

## Executive Director's Report

*(Prepared May 30, 2014, for the June 5-6, 2014, Board meeting)*

**FY2015 EXPENSE BUDGET:** The Board of Medicine's proposed budget for fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015) is \$4,237,141, up from 4,032,740 in FY2014. The budget is based on anticipated licensure fees in FY2015 and includes roll-over funds from the current fiscal year. The FY2015 budget includes reductions in various fees that became effective on January 1, 2014. The FY2015 budget anticipates increased expenditures, including:

- Funding for wages and benefits for a full staff. At present, the Board has one vacant position in administration that is expected to be filled in the next several months. There is no cost-of-living increases allowed in this 2015 fiscal year, but eligible employees (not at the end of their pay-range) will receive merit increases.
- Per diem allowances to cover all Board functions and meetings, including hearings, conferences, teleconferences, and more frequent use of Alternate members.
- Funding for more communication and outreach, including more marketing for the Iowa Physician Health Program and the creation of a mobile app to help consumers locate physician specialists in Iowa.
- Continuing investments in technology and related maintenance expenses associated with the Board's new data base and equipment.
- Staff and Board member education and travel for conferences.

On October 25, 2013, the Board voted to reduce certain licensure and public records fees, effective January 1, 2014, and continue all other fees at their current rates. In addition, the Board has exempted active military physicians from paying a permanent licensure renewal fee. The Board has not increased medical or acupuncturist licensure fees since FY2007.

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**BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:** Hamed Tewfik, M.D., chair, has made the following appointments to the Board's four standing committees: **Executive** – Dr. Tewfik, chair, Frank Bognanno, Diane Clark, Allison Schoenfelder, M.D., and Michael Thompson, D.O.; **Screening** – Julie Perkins, M.D., chair, Robert Bender, M.D., Julie Carmody, M.D., Ronald Cheney, D.O., and Diane Cortese; **Monitoring** – Dr. Thompson, Msgr. Bognanno, Dr. Cheney, Dr. Perkins and Dr. Tewfik; **Licensure** – Dr. Schoenfelder, chair, Dr. Bender, Dr. Carmody, Ms. Clark and Ms. Cortese.

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**NON-PAYMENT OF STATE DEBT:** Since July 1, 2011, the Board has received 26 requests for license sanctions (suspensions) for 24 physicians. The suspension of a state-issued professional license was a part of SF2428, approved by the Legislature and the Governor in 2011 as one more way to help collect debt owed to the state, such as unpaid taxes and unpaid child support. The Iowa Department of Revenue issues a certificate of non-compliance to the regulatory board, which is required to initiate appropriate action to suspend, revoke, deny issuance, or deny renewal of this person's license. The licensee has 30 days to pay the debt or to establish an acceptable payment plan with the state before the regulatory board can react. Here's the data on certificates of non-compliance sent to the Board:

**2011 – 4 (Jul 1-Dec 31)**

**2012 – 11**

**2013 – 5**

**2014 – 6 (Jan 1-May 31)**

(Two of the 26 notices involved physicians who were determined to be non-compliant again after they had addressed their debt issues. They both subsequently became compliant again.)

Since 2011, the Board has taken action (suspended the license) against two physicians. The Board later issued a termination order of the suspension for one of the licenses when the physician satisfactorily addressed his state debt.

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**BOARD STAFF:** Natalie Sipes has been appointed director of licensure, succeeding Amy Van Maanen, who has accepted a new assignment with the Iowa Physician Health Program. Ms. Sipes joined the Board staff in June 2013 as secretary to the executive director. She previously worked as the member services coordinator for the Iowa Concrete Paving Association.

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**2013 ANNUAL REPORT:** The Board has released its 2013 Annual Report, which highlights medical and acupuncturist licensure and enforcement activities over the past year. The report includes a recap of administrative rules adopted in 2013 and a review of the work of the Iowa Physician Health Committee, which administers a program that supports and monitors physicians who self-report mental health issues, physical disabilities or substance use disorders. The report is available

at: <http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov/images/Stats/2013%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

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## **JUNE-AUGUST CALENDAR**

*(Updated 5/30/2014. Subject to change.)*

### **Hearings**

June 25 – Oduah D. Osaro, M.D.

July 17-18 -- Lynette J. Iles, M.D.

August 27-28 – Firas A. Rabi, M.D.

### **Office closed**

The Board's office will be closed Friday,

July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

### **Meetings**

June 5-6 – Board meeting

July 10 – Board teleconference meeting

July 25 – Iowa Physician Health Committee meeting

August 7-8 – Board meeting