



Board Members

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Investigator

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A Word from the Executive Director

Greetings everyone! We are in the final stretch of the rainy, sometimes icy winter months, and soon we will be setting our clocks forward and greeting the warmer days of spring. I’m personally looking forward to getting out on the river and pursuing the elusive spring chinook. I hope all of you have some spring activities planned as well.

As I look back and take stock on 2023, I am reminded of the enormous amount of work that was accomplished by the MHRA. My Fall 2023 Newsletter focused on the growth in licensees that this Agency saw, and if you didn’t have a chance to read that article, please do so by referencing our [Newsletters Webpage](#). This work could not have been accomplished without our volunteer board members and our dedicated and hard-working staff. Thank you to the board members and staff for your herculean efforts in 2023.

In this newsletter article I want to focus in on the administrative rulemaking that the MHRA accomplished in 2023 and the significance of this work. This article includes a summary of the 2023 rulemakings. To begin with, in 2023 the MHRA completed more rule making than other health related boards in Oregon, including the Oregon Medical Board, the Oregon Board of Dentistry, and the Oregon Board of Optometry. To put this into even better perspective, we did so with less than half of the staff of the larger agencies. We accomplished this while also licensing a record number of applicants and conducting a record number of compliance investigations (see the Fall 2023 Newsletter article).

What makes the level of rulemaking in 2023 significant? You may recall that MHRA conducted a [Diversity Study](#) in 2022 at the request of the Oregon legislature through House Bill 5006 (2021). This study was conducted by Keen Independent Research, and took a deep dive into the Boards’ policies, procedures, and administrative rules to investigate possible barriers to entry into the professions. The study made several recommendations, and beginning in 2023 we undertook significant efforts reviewing, amending, adopting, and repealing administrative rules to address real and perceived barriers. Both Boards have established Education / Diversity, Education, and Equity (DEI) Committees that have met monthly to address DEI objectives, formulating important recommendations for positive change.

The Summary of 2023 Rulemakings gives a description of the amended and repealed rules for both the BOP and the BLPCT. Notably, we were able to offer licensing fee reductions for both boards which became effective January 1, 2024. For the BLPCT we are transitioning from an annual renewal cycle to a biennial renewal cycle, starting January 2, 2024. Also, for the BLPCT, we made amendments to the LPC and LMFT supervised clinical experience requirements for licensure. For the BOP, we amended rules for licensure by endorsement and post-doctoral supervised work experience. Both Boards added safeguards to the compliance process by explicitly prohibiting witness harassment and intimidation and retaliation for participating in a board investigation.

Director’s Update, Cont.

Moving into 2024, we are addressing some challenges around licensure by reciprocity for the BLPCT and seeking statutory changes to ORS 675.755, professional disclosure statements. In summary we have and continue to work hard towards removing barriers to entry into the psychology, professional counseling, and marriage and family therapy professions while streamlining the licensure process.

Finally, I would like to spend a moment talking about serving as a board member. If anyone has ever thought about serving, then please give serious consideration to applying on the Governor’s website to serve. I know that not everyone has the time right now to commit. But, at some point in your career, you may find that you are able to give back to your profession. The Oregon mental health professions have been paved for you by many dedicated professionals who had a strong desire to protect the public and to enhance the professions. You too can help pave the road for those who will follow you. You can make a difference. Please refer to the Governor’s [Boards & Commissions](#) webpage for more information and to apply online.

–Charles Hill, Executive Director

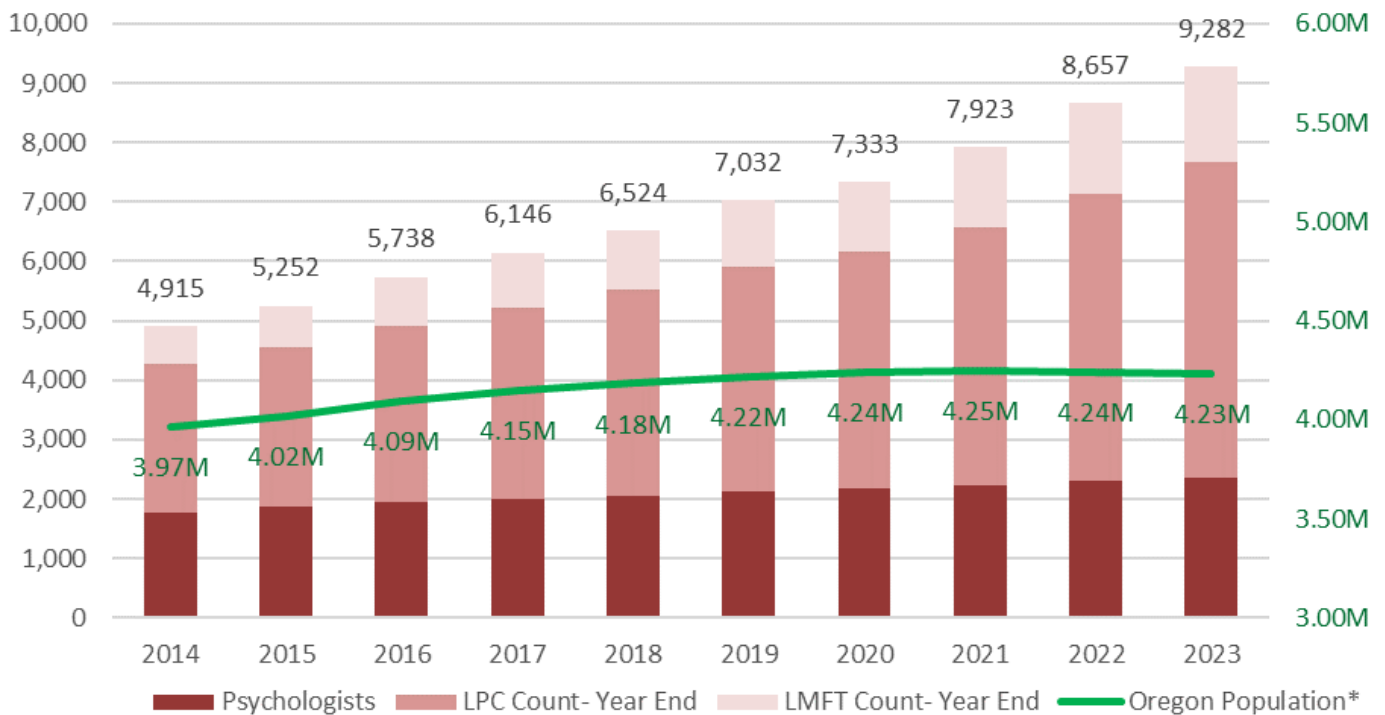
“Plans are nothing, but planning is everything” – Dwight D. Eisenhower

2023 Year-End Statistics

Licensing

The following graphic displays volume of MHRA licensees (total count at year end) as compared to the Oregon population overall.

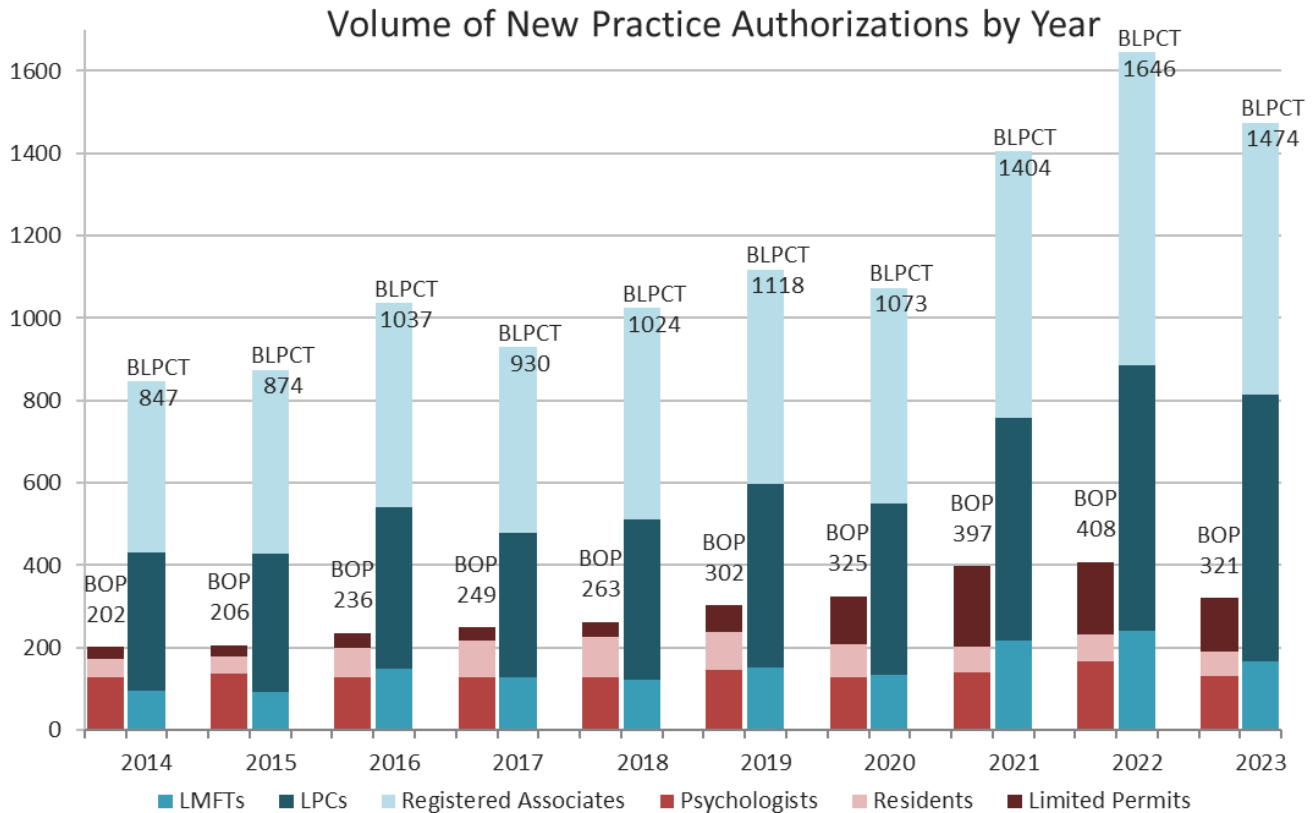
Growth: Oregon Population & MHRA Licensees



In 2014, there were 807 Oregonians per MHRA licensee, and ten years later in 2023, there were 456 Oregonians per licensee. Over the past decade, we nearly doubled the availability of licensed mental health providers in the state, growing by an average 7.3% per year.

2023 Year-End Statistics, Cont.

The following graphic displays the volume of new licenses, associate registrations, residents, and limited permits issued over the last 10 years, by Board.

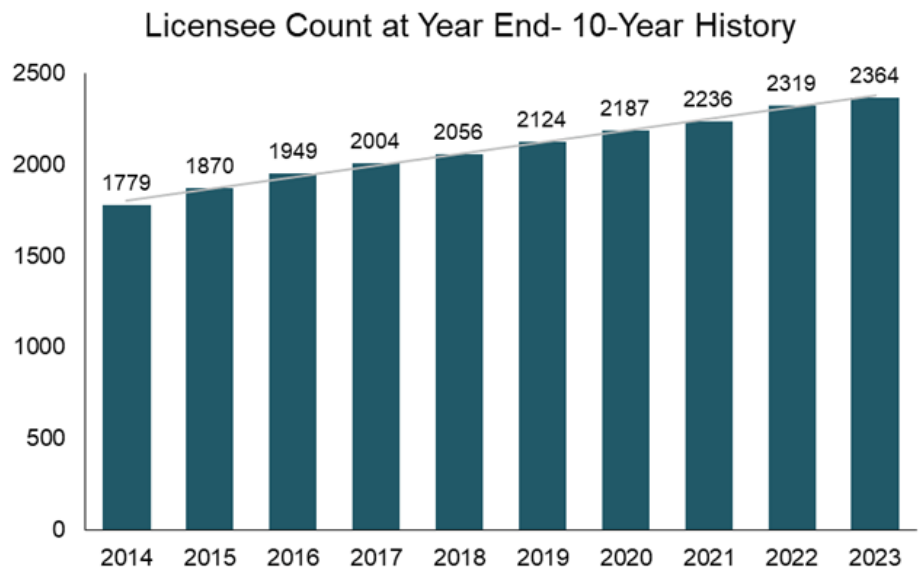


BLPCT has grown an average of 7.2% per year in the volume of new authorizations issued. 2023 saw a 10.4% decrease from the prior year, with 647 new LPCs, 166 new LMFTs, and 661 new registered associates, including 541 professional counselor associates and 120 marriage and family therapist associates.

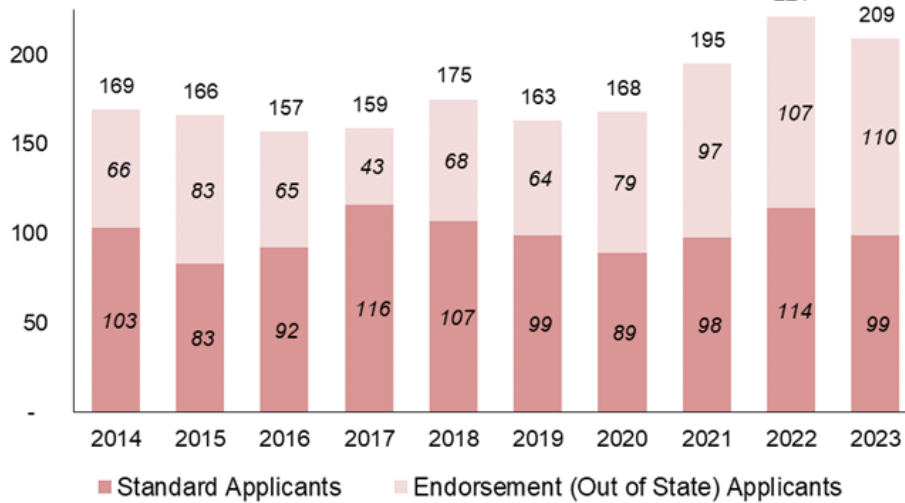
BOP has grown an average of 6.0% per year in the volume of new authorizations issued. 2023 saw a 21.3% decrease from the prior year, with 131 new psychologist licensees, 132 limited permits, and 58 new psychologist residents.

Board of Psychology

At year-end 2023, there were 2,364 licensees, including 2,345 psychologists and 19 psychologist associates. Of the psychologists, 1,975 were on active status (84.2%), 170 were on semi-active status (7.2%), and 200 were on inactive status (8.5%). Of the psychologist associates, 13 were on active status (68.4%), 5 were on semi-active status (26.3%), and one was on inactive status (5.3%). This represents an average overall growth of 3.2% per year over the past 10 years.



Applications Received- by Type by Year



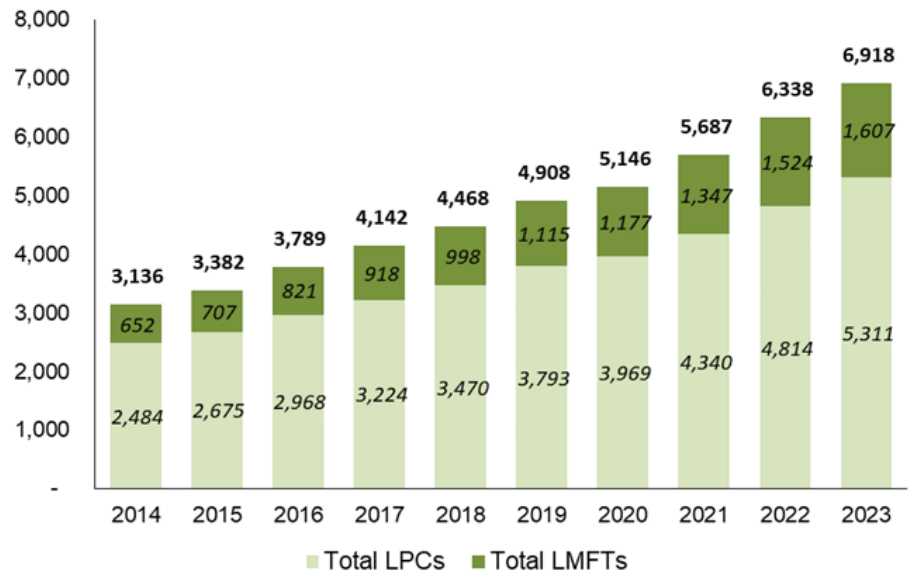
BOP received 209 licensure applications in 2023, a 5.4% decrease from the all-time high of 221 applications in 2022. The volume of applications has been growing by an average 2.7% per year over the past ten years. Out of the 1,782 total applications received in the past ten years, 1,000 (56%) were standard applications and 782 (44%) were endorsement applications (psychologists previously licensed in other states).

Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists

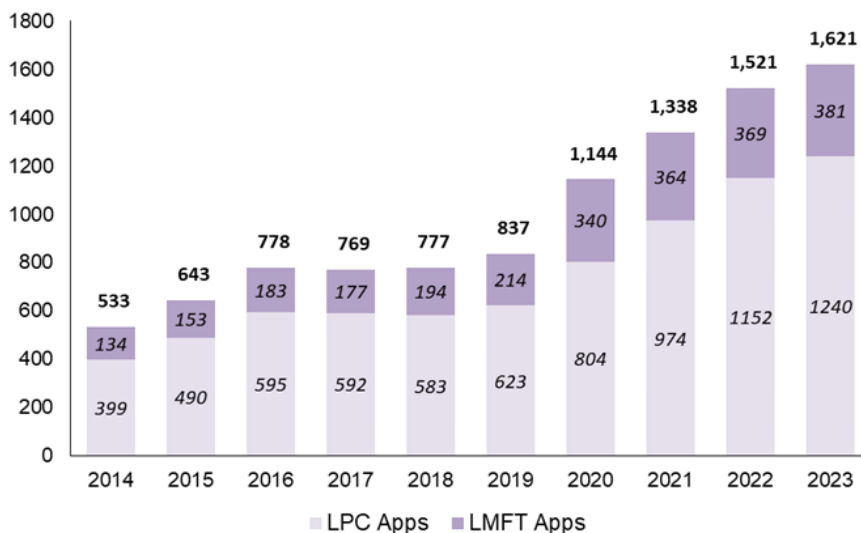
For BLPCT, the total volume of licenses at year end has grown by an average of 9.2% per year over the past decade. LPCs have grown at an average rate of 8.8% per year, and LMFTs at 10.6% per year.

The total number of licensed counselors and therapists in Oregon has more than doubled over the past ten years. At year-end 2023, there were 6,918 licensees, including 5,311 LPCs and 1,607 LMFTs. Of the LPCs, 5,107 were on active status (96.2%) and 204 were on inactive

Licensee Count at Year End- 10-Year History



Applications Received- by License Type by Year

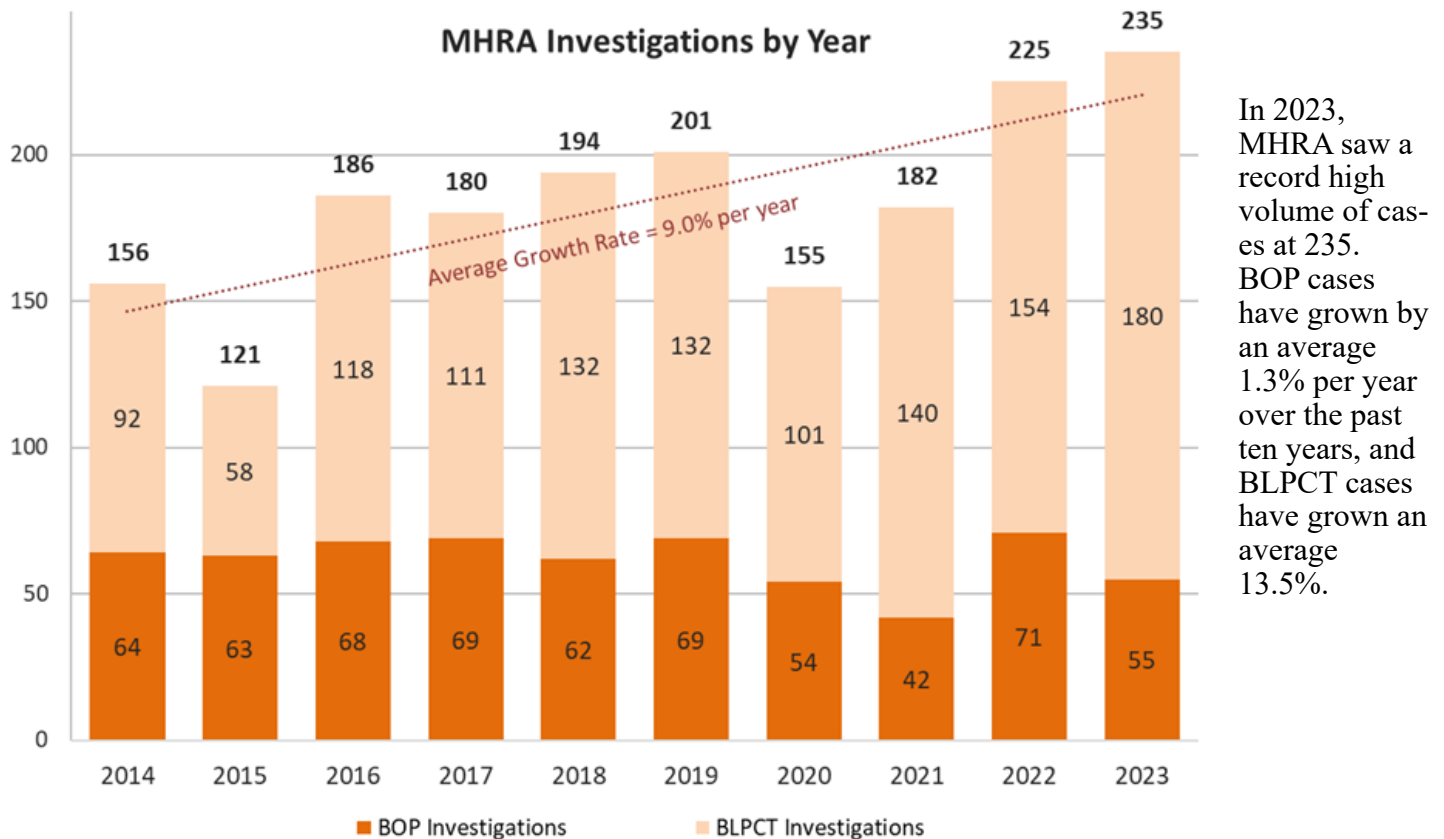


status (3.8%). Of the LMFTs, 1,525 were on active status (94.9%) and 82 were on inactive status (5.1%).

BLPCT received 1,621 licensure applications in 2023, an all-time high. The volume of applications received has more than tripled over the past decade, growing by an average 13.7% per year.

Compliance

The following graphic displays the volume of investigations received each year by the Boards.



Administrative Rulemaking

On November 8, 2023, the Board filed a Permanent Administrative Order for the following rule adoption (effective January 1, 2024):

Licensure by endorsement, post-doctoral supervised work experience, and fee reductions.

- Amend OAR 858-010-0017: Reduces the standards to become licensed by endorsement by eliminating the requirement for endorsement references and the file transfer from other state or credentialing body, removing the requirement for an EPPP score verification for psychologists licensed 15 years or more, and reducing the frequency and duration requirements for supervised clinical experience for those that have been licensed 5 years or more.
- Amend OAR 858-010-0036: Reduces the standards for supervised clinical experience that is completed out of state by removing the requirement that the supervisor was licensed for at least two years as a psychologist and only requiring 1,500 hours of supervised psychological work and supervision frequency specifications for those who have been licensed for fewer than 5 years in another state.
- Amend OAR 858-030-0005: Implements licensure fee reductions as approved in the Agency 2023-25 budget (House Bill 5024).

Please visit our [Administrative Rulemaking Webpage](#) for more information.

Important Reminders!

The new requirement for **2 credits of Suicide Risk Assessment, Treatment and Management** has begun. Licensees who renew on or after July 1, 2022 must report this training within each reporting period.

The [OHA Health Care Interpreter Registry](#) contains a listing of OHA **registered interpreters** and explains the qualifications and process to become an interpreter. Questions about the requirements of [ORS 413.559](#) or [OAR 333-002-0250](#), should be directed to [OHA](#). Ψ

Summary of 2023 Rulemaking

Board of Licensed Professional Counselors & Therapists - 2023 Rulemaking Actions

Description of Rulemaking	Action taken	Rule numbers
Amendments to the LPC and LMFT supervised clinical experience requirements for licensure. Filed: 2/24/23 Effective: 7/1/23	Amended	833-030-0021 833-040-0021 833-050-0071
Licensure applications, examination, and supervisor registry processes and requirements, cooperation with board investigations, and cleanup. Filed: 8/8/23 Effective: 8/8/23	Amended	833-020-0011 833-020-0061 833-020-0081 833-110-0011 833-120-0021 833-130-0040 833-130-0050
Limited permit, renewal processes and requirements, client records, fee reductions, alternative name, and cleanup. Filed: 10/9/23 Effective: 1/1/24	Adopted Amended	833-020-0102 833-020-0200 833-050-0031 833-050-0071 833-050-0091 833-050-0111 833-050-0131 833-050-0161 833-070-0011 833-075-0020 833-075-0060 833-075-0070 833-080-0011 833-080-0051 833-100-0011 833-100-0012 833-100-0021 833-110-0031

Board of Psychology - 2023 Rulemaking Actions

Description of Rulemaking	Action taken	Rule numbers
Oregon practice, foreign degree education, psychological records, investigations, communication and responsibility, alternative name, and cleanup. Filed: 9/11/23 Effective: 9/11/23	Repealed	858-010-0080
	Adopted	858-010-0003
	Amended	858-010-0005
		858-010-0010
		858-010-0013
		858-010-0034
		858-010-0060
		858-010-0061
Amended	858-020-0015	
	858-020-0035	
	858-020-0045	
	858-020-0105	
	858-020-0105	
Licensure by endorsement, post-doctoral supervised work experience, and fee reductions. Filed: 11/8/23 Effective: 1/1/24	Amended	858-010-0017
		858-010-0036
		858-030-0005

Enforcement Actions

During the period of time from October 10, 2023, to February 22, 2024, the Board took the following actions:

Jennifer Trivelli (Respondent) is not a licensee of the Board or any other mental or behavioral health regulatory authority in Oregon. Between approximately April 2018 and December 2021, Respondent provided paid services to Client A and Client B, a married couple. Initially, Respondent worked with Clients A and B as a “parenting coach” but she began to provide marital counseling to Clients A and B and also provided talk therapy to them on issues related to Client B’s transition to sobriety. Respondent described the work she was doing with Clients A and B as a “therapeutic process” and Respondent provided talk therapy to Clients A and B to address issues of anxiety, depression, trauma and substance abuse disorder. By approximately Fall 2019, Respondent began private sessions providing talk therapy to Client B about Client B’s substance abuse disorder. Respondent continued to provide talk therapy to Client B on this topic, and also issues in Client B’s marriage, until December 2021. Respondent’s conduct violated ORS 675.020(1), in that Respondent rendered consultation and therapy services to Clients A and B for the purpose of treating their behavioral or

emotional disorders. The investigation was closed by Default Order, effective January 12, 2024. Respondent was ordered to pay a \$10,000 civil penalty.

Wendela Marsh (Respondent) is not a licensee of the Board or any other mental or behavioral health regulatory authority in Oregon. Respondent owns a business which provides autism assessment services to the public and which is organized and registered in Oregon, with its principal place of business in Salem, Oregon. At least as early as March 2023, Respondent described herself on her websites “Dr.” Wendy and “Dr.” Marsh and advertised that she personally provided “diagnostic” services (including “testing,” letters, “comprehensive written reports” and follow up sessions “after diagnosis”) for a fee of \$5,000. Respondent described to the public that she conducted diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), demonstrating that she rendered and offered to render such services (“Why I Diagnose” and “Work with Dr. Marsh”), inviting prospective clients to contact her personally at an email which referred to Respondent as “Dr Wendy.” The website contains a YouTube video in which Respondent refers to herself as “Dr.” in the context of offering to assess, evaluate or diagnose prospective clients for autism. When

offered to render services included in the practice of psychology by rendering or offering services to diagnose or alleviate autism spectrum disorder. The investigation was closed by Default Order, effective January 12, 2024. Respondent was ordered to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty.

Morella Bombardini, Psy.D. (Applicant) submitted an application to the Board for a license to practice psychology in the State of Oregon. On her application, Applicant correctly answered “yes” to the question “Has any professional licensing authority refused to issue, refused to renew, or denied you a license, certification, or registration to practice a health care profession?” In the explanatory statement which accompanied her “yes” answer, Applicant reported: “Maryland board of psychology denied licensures based on answering question related to the timing that I was placed on probation. The Maryland board stated that I lied in my application, when in fact I disclosed all of the issues related to being on probation and how the charges from 1984 and 2018 interfered with my ability to work as a psychologist.” Applicant’s statement referred to her criminal convictions in California in 1984 and 2018. Applicant’s statement “I disclosed all of the issues related to being on probation and how the charges from 1984 and 2018 interfered with my ability to work as a psychologist” was not true. In fact, Applicant had failed to report her prior convictions to the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists when she applied, for which reason she was ultimately denied an application by that board. Applicant violated ORS 675.070 (2)(f), and OAR 858-010-0020(6) in that Applicant attempted to obtain a license by material misrepresentation and made a false, misleading or deceptive statement on the Board’s application. This investigation was closed by Default Order, effective January 12, 2024. Applicant’s application submitted on December 18, 2021 is denied.

John McManus, Ph.D. (Licensee) is licensed by the Board to practice psychology in the State of Oregon. Beginning in August 2021, Licensee began providing therapy services to Client, a high school aged female who experienced anxiety and depression. On May 17, 2022, Client discontinued services with Licensee because she could no longer afford psychotherapy. At some point during her work with Licensee, Client

reported to Licensee, at a minimum that her stepfather had left pornographic materials in her bedroom when she was approximately nine years old. IN August 2022, Client disclosed to her mother that her stepfather had been sexually abusing her for an extended period dating back to at least when Client was in junior high school. In September 2022, Client’s stepfather was arrested for multiple counts of sexual abuse based on his conduct toward Client; he was subsequently indicted on those charges. On May 11, 2023, the Board investigator notified Licensee that he was under investigation. During the course of the investigation, Licensee provided the investigator with documents he claimed were session notes from his work with Client, purportedly created contemporaneously or very close in time to his sessions with Client. During the Board investigation, Licensee reported to the investigator that he asked Client once if she was currently being abused and when she replied that she was not, Licensee did not further probe or revisit this topic with Client at a later date. Licensee did not recognize that a victim of sexual abuse might not be able to articulate it in a direct, matter-of-fact manner, and might need additional support to make a fuller statement of the abuse she had experienced or was experiencing. Licensee reported to the investigator that he determined that he did not have to report the abuse because he understood that psychologists were exempted from Oregon’s mandatory reporting law. Licensee did not report that he considered the question of whether Client would be harmed by his failure to disclose alleged abuse by her stepfather. On November 28, 2023, after the Board reviewed the evidence—including the purported session notes—and had issued the Notice, Licensee (through counsel) reported to the Board that the “session notes” he provided during the course of the investigation were not authentic. In particular, the notes had not existed prior to the Beginning of the Board’s investigation and Licensee wrote them (relying on his recollection of events) in order to respond to the investigation. Licensee acknowledged that he had not prepared session notes of any kind for his work with Client, although some other records existed of his neurological work with Client. Licensee admits creating documents from his best recollection that did not exist prior to the Board investigation, and neither admits nor denies to the remainder of the allegations, but the



Board finds violations of ORS 675.070(2)(d)(A), ES 10.08, ES 3.04, ES 2.01 and OAR 858-020-0045(5). Licensee surrendered his license and agreed not to apply for a period of five years.

Frank Colistro, Ed.D. (Licensee) is licensed by the Board to practice psychology in the State of Oregon. Licensee is currently experiencing a medical condition which has the potential to impair his ability to practice psychology safely and competently. The Board requires that licensees be able to practice competently and safely pursuant to its statutes, rules and Ethical Standards (ES's), as adopted by the Board, including ES 2.06 (b) which requires psychologists to determine whether they should limit, suspend or terminate their practice if they develop a medical issue which could interfere with practicing adequately. Licensee and the Board has closed this matter with a Stipulated Order dated January 12, 2024. Licensee agreed to transition to inactive licensure status. Before returning to active or semi-active status, Licensee will provide the Board with a report from his medical doctor indicating that he is able to practice psychology competently and safely. Ψ

Upcoming Events

March 2024

3/08: **Board Meeting**

3/15: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

April 2024

4/18: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting 4/19: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

4/19: OPA Townhall

May 2024

5/03: **Board Meeting**

5/17: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

5/27: Office Closed, Memorial Day

June 2024

6/19: Office Closed, Juneteenth

6/20: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting

6/21: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

July 2024

7/04: Office Closed, Independence Day

7/05: **Board Meeting**

7/19: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

August 2024

8/15: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting

8/16: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

September 2024

9/02: Office Closed, Labor Day

9/06: **Board Meeting**

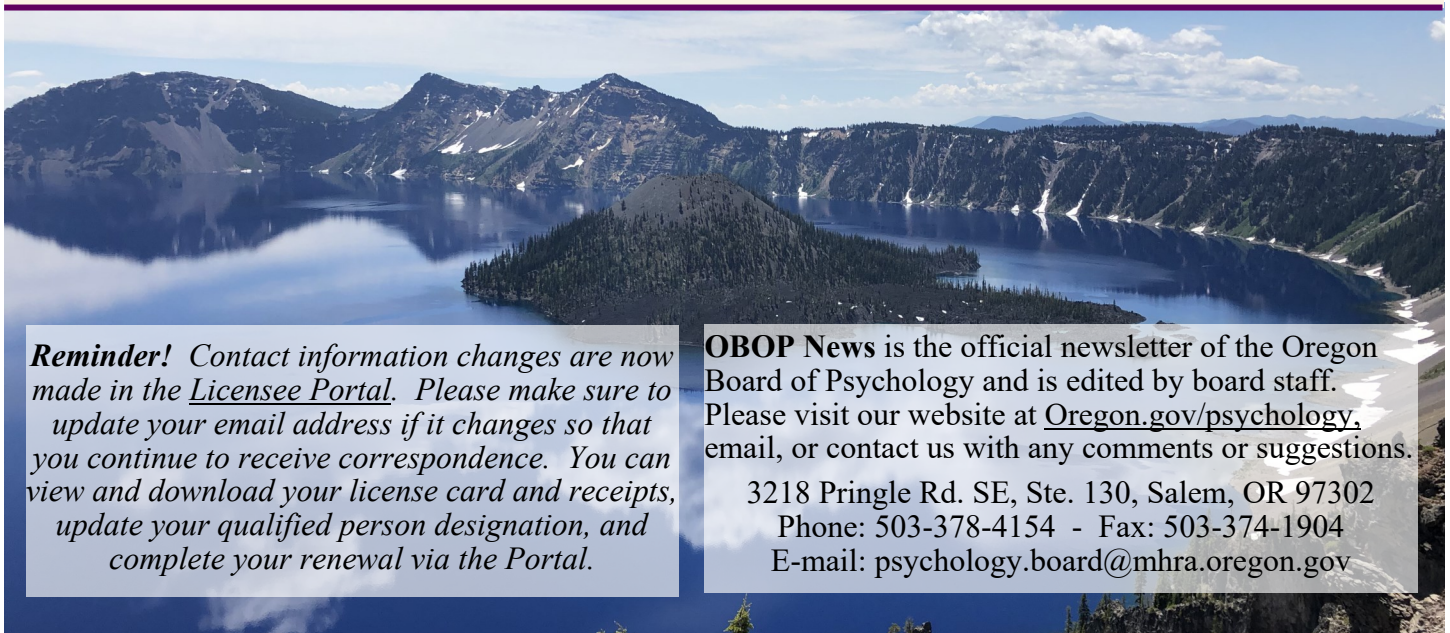
9/20: Education Committee Meeting

October 2024

10/17: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting

10/18: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

* *Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled.* Please also visit our [Board Meetings Webpage](#).



Reminder! Contact information changes are now made in the [Licensee Portal](#). Please make sure to update your email address if it changes so that you continue to receive correspondence. You can view and download your license card and receipts, update your qualified person designation, and complete your renewal via the Portal.

OBOP News is the official newsletter of the Oregon Board of Psychology and is edited by board staff. Please visit our website at Oregon.gov/psychology, email, or contact us with any comments or suggestions.

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