

2011 Annual Report
Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure
Preston P. Nunnelley, M.D., President

At a time when our country is seeing drastic changes being made to the health care system, the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure remains steadfast in its commitment to public protection and ensuring quality in the practice of medicine. Like most medical boards throughout our nation, the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure is facing these changes in a time of budgetary constraints and increased focus on the practice of medicine and the delivery of health care.

The Board's mandate continues to be the protection of the public's health, safety and welfare through proper licensing and disciplining of physicians and other allied health professionals. The Board places great emphasis on completing timely and fair investigations that result in appropriate action. In addition, the Board provides assistance and important guidance to physicians through the issuance of its opinions on a variety of health care issues.

For the first time, budget concerns played a big part in the Board's operations in 2010. The FY 2011 budget enacted by the General Assembly during the 2010 Special Session mandated that all state agencies reduce their operating costs by 1.5% for the current fiscal year. Although the Board does not receive any money from the state's General Fund, these cuts directly affected the Board. In addition, the Board's employees were included in the mandate that all state employees be furloughed without pay for six days throughout the year. While these constraints were placed on the Board, it did not deter it from continuing our efforts to increase its efficiency and streamline services to better serve the physician and allied health community along with the general public.

As part of the goal to increase efficiency and streamline services, the Board approved and instituted an important upgrade to its current database software. This upgrade has provided the Board with the ability to allow on-line renewals for all professions currently regulated by the Board. This new software also allows a new applicant for licensure the ability to check the status of their pending application online. The applicant is provided a user name and password by staff so that he/she can log on at any time to check on the items needed to complete their licensure file. This status is in real time and has proved to be very well received by applicants coming to Kentucky. In addition, the option to change a mailing or practice address has been added to the Board's website. Once an individual is issued a license/certificate, they have the ability to log on and change their address as well as phone numbers. It is a simple and easy way to streamline these processes and make it easier for physicians to interact with the Board. This process has also expedited licensure applications. We are pleased to advise that these improvements have been expanded to all individuals being regulated by the Board.

Of all the issues the Board deals with on a regular basis, combating prescription drug abuse continues to be on the forefront. The Board remains deeply concerned about this

growing problem in Kentucky and has placed an emphasis on finding a solution and has called on all physicians to become more diligent in their efforts in preventing the diversion of controlled substances for illegitimate purposes. We have continued to encourage all physicians who are prescribing controlled substances for pain treatment to sign up for an online KASPER account and incorporate the use of KASPER into their practice on a regular basis. The Board strongly supports the KASPER Program and has found it to be the best tool available for physicians to identify and prevent drug abuse.

The Board's Newsletter, which is issued on a quarterly basis, and website (www.kbml.ky.gov) continue to be the Board's most efficient tools to notify physicians of important information. The Board uses these resources as educational conduits to physicians and calls to their attention any changes in statutes, regulations or Board Opinions. A perfect example of how the Board uses the Newsletter is the countless number of articles we have published educating physicians about the KASPER Program. Our website provides physicians and the public with a direct link to the Kentucky Medical Practice Act, Administrative Regulations, and other information for physicians, physician assistants, athletic trainers, surgical assistants, and acupuncturists. Consumers can utilize the website to find out how to file a grievance and review the physician profile of any physician licensed in Kentucky.

In addition to the Board's role of licensing and investigating grievances against physicians and allied health professionals, the Board is also a strong supporter of the Kentucky Physicians Health Foundation. The Board contracts and provides funding to the Foundation in order to facilitate the prevention, identification, intervention and rehabilitation of Kentucky physicians who have, or who are at risk for developing, disorders that are associated with functional impairment or who are suffering from chemical dependency, mental health issues or behavioral problems. This valuable program has saved hundreds of medical careers over the years while ensuring that the public is protected through their monitoring activities.

The Board also strives to ensure that all licensed Kentucky physicians who maintain an active medical or osteopathic license obtain 60 hours of continuing medical education every three years. Thirty (30) of these hours must be in Category 1 CME, while the remaining 30 hours can be in Category 2 or may consist of non-supervised personal training activities. We are presently in our third year of the current three-year cycle. Physicians are randomly audited to track compliance. If a physician fails to meet this requirement, he or she receives a fine and are granted a six-month extension to complete the CME requirement.

This year, the Board welcomed two new members when Governor Beshear appointed Asim R. Piracha, M.D., of Louisville and Mr. John Brewer, of Stanton, citizen-at-large. Governor Beshear also reappointed Russell Travis, M.D., Lexington, and C. William Briscoe, M.D., Corbin, to serve another four-year term on the Board.

The Board continues to be active in carrying out its statutory responsibilities. Attached is an administrative report reflecting the number of meetings held by the Board and its various Committees, the number of licenses issued and renewed and a summary of disciplinary action

taken during the year. Also included is statistical data on physicians with active Kentucky medical and osteopathic licenses noting medical status, number of physicians practicing in each county, the various specialties practiced in the state and the types and sources of grievances filed against physicians licensed by the Board.

This is just a brief summary of some of the many activities the Board has been involved with over the past year. In conclusion, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the members of the Board and staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Serving on the Board is a true honor and one that I know that each member of the Board undertakes with great diligence. The Board takes great pride in its ability to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth and will continue to strive to protect the public and improve the quality of health care in Kentucky.

**Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure
Administrative Report
Fiscal Year 2011**

Meetings Held:	FY2011
Board of Medical Licensure	4
Inquiry/Hearing Panels	12
Physician Assistant Advisory Committee	4
State Council on Athletic Trainers	4
Surgical Assistant Advisory Committee	4
Acupuncture Advisory Committee	4

Licensure Activity for M.D.'s and D.O.'s

Renewals and Applications:	
Registered In State	*10,536
Registered Out of State	4,871
Applications Provided For Initial Licensure	1,166

New Licenses Issued:	
Medical Licenses	867
Osteopathic Licenses	89
Temporary Permits	455
Residency Training Licenses	240
Institutional Practice Limited Licenses	28
Fellowship Training Limited Licenses	18
Faculty Licenses	2

Licensure/Certification Activities for Allied Health Professionals

Physician Assistants	
Active	926
New	78

Athletic Trainers	
Active	449
New	79

Surgical Assistants	
Active	189
New	10

Acupuncturists	
Active	53
New	8

*Includes 543 retired physicians for FY2011.

**Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure
Board Action Report
Fiscal Year 2011**

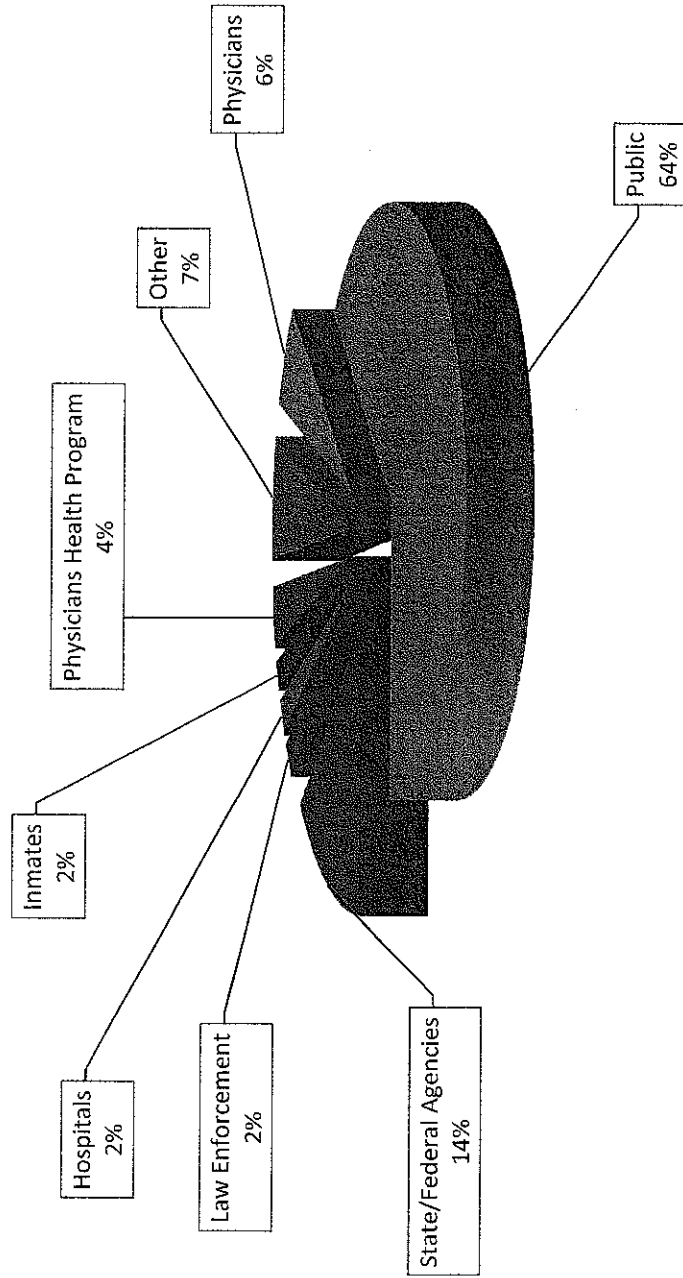
Disposition of Grievances

Grievances Received	240
Total Cases to Panel	178
Cases Investigated to Panel	112
Investigations Pending	57
Malpractice Cases Reviewed	45
Disciplinary Proceedings Authorized	54

Disciplinary Action Taken

Complaints Issued	12
Emergency Orders of Suspension	10
Emergency Orders of Restriction	0
Orders of Probation	1
Orders of Revocation	5
Orders of Suspension	1
Agreed Orders	27
Agreed Orders of Indefinite Restriction	9
Agreed Orders of Surrender	8
Agreed Orders of Probation	1
Agreed Orders of Revocation	0
Agreed Orders of Suspension	0
Agreed Orders of Fine	22
Agreed Orders of Retirement	3
Interim Agreed Orders	21
Orders Amended	28
Letters of Agreement	15
Letters of Admonishment	13
Letters of Concern	20

Source of Grievance
July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011
240 Grievances



Type of Grievance
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011
240 Grievances

