended indefinitely . . . . .	2
3. Licenses voluntarily surrendered . . . . .	1
4. Licenses placed on 5 yr. probation . . . . .	3
5. Licenses placed on 4 yr. probation . . . . .	1
6. Licenses placed on 1 yr. probation . . . . .	1
7. \$1,000.00 fines levied . . . . .	2
8. Letters of warning . . . . .	22

TOTAL SANCTIONS. . . . . 36

J. Number and status of appeals to Court . . . . .

January 1, 1981

- K. Number and type of Peer Review Committees registered  
by the Board . . . . . 12
- L. Number of physicians who are in a probationary or  
restricted status who function under the supervision  
of the Board as of December 31, 1980 . . . . . 23

As this report indicates, the complaints received have been increasing drastically. The Board received a total of 75 complaints in 1978, 187 complaints in 1979 and 293 complaints in 1980. As a result of this dramatic increase in the number of complaints, we have been unable to investigate complaints in a timely manner. Our appropriation request contains provisions for the addition of three investigators and one legal secretary. The addition of these positions is critical if we are to reduce the backlog of cases and provide timely investigation in order to insure the public safety.

Sincerely,

Ronald V. Saf  
Executive Director

RVS:jb