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Director's Update

Greetings everyone. I hope you are all surviving not only COVID-19, but also the Delta and the Omicron variants and the recent winter storms. Will we ever return to normal? Or, are we now existing in the new normal? I don't know, but I remain optimistic that 2022 will bring us back to the normal we all wish for. My wish for all of you who read this winter newsletter is to have a healthy 2022!

Here at the MHRA office we were gearing up to re-open our office after nearly two years of dealing with COVID. I sat in several virtual meetings with other Agency heads as the state was making plans to open on January 3, 2022. As these plans were being made, Omicron began to spread and Governor Brown, on December 21, held a news conference to announce that she was extending the state of emergency in Oregon via Executive Order 21-36, to remain in effect until June 30, 2022 unless earlier rescinded or extended. Executive Order 20-03 as we know was the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency due to COVID-19. So, we will patiently stay calm and carry on, until such time we get the nod to re-open.

Predictably, as COVID-19 surged, the mental health needs of Oregonians and citizens across the country increased dramatically. Here at our MHRA office we have been very busy. To be honest, licensing staff have been overwhelmed. We have been running on a treadmill that has been cranked up to full speed for months now. I do not know how you define COVID fatigue, but I would define it as job fatigue with the added dimensions that the pandemic brings. One could say that COVID fatigue is job fatigue on steroids. I know that you are all facing this challenge in your individual practices. During 2021 we saw a significant jump in the number of applicants for licensure. Both boards received a record high number of license applications. BOP grew by 16.1% and BLPCT grew by 17.0% from 2020. Not only are we facing significant growth, but we are facing challenges in the recruitment and retention of staff. If you own a business, I am sure you can relate to the challenges in the COVID world of trying to hire employees. My new year's wish is that we see an end to COVID and that we return to some form of normality. Please take a look at the stats article further back in this newsletter for a glimpse of how our Boards are growing. I thank all of you applicants, registered associates, residents, and licensees for your continued patience with Agency staff.

In this Issue

Director's Update.....	1-2
Enforcement Actions.....	2
2021 Year-End Stats.....	3-6
Administrative Rulemaking.....	6
Calendar & Reminders.....	7

Director's Update, Cont.

Presently, all Board member positions are filled; however, we need to begin building a pool of psychologist and public member applications. Later in 2022 we anticipate an opening for a psychologist member position, and in 2023 we anticipate an opening for a public member. Public members for Board positions are the most difficult to recruit, so it is never too early to start recruiting.

I have been told by former Board members that it is a very rewarding experience, so if anyone is considering serving as a Board member or if you know of someone that is interested in serving as a public member, please go onto the Governor's [Boards & Commissions webpage](#) and apply.

-Charles Hill, Executive Director, Mental Health Regulatory Agency

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



Enforcement Actions

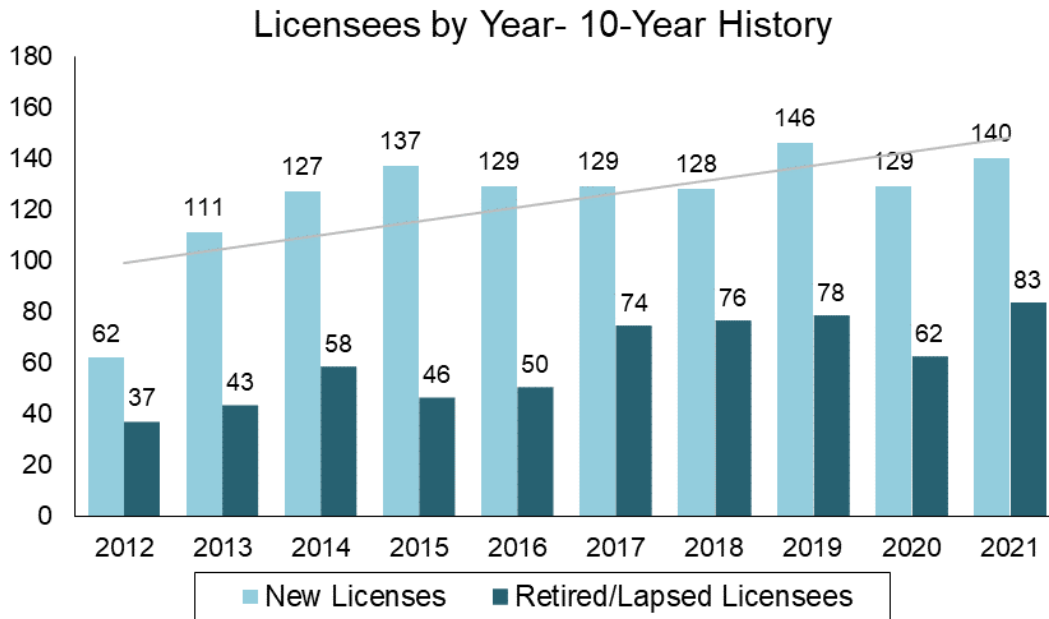
During the period of time from October 16, 2021, to January 11, 2022, the Board took the following actions:

Steven H. Cartery, Psy.D. (Licensee), **STIPULATED ORDER**, effective November 12, 2021. Licensee conducted an intake session with a married couple, Spouse A and Spouse B. Spouse B had requested marital therapy. Spouse A and Spouse B had significant conflict in their marriage. During the intake interview, Spouse B reported that Spouse A had lied, manipulated and twisted the truth, and that Spouse A had gotten other people to intimidate and beat Spouse B, and that Spouse A had stolen four years of Spouse B's social security and disability payments. Spouse A admitted the conduct Spouse B alleged and admitted a history of infidelity. During the intake session, Licensee advised the couple that marital therapy "has no chance of success" for them and that the odds that Spouse B achieving lasting change with respect to infidelity were "so low that attempting to assist him with that goal is impractical." Licensee closed the intake session by referring the couple to an attorney "for assistance in resolving the legal aspect of their relationship", concluding that "marital therapy is so unlikely to assist [the couple] that it would be unethical to attempt it." Licensee took no further action with respect to either Spouse A or Spouse B. Licensee neither admitted nor denied, but the Board found that Licensee violated ES 3.04 Avoiding Harm. Licensee was reprimanded, ordered to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty, and restricted from couples counseling practice as of the effective date of the Stipulated Order and until such time as the Board may agree in writing to remove such restriction.

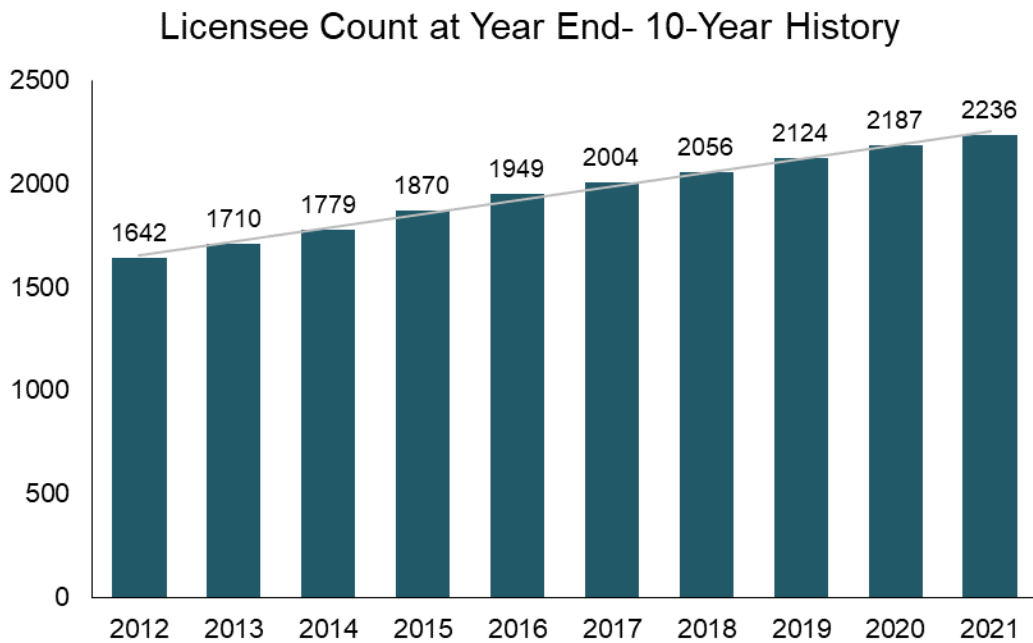
2021 Year-End Stats

Licensing

Board of Psychology

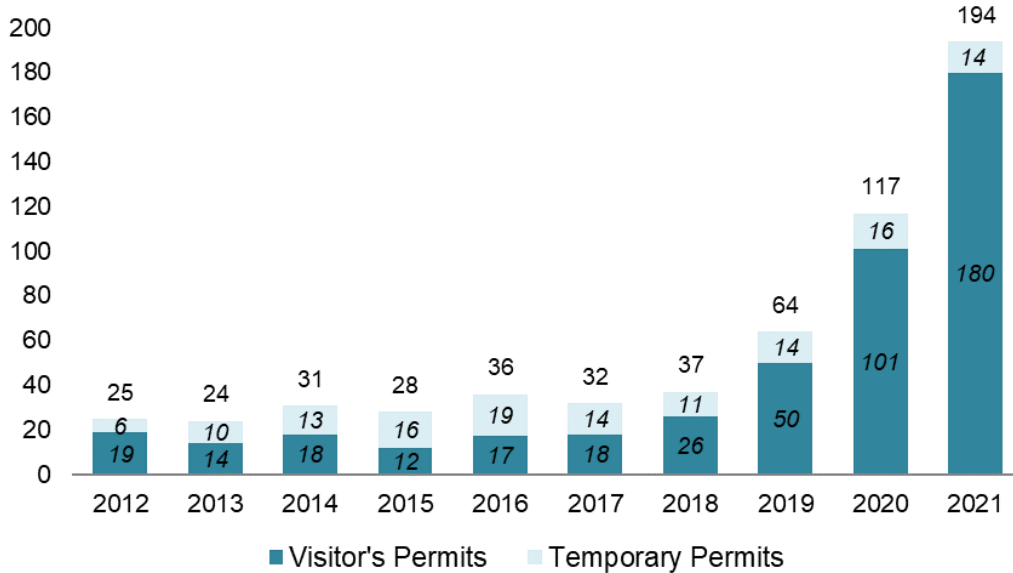


The number of new licenses issued per year grew an average of 11.7% per year over the past 10 years, from 2012 to 2021.



2021 Year-End Stats, cont.

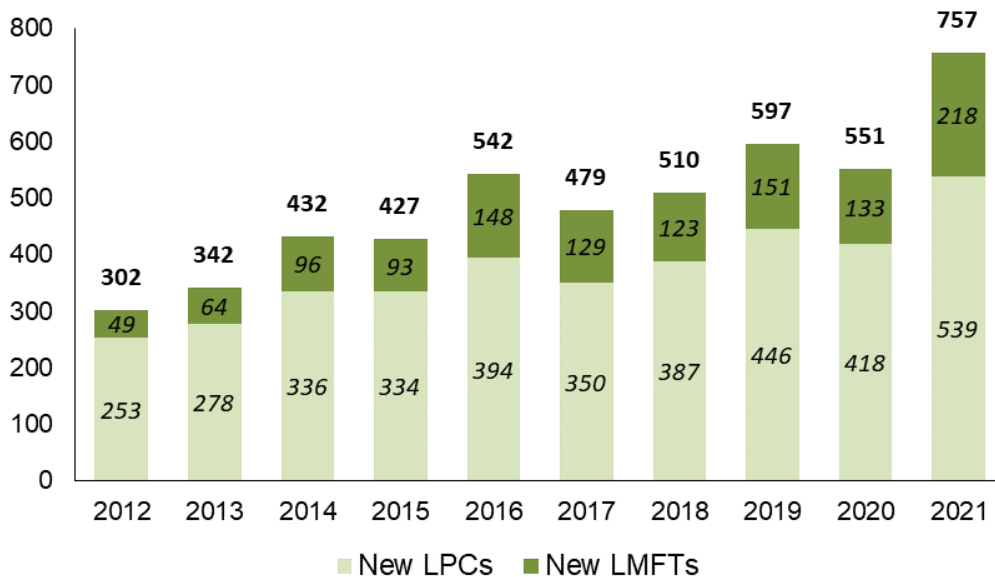
Limited Permits Issued- by Type by Year



The volume of visitor’s permits has increased sharply in the past few years. Limited permits overall grew an average of 11.6% per year over the past 10 years.

Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists

New Licensees by Year- 10-Year History

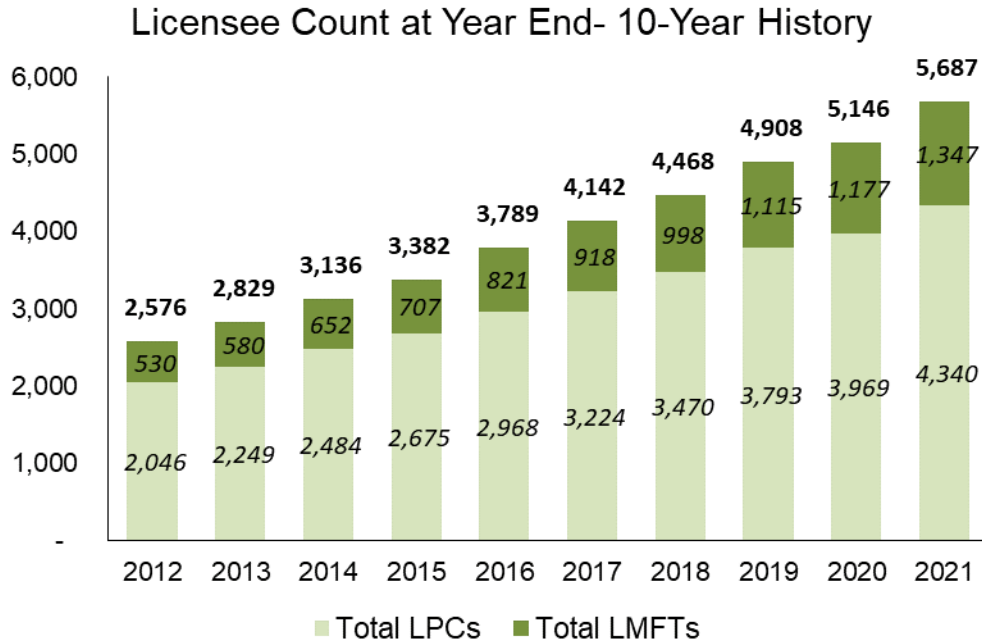


The number of new licenses issued per year grew an average of 11.9% per year over the past 10 years, from 2012 to 2021.

New LPCs grew at an average rate of 9.5% per year

New LMFTs grew at an average rate of 21.5% per year

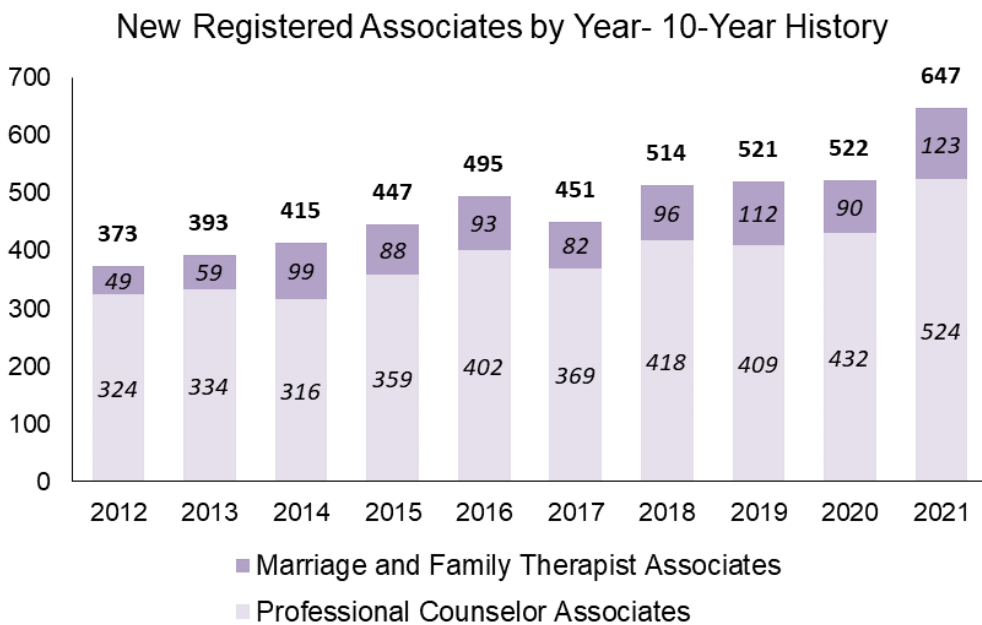
2021 Year-End Stats, cont.



The total number of licensed counselors and therapists in Oregon has more than doubled over the past ten years.

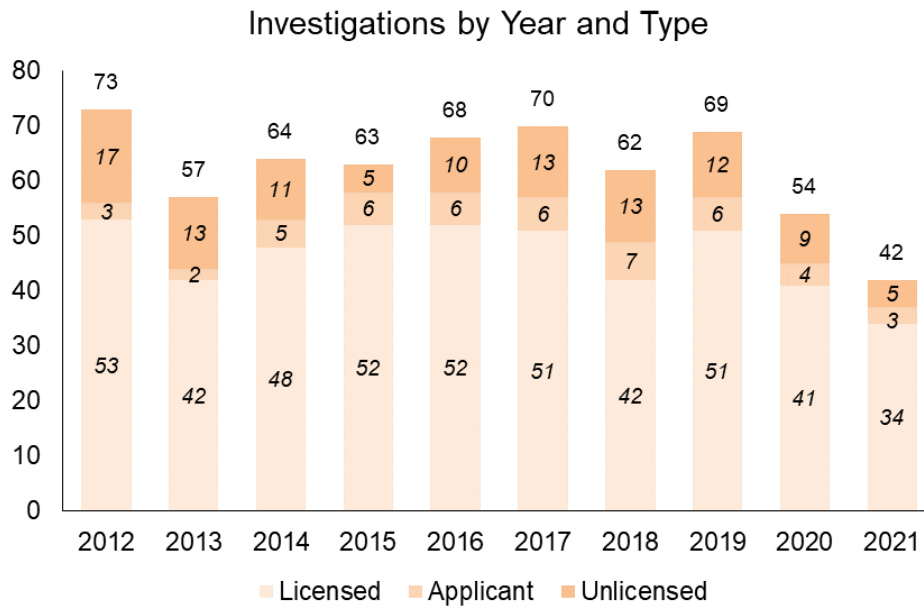
In 2012, there was approximately 1 LPC per 1,906 Oregonians. In 2021, this figure grew to approximately 1 LPC per 978 Oregonians.

In 2012, there was approximately 1 LMFT per 7,357 Oregonians. In 2021, this figure grew to approximately 1 LMFT per 3,152 Oregonians.



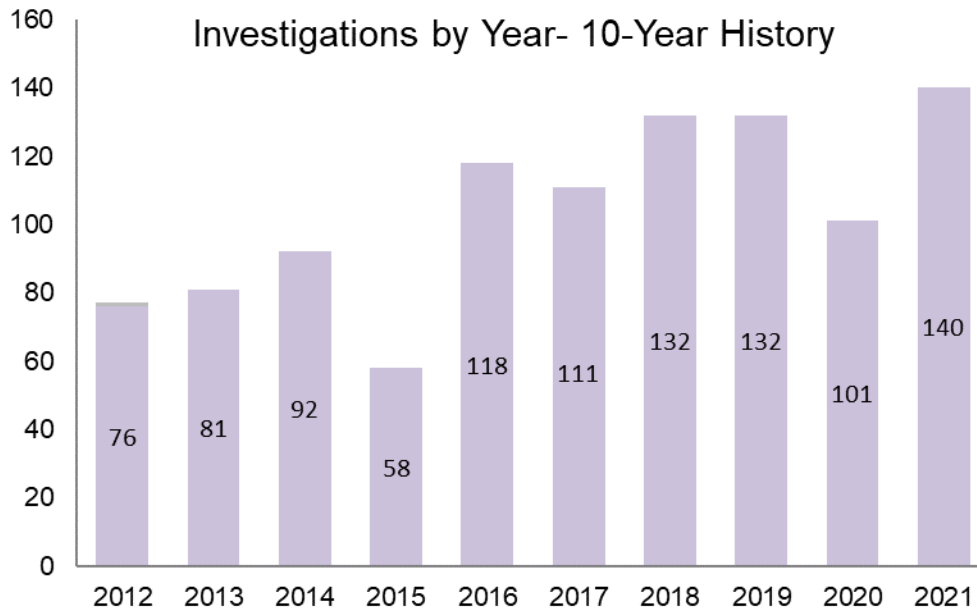
2021 Year-End Stats, cont.

Board of Psychology



The volume of investigations received by the Board has decreased at an average rate of 4.9% per year over the past ten years.

Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists



This figure has grown at an average rate of 12.8% per year over the past ten years.

Administrative Rulemaking

On November 15, 2021, the Board filed a Permanent Administrative Order for the following rule amendments (effective January 1, 2022):

Pain management and suicide risk continuing education requirements and failure to comply.

[House Bill 2078](#) (pain management) and [House Bill 2315](#) (suicide risk) passed during the 2021 Legislative Session, imposing new continuing education (CE) requirements on professional licensing board licensees, including the Board of Psychology.

Amend OAR 858-040-0015 & 858-040-0055: These amendments changed Board licensees' requirements for pain management CE and added a new requirement for licensees to complete CE dedicated to the topic of suicide risk assessment, treatment, and management.

Amend OAR 858-040-0070: This amendment clarified that licensees' failure to comply with CE requirements is considered unprofessional conduct.

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

Important Reminder! The new one-hour **Pain Management** requirement has begun. Licensees who renew on or after January 1, 2022 must report this training. Licensees may complete the free online [Pain Management Module](#) provided by the Oregon Pain Management Commission. Beginning July 1, 2022, licensees must complete 2 hours of **Suicide Risk Assessment, Treatment and Management** within each reporting period.

Upcoming Events

January

1/14: Board Meeting
1/17: Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/21: Education Committee Meeting

February

2/17: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
2/18: Education Committee Meeting
2/21: Office Closed for Presidents' Day

March

3/11: Board Meeting
3/18: Education Committee Meeting

April

4/15: Education Committee Meeting
4/21: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting

May

5/13: Board Meeting
5/20: Education Committee Meeting
5/30: Office Closed for Memorial Day

June

6/16: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
6/17: Education Committee Meeting

**Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled each*

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 biennial 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.

3218 Pringle Rd. SE, Ste. 120, Salem, OR 97302
Phone: 503-378-4154 - Fax: 503-374-1904
E-mail: psychology.board@mhra.oregon.gov