

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

MISSION STATEMENT

The Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners serves the State of Nevada by ensuring that only well-qualified, competent physicians, physician assistants, and respiratory therapists receive licenses to practice in Nevada. The Board responds with expediency to complaints against our licensees by conducting fair, complete investigations that result in appropriate action. In all Board activities, the Board will place the interests of the public before the interests of the medical profession and encourage public input and involvement to help educate the public as we improve the quality of medical practice in Nevada.

THE BOARD

The Board is the oldest occupational licensing board in the state, having just celebrated 110 years of service to the patients of Nevada. The Board is composed of nine members, six of whom are actively practicing physicians and three of whom are public members. By statute, all of the members of the Board must be selected without regard to their individual political beliefs. All members are appointed by the Governor for a period of four years, and may be removed by the Governor for good cause. Board members may be reappointed by the Governor to a second four-year term.

The Board has two Investigative Committees. Each Committee is composed of two physician Board members and one public Board member. The committees are charged with administering the disciplinary program of the Board.

The License Application and Malpractice Review Committee is composed of two physician Board members and one public Board member. The committee is charged with reviewing all license applications which contain information that touch upon the character, competence, knowledge, skill, or capabilities of the applicant and whether that applicant can safely serve Nevada's patients.

BOARD MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Charles N. Held, M.D., *President*

Dr. Held was appointed to the Board on April 1, 2004. He holds a medical degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He practiced Pulmonary Medicine in Reno for 21 years and currently practices Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Medicine in Gardnerville. Dr. Held has been on staff and served on committees in various northern Nevada hospitals. He is the current President of the Board and serves as Chairman of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees.

Benjamin J. Rodriguez, M.D., *Vice President*

Dr. Rodriguez was appointed to the Board on September 1, 2005. He has practiced Plastic Surgery in Las Vegas since 1995, and holds a medical degree from the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Dr. Rodriguez currently serves as Vice President of the Board, as a member of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees and is on the Board's Internal Affairs Committee. He has also served on the Board's License Application and Malpractice Review Committee.

Renee West, *Public Member, Secretary-Treasurer*

Ms. West is a public member of the Board, appointed to the Board on July 1, 2007. She is President and Chief Operating Officer of the Excalibur Hotel/Casino and is active in various civic and professional associations. Ms. West currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board and is a member of the Board's License Application and Malpractice Review Committee.

Sohail U. Anjum, M.D.

Dr. Anjum was appointed to the Board on July 1, 2001. He has practiced Cardiology in Las Vegas since 1978, and holds a medical degree from Nishtar Medical College in Pakistan. Dr. Anjum has served on numerous committees with various Las Vegas hospitals. He is currently the Chairman of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees. He was a past Vice President of the Board and past Chairman of the Board's Internal Affairs Committee.

Javaid Anwar, M.D.

Dr. Anwar was appointed to the Board on September 1, 2003. He has practiced Internal Medicine in Las Vegas since 1977, and holds a medical degree from Punjab University in Pakistan. Dr. Anwar has served on numerous boards and committees with various Las Vegas hospitals and health maintenance organizations. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board's License Application and Malpractice Review Committee. He was a past President of the Board and has also served on one of the Board's two Investigative Committees.

Jean Stoess, M.A., Public Member

Ms. Stoess is a public member of the Board, appointed to the Board on July 1, 2004. Ms. Stoess holds an M.A. from the University of Nevada, Reno, and has a background in public policy. She has served on the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the Regional Transportation Commission, the Washoe County Airport Authority and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Ms. Stoess currently serves as a member of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees and has served as a member of the Board's Internal Affairs Committee.

S. Daniel McBride, M.D.

Dr. McBride was appointed to the Board of September 1, 2005. He has practiced General Surgery in Las Vegas since 1981, and holds a medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. McBride currently serves as a member of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees and is on the Board's Internal Affairs Committee.

Van V. Heffner, *Public Member*

Mr. Heffner is a public member of the Board, appointed to the Board on July 18, 2008. He is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nevada Hotel & Lodging Association and President of Heffner & Associates, Inc. He was a former Commissioner for the Nevada Commission on Tourism and served three terms. He serves as a member of various other local and national organizations. Mr. Heffner currently serves as a member of one of the Board's two Investigative Committees and is a member of the Board's Internal Affairs Committee.

Beverly A. Neyland, M.D.

Dr. Neyland was appointed to the Board on September 1, 2008. She holds a medical degree from the Meharry Medical College in Nashville. Dr. Neyland practiced Pediatrics in Las Vegas for 20 years, and served as the Chief of Pediatrics at University Medical Center and Sunrise Hospital, before joining the faculty at the University of Nevada School of Medicine in Las Vegas. She is a Professor and Director of the Ambulatory Pediatrics curriculum at the University. She currently serves as a member of the Board's License Application and Malpractice Review Committee.

BOARD STAFF

Executive/Administrative Staff:

Louis Ling, J.D., Executive Director
Laurie L. Munson, Chief of Administration and Information Systems
Deborah E. Swartz, Finance and Accounting Manager
Helena J. Teeple, Administrative Assistant
Pamela C. Gabica, Administrative Assistant
Julie M. Espinoza, Credentialing and Consumer Assistance Specialist

Legal Division Staff:

Edward O. Cousineau, J.D., General Counsel
Lyn E. Beggs, J.D., General Counsel
Angelia L. Donohoe, Legal Assistant

Medical Reviewer:

Jerry C. Calvanese, M.D., Medical Reviewer

Licensing Staff:

Lynnette L. Daniels, Chief of Licensing
Carolyn H. Castleman, Deputy Chief of Licensing
Brett M. Canady, License Specialist
Rebecca L. Whitesel, License Specialist
Brandi M. Matt, License Specialist
Kristi L. Stewart, License Specialist
Florlinda C. Grabek, Licensing Support Specialist

Investigative Staff:

Douglas C. Cooper, Chief of Investigations
Pamela J. Castagnola, Deputy Chief of Investigations
Trent S. Hiatt, Investigator
Heather L. Higgins, Investigator
Shawna M. Rice, Compliance Officer/Investigator
Donald A. Andreas, Investigator
Monica C. Gustafson, Investigator
Johnna S. LaRue, Administrative Assistant

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2008

Change was the theme of many of the accomplishments for 2008:

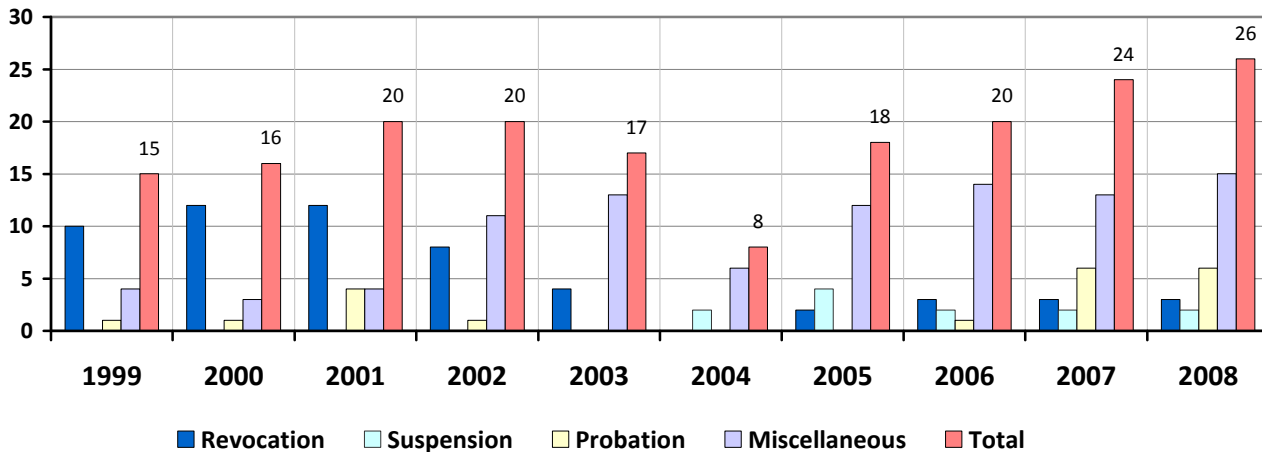
- ★ **Change of Executive Director** – In October 2008, Maj. Gen. Drennan “Tony” Clark retired as the Executive Director after five years of service in the post. The Board appointed Louis Ling to serve as the Executive Director. Prior to becoming the Board’s Executive Director, Mr. Ling had been the long-serving General Counsel to the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy.
- ★ **Website Redesign** – In order to better serve patients, complainants, the public, licensees, and applicants, the Board launched a completely redesigned website in the Spring of 2009. The new website (www.medboard.nv.gov) greatly improves the public’s access to information regarding Nevada’s physicians, physician assistants, and respiratory therapists. The Board also improved its online renewal process and hopes to improve upon its previous online renewal rate of 89% in the upcoming renewal cycle.
- ★ **Changes to Improve Timeliness of Licensing Process** – The Board and its staff studied its physician licensing process and put in place a set of administrative changes that has resulted in a timelier processing of physician licensing applications without sacrificing the high standards and scrutiny that are the hallmark of the Board’s licensing process.
- ★ **Bill to Make Changes to Improve Board’s Operations** – The Board undertook the first comprehensive review of all of its governing statutes in over twenty years. The Board studied its licensing statutes, its investigative and disciplinary statutes, and its administrative and fiscal governance. The product of all of the review is a sizable bill (SB 269) that is making its way through the Legislature at the time of the publishing of this Annual Report.

COMPLAINTS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND DISCIPLINE

The upward trend in complaints processed by the Board continued in 2008-2009. Remarkable this year was the intense public scrutiny focused on the Board’s investigative and disciplinary responses to several high profile matters in Las Vegas, including an investigation regarding patients who contracted hepatitis C at an endoscopy center that resulted in notification of over 40,000 patients. Such cases highlight the critical importance of the Board’s investigative and legal staff to vigorously and promptly investigate cases implicating the public health and then to create accountability for the practitioners involved.

In 2008, the Board opened 641 new investigations, closed 680 investigations (many of which, of course, originated in preceding years), and imposed disciplinary action in 27 matters. The following graph shows the number and types of discipline imposed by the Board regarding physicians for the last ten years. As the graph shows, the Board has been increasing the quantity of discipline imposed for the last four years, a trend the Board hopes to continue for years to come.

Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Medical Doctors



Note: Miscellaneous actions include: License Restriction, Public Reprimand, Licensure Denial, CME Ordered, Drug or Alcohol Treatment Program Ordered, and Competency Exam Ordered

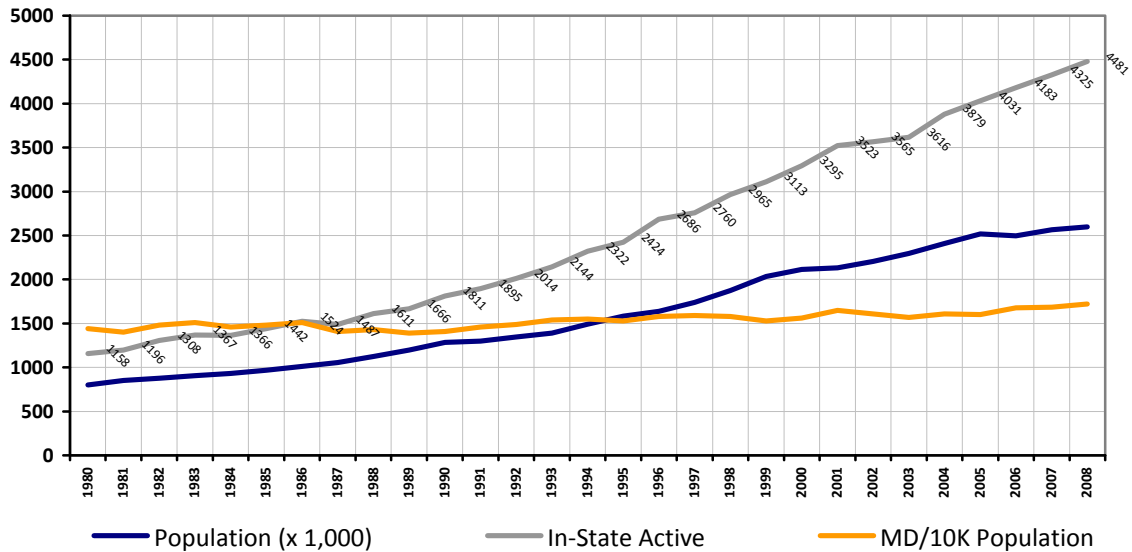
LICENSING

The Board licenses physicians, physician assistants, and respiratory therapists. In 2008, the Board issued the following new licenses:

Practice	
Physicians	494
Physician Assistants	62
Respiratory Therapists	134

The year 2008 saw a third year in a row in which the ratio of physicians to 100,000 population increased, a positive trend the Board hopes will continue for years to come. The following graph shows the growth of the State's population (measured in thousands so that the trend line will fit on the graphs), the growth in the State's active in-state physician population (in absolute numbers), and the ratio of physicians to population (measured as physician per 10,000 population to keep the trend line on the graph). The graph shows that from 1980 through 1992, the ratio of physicians to 100,000 population was relatively static, staying between 140 and 149 physicians per 100,000 population throughout these years. Starting in 1993 through 2005, the ratio moved up to the next range, staying between 153 to 161 physicians per 100,000 population through this period. Beginning in 2006, the ratio has steadily climbed from 168 to 169 and then (in 2008) 172 physicians per 100,000 population.

Comparison of Population With In-State Active Physicians



The growth in physician licensure in 2008 was 3.6% over 2007. The following table is a county-by-county breakdown of physician licenses for the last ten years. Notable on the table is the stasis in all of the state's rural counties, with only Clark, Washoe, Carson City and Douglas counties showing significant growth in their physician populations.

Physician Licensure Counts (1999-2008)

County	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Carson City	115	127	125	137	141	141	141	144	140	142
Churchill	25	22	21	21	24	25	24	22	21	23
Clark	2023	2153	2314	2321	2366	2578	2729	2850	2949	3066
Douglas	57	63	67	72	74	82	79	82	93	97
Elko	43	48	50	48	41	41	42	41	41	46
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1
Humboldt	9	8	7	6	7	6	6	7	9	9
Lander	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Lincoln	3	4	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	2
Lyon	6	7	10	14	15	12	11	13	13	11
Mineral	5	5	5	6	4	6	6	5	6	5
Nye	15	18	18	21	22	23	20	18	19	17
Pershing	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Storey	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Washoe	797	824	889	879	903	944	952	981	1017	1056
White Pine	10	10	9	11	11	12	12	12	11	8
In-State Active	3113	3295	3523	3546	3616	3879	4031	4183	4325	4481
Out-of-State Active	800	963	824	991	956	1206	1076	1388	1309	1655
TOTAL ACTIVE	3913	4258	4347	4537	4572	5085	5107	5571	5634	6136
Inactive & Retired	1099	1084	1033	1010	902	898	833	834	776	760
TOTAL LICENSED (All Statuses)	5012	5342	5380	5547	5474	5983	5940	6405	6410	6896

The number of physician assistants grew by a sizable 12% in 2008. The locale of physician assistants trends similarly to the locale of physicians statewide, as is shown on the following table. Again, the only counties showing growth in the number of physician assistants are Clark, Washoe, Carson City, and Douglas counties.

Physician Assistant Licensure Counts (1999-2008)

County	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Carson City	7	9	11	11	9	9	12	14	15	15
Churchill	2	2	3	3	5	6	5	3	6	7
Clark	118	116	129	153	173	215	230	262	271	307
Douglas	1	2	4	4	6	4	8	10	15	15
Elko	6	6	6	7	3	3	3	7	7	6
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Humboldt	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lander	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	2
Lyon	4	4	2	1	1	4	4	4	2	4
Mineral	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Nye	6	8	6	8	5	7	10	10	6	10
Pershing	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storey	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Washoe	26	25	28	30	41	48	61	71	76	83
White Pine	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL ACTIVE	174	176	194	223	248	302	339	389	407	455

Regarding respiratory therapists, 2008 saw a sizable increase in licensees of over 11% (adding a total of 101 new licensees), with most of the growth focused in Clark County.

Respiratory Therapist Licensure Counts (2001-2008)

County	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Carson City	11	14	10	11	9	10	9	10
Churchill	5	4	8	9	8	9	8	8
Clark	399	449	491	557	557	640	655	743
Douglas	12	19	13	13	12	14	16	18
Elko	6	6	5	5	7	10	7	7
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt	4	10	5	6	3	3	5	5
Lander	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Lincoln	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lyon	10	16	18	19	19	19	19	20
Mineral	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Nye	7	15	7	10	11	10	11	8
Pershing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storey	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Washoe	122	154	152	163	151	153	154	163
White Pine	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	2
TOTAL ACTIVE	587	748	719	803	787	878	892	993

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions or comments regarding this Annual Report should be directed to:

Louis Ling
Executive Director
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
1105 Terminal Way #301
Reno, Nevada 89502
(775) 688-2559 x 245
Fax: (775) 688-2321
lling@medboard.nv.gov