



Office of Governor
TINA KOTEK

Behavioral Health Talent Council

8-14 Meeting

Oregon Licensing Boards



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The licensing boards we will be hearing from today include:

- The Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO)
- The Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
 - Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (BLPCT)
 - Board of Psychology (BoP)
- The Board of Licensed Social Workers
- The Oregon State Board of Nursing

Between them, these four boards are responsible for the licensing and credentialing of the majority (but not the entirety) of the behavioral health workforce.

Between them, these four boards serve over 170,000 licensed and certified practitioners.

Kotek Administration Priorities



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Governor Kotek has identified behavioral health as one of the top priorities of her administration.

“Every Oregonian should have access to healthcare, including behavioral health services and supports – no matter where they live or what they can afford. Governor Kotek is mission-focused on building a behavioral health continuum of care that will meet people where they are and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to meet their mental health and addiction needs.

- Oregonians are turned away from treatment and services every day because there is not enough workforce to meet the need. Governor Kotek requested funding to double the current ongoing investment to grow and diversify the behavioral health workforce. She will also work to streamline and create efficiencies in the licensing and certification process.”

Kotek Administration Priorities



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The administration has been working with our licensing boards to identify and meet their needs so that they can better serve practitioners and consumers.

- The Governor requested and received additional staff for the Board of Licensed Social Workers in the 2023 biennial budget.
- The Governor requested funding for a new licensing database that would serve both the Mental Health Regulatory Agency and the Board of Licensed Social Workers in the 2025 legislative session, but the legislature did not fund the request. However, they did include a budget note in BLSW's budget, asking for BLSW and MHRA to return to the legislature in the 2026 session with additional information about the request.

Our licensing boards have been working diligently to improve customer service, streamline licensing, and expand access to licenses and credentials. They will talk about some of the work they have done in their presentations.