

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF HOMEOPATHIC
AND INTEGRATED MEDICINE EXAMINERS

STRATEGIC PLAN

FISCAL YEARS 2014 – 2019



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Arizona Board of Homeopathic and Integrated Medicine Examiners licenses M.D.'s and D.O.'s that have obtained additional post graduate education in therapeutic modalities of practice recognized and defined by Arizona law (*A.R.S. 32-2901 (22)*). In addition to the more commonly recognized therapies that include minor surgery and pharmaceutical medicine; a homeopathic physician may also treat their patients using complementary and alternative medicine to include acupuncture, chelation therapy, homeopathy, neuromuscular integration, nutrition, and orthomolecular therapy. Homeopathic physicians may also prescribe and dispense drugs and devices, including controlled substances.

In 2011, legislation was signed that approved the regulation of Homeopathic Doctors. The Board has initiated rulemaking that describes educational requirements, continuing education and an examination process for these new licensees. Licensure of Homeopathic Doctors will begin in January, 2015.

Patients that choose alternative medicine to address their health issues enjoy peace of mind knowing that they have access to medical providers that are regulated in a manner that ensures practitioners meet educational standards defined by law and that they may file a complaint with the Board when the homeopathic physician fails to act in a professional manner.

Arizona remains a leader in its recognition of complementary and alternative medicine. Laws creating a regulatory structure that enforce standards for homeopathic physicians and doctors relay a message to citizens that healthcare beyond the standard model takes place in a manner that promotes the public health and safety.

MISSION

To protect the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating the practice of homeopathic and integrated medicine.

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Board of Homeopathic and Integrated Medicine Examiners regulates the practice of homeopathic medicine in Arizona. Homeopathy is a form of alternative medicine in which the fundamental premise for treatment is the belief that diseases are cured by medicines, given in tiny doses, that create symptoms similar to those the patient is experiencing, triggering the body's natural immune reactions.

The Board reviews and examines the education, experience, and background of applicants to determine if they possess the qualifications required by law to practice homeopathic medicine and any of the subspecialties within the scope of practice. Licensees renew their licenses and dispensing permits annually and provide updated information about the nature of their practices. Upon receipt of complaints against licensed homeopathic physicians, the Board conducts investigations and holds hearings, taking disciplinary action as necessary to protect the public safety. The Board also registers homeopathic medical assistants that work under the supervision of licensed homeopathic physicians within Arizona.

Homeopathic medical assistants renew their registrations annually every December. Physician licenses are renewed every year on the initial month of licensure.

In 2011 the legislature expanded the Board's scope of regulation to include homeopathic doctors who will practice classical homeopathy and nutrition. They will be able to dispense homeopathic medications and nonprescription drugs. The first homeopathic doctors will be licensed in January, 2015.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Strategic Issue 1.

Implement Processes Necessary to License Prospective Homeopathic Doctors

Licensure of Homeopathic Doctors begins January, 2015. The Board is engaged in rulemaking that includes a crucial component setting forth educational standards for prospective applicants. In addition, an examination must be proscribed that will test the didactic knowledge of applicants for the license. The Board will coordinate educational and testing standards with the Accreditation Commission for Homeopathic Education in North America (ACHENA).

Goal

To ensure consistent educational standards for homeopathic doctors that will promote the public health and safety.

Strategy/Performance Measures

- By September, 2013 coordinate with ACHENA and approved homeopathic schools to ensure consistent training standards.
- By September, 2013 explore and determine the most effective strategy to test prospective licensees on the areas of knowledge that a homeopathic doctor must demonstrate for licensure.
- By June, 2014 complete rulemaking for homeopathic doctor licensing

Resources

There are available staff and/or volunteer resources to accomplish the strategic research necessary to promote interaction with ACHENA. The Board is exploring the possibility of requiring the use of an existing nationally recognized examination which will negate the expenditure of funds that would be necessary for the Board to create its own comprehensive examination.

Strategic Issue 2.

Seek Legislative Approval to Revise Fees To Support Board Operations

Fees are capped by statute and have remained unchanged since 1995. They are inadequate to fund Board operations. The two primary revenue producing fees have reached their statutory cap and will require legislative action to either increase the cap or devise a mechanism by which the Board can set forth the fee structure, but rely on rulemaking to set the actual amount of the fee. Furthermore, other fees should be added to address the administrative cost of enforcing the requirement.

Goal

To revise A.R.S. § 32-2914 that sets forth the fees that create revenues sufficient to support board operations.

Strategy/Performance Measures

- By April, 2014 obtain legislative approval to amend fees.
- By January, 2015 revise rules in the *Administrative Code* to include new fees related to continuing education review, re-examination costs, and the issuance of a new license.

Resources

The Board is taking a two-pronged approach to address this issue. Staff hours will be reduced to allow cash reserves to increase. The implementation of a new fee schedule would allow the Board to staff the office at a level sufficient to prepare for the implementation of the licensure program for homeopathic doctors in January, 2015. The Board recognizes that the reduced staff hours during rulemaking and other administrative processes necessary to prepare for the new licensure class will be challenging. However, other options are limited until cash revenues are built up to a level sufficient to adequately fund Board operations.

RESOURCE ASSUMPTIONS

Funding and FTE Summary

| Description | FY2013 Approved | FY2014 Estimate | FY2015 Estimate | FY2016 Estimate | FY2017 Estimate | FY2018 Estimate |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| FTE Positions | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other Appropriated Fund | 107.6 | 102.1 | 102.1 | 102.1 | 102.1 | 102.1 |