



Composite State Board of Medical Examiners



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2006

Visit us on the web at www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

Letter from the Executive Director

During the past year, the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners (CSBME) made great strides toward our goal of enhancing efficiency and providing world-class customer service that is faster, friendlier, and easier. CSBME stepped to the forefront in volunteering to be a pilot agency in the Governor's customer service initiative, and has already implemented many customer service-oriented improvements that will move our agency closer to you, our customer. Meanwhile, CSBME continued to capture efficiencies through the smart use of technology, preparing the way for a system that will allow health care practitioners to apply for their initial licenses on the worldwide web, and boosting our web renewal rate during the physician renewal cycle to 95.9 percent. Your medical board was even recognized by Public Citizen, which ranked the Georgia Medical Board's website sixth in the nation in terms of the availability and usefulness of public information about the state's physicians.

This report illustrates CSBME's role in protecting the health and safety of Georgia's health care consumers, as well as some notable achievements during the past year. I hope you find this report informative and useful.

LaSharn Hughes, MBA
Executive Director, Composite State Board of Medical Examiners

The CSBME Mission: Protecting Georgians

Our mission statement – “To protect the health of Georgians through the proper licensing of physicians and certain other members of the healing arts, and through the objective enforcement of the Medical Practice Act” – is a constant reminder of our purpose.

The Board fulfills its mission through three core activities:

- Licensing qualified health practitioners.
- Enforcing rigorous quality and ethical standards in the practice of health care.
- Providing Georgia's health care consumers with information that enables them to make wise choices.

On the cover: The members of the Georgia Medical Board, June 2006.

Back row from left: Ted Perry, MD; W. Alan Woolery, DO, Ph.D.; Roland S. Summers, MD; Kathleen Kinlaw; John Grant Lewis, MD; Roger Hill, DO; Eddie R. Cheeks, MD.

Front row from left: Grace Davis, MD; Joseph C. Finley, MD; M. Vinayak Kamath, MD; T. Wayne Bloodworth, MD; Carolanne Redfean, PA-C.

The Board

CSBME is an independent executive agency charged with the licensing and regulation of physicians, physician's assistants (PA), respiratory care professionals (RCP), acupuncturists, clinical perfusionists, physician residents in training (residents), orthotists, and prosthetists.

The Board itself is comprised of thirteen members, of whom twelve are practicing physicians and one is a consumer, appointed by the Governor. The Board also includes an ex-officio adviser who is a practicing physician's assistant. The PA, acupuncturist, RCP, perfusionists, and orthotist & prosthetist committees each include other volunteers from the professions they regulate. These committee members, like the Board members themselves, are unpaid volunteers who give their time and effort to the people of Georgia in order to protect your health and medical safety.

Your Board is a microcosm of modern Georgia. Its members hail from every region of the state, and their backgrounds reflect the rich diversity that makes our state a vibrant and growing one. Each member has a successful career that he or she sets aside for over twenty hours every month to serve Georgians.

The members of the Board are:

Joseph C. Finley, Sr., M.D.

President
Alpharetta

M. Vinayak Kamath, M.D.

Immediate Past President
Augusta

Grace V. Davis, M.D.

Past President
Sylvester

Roland S. Summers, M.D.

Past President
Savannah

Ted Perry, M.D.

White

William Roundtree, M.D.

Columbus

T. Wayne Bloodworth, M.D.

Vice President
Alpharetta

Eddie R. Cheeks, M.D.

Past President
Augusta

Wm. Alan Woolery, D.O., Ph.D.

Past President
Warner Robins

John Grant Lewis., M.D.

Rome

Jean Sumner, M.D.

Wrightsville

Kathleen Kinlaw

Consumer Member
Decatur

Carolanne Redfearn, PA

Ex-Officio Member
Thomasville

Licensing

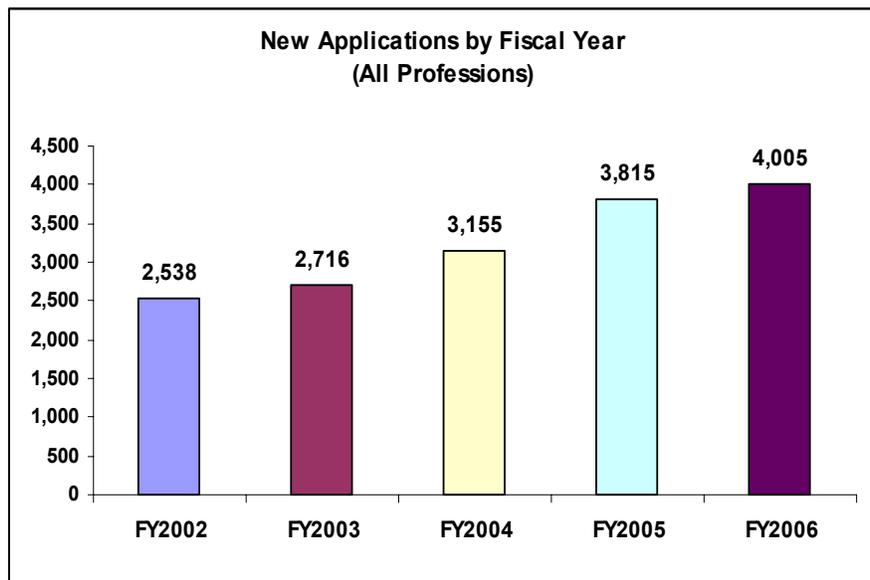
Profession	Active Licenses	New Licenses issued in FY06
Physician	27,126	1,661
Resp. Care Professional	4,362	390
Physician's Assistant	2,581	270
Resident	1,545	551
Acupuncturist	160	27
Perfusionist	116	16
Orthotist / Prosthetist*	52	52
ALL LICENSES	35,942	2,967

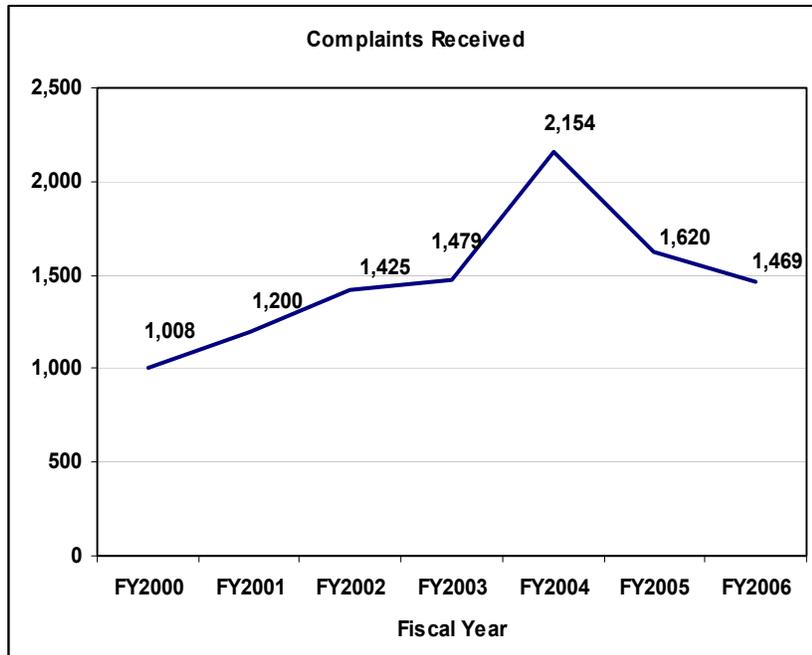
Through the licensure process, CSBME ensures that physicians and other CSBME-regulated professionals meet the standards of education, training, and professional conduct necessary to serve Georgia patients effectively and safely. Applicants for licensure must submit documentation of their professional education and training, details of their work history, and proof of their clinical knowledge as demonstrated by rigorous subject-based examinations. Additionally, applicants are required to reveal any information about their medical history that could affect their ability to practice, as well as any arrests, convictions, and actions taken against them by other licensing boards. Every two years, licensees must renew their licenses in order to continue to practice. The renewal process allows CSBME to ensure that each licensee continues to meet current training, continuing education, and professional conduct standards.

Active licenses by profession on November 30, 2006. Orthotist / Prosthetist includes Orthotist, Prosthetist, and Orthotist & Prosthetist licenses.

CSBME regulates and licenses thirteen professions with a combined total of 35,942 actively licensed practitioners. During FY 2006, CSBME began regulating and licensing the professions of orthotics and prosthetics for the first time in Georgia. As of November 30, 2006, 52 professionals had received their licenses as orthotists and/or prosthetists.

During FY 2006, CSBME received 4,005 applications for new licenses, an increase of 5 percent over FY 2005 and 26.9 percent over FY 2004.





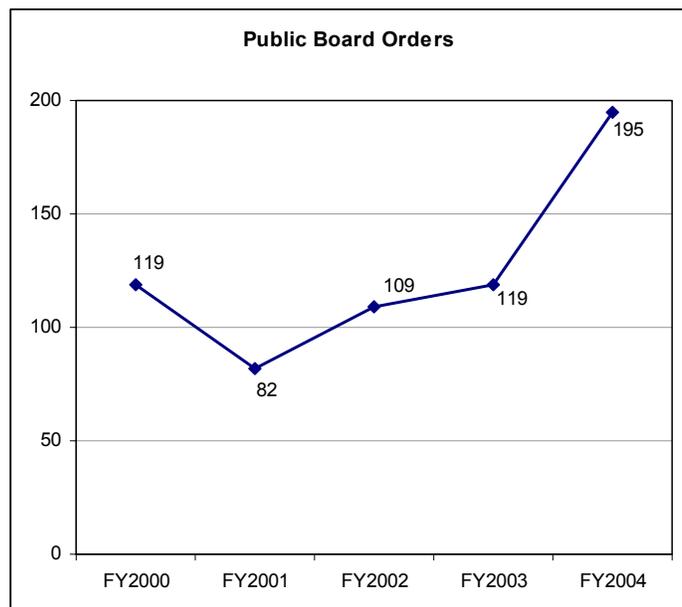
Enforcement & Investigations

The Board's responsibility extends beyond the licensing of physicians and other practitioners of the healing arts. CSBME is also responsible for regulating the practice of the healing arts through Georgia's Medical Practice Act and its companion laws, the Physician's Assistant Act, the Respiratory Care Practices Act, the Acupuncture Act of Georgia, the Clinical Perfusionist Licensure Act, and the Orthotics and Prosthetics Practice Act. The Board devotes much of its time to this serious duty, investigating complaints from consumers and reviewing malpractice settlements and

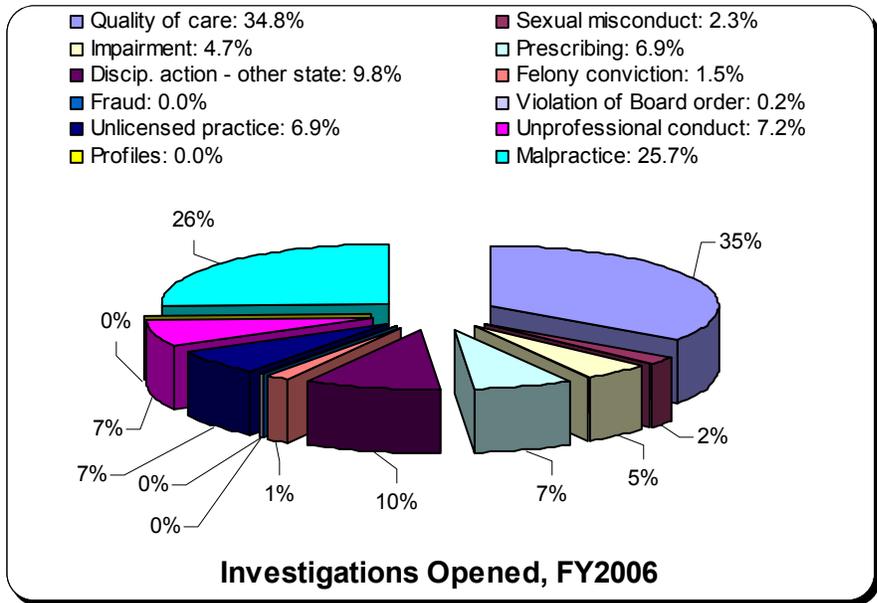
judgments, as well as information from hospitals, other state medical boards, and organizations such as the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

CSBME provides a variety of avenues for ensuring that its licensees are practicing ethically and professionally within the guidelines of the law. The CSBME website, www.medicalboard.georgia.gov, publishes the laws and rules practitioners must follow, and includes information and forms for filing complaints about illegal, unethical, or unprofessional practice. The Board regularly receives information from the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), a clearinghouse for state medical board actions, as well as from malpractice insurers, other governmental agencies, and its own investigators. CSBME also publishes newsletters and coordinates its efforts with professional associations to educate practitioners about how to avoid the kinds of actions that could result in Board discipline. These measures are in place to help the Board guard against unprofessional conduct and protect the safety of Georgia health care consumers.

Once a complaint is received, CSBME staff members research the particulars of the allegation. This could include gathering information from medical records, malpractice settlements, statements from the respondent and complainant, and other sources. This information is then forwarded to the Board, which, through its Investigative Committee, evaluates the complaint and presents its recommendation to the full Board. The Board then decides upon the appropriate action to take, or it could return the case to the staff for further investigation or order a peer review of the complaint. Board actions can range from closing the case with no further action, issuing a letter of concern, ordering various practice restrictions and/or fines, and sanctioning the practitioner's license. License revocation is the most severe sanction.

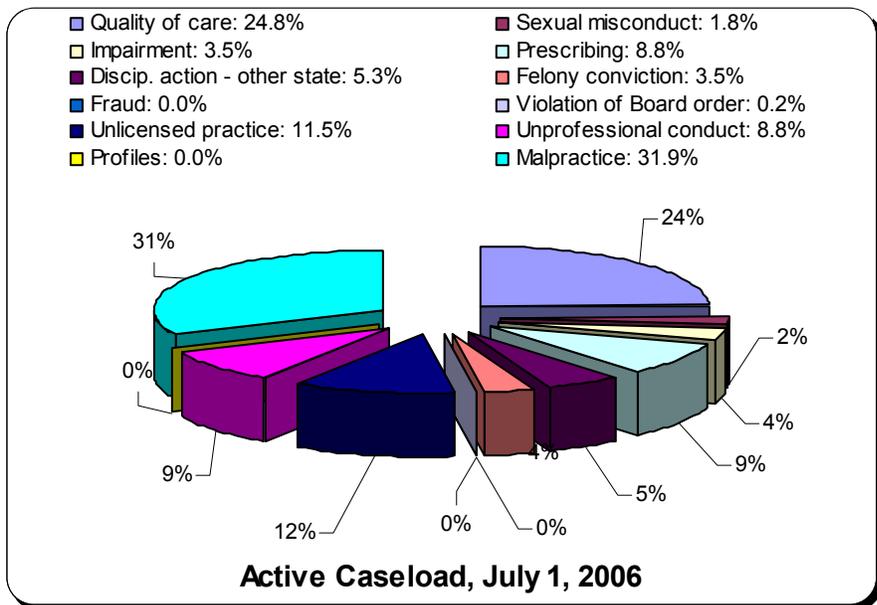


In FY 2006, CSBME received 1,469 complaints against its licensees, a decrease of 9.3 percent over the preceding year, and of 31.8 percent over the peak year of FY 2004. During FY 2006, the Board took 133 public disciplinary actions, ranging from fines, orders for additional medical training or education, and up to license revocation. After thorough evaluation and review, 1,335 cases were either addressed with remedies other than public discipline or involved matters outside the Board's jurisdiction.



When CSBME receives a complaint against a licensee or alleged unlicensed practitioner, it accords the practitioner the rights of due process. One of the pillars of due process is the presumption of innocence. CSBME Investigations, a certified law enforcement unit, helps the Board ensure that disciplinary actions are taken only after thorough investigation of the allegations.

During FY 2006, CSBME received 886 allegations that were referred for investigation. Of these, malpractice and quality of care cases accounted for 25.7 and 34.8 percent of the total intake, respectively.



CSBME agents completed 861 investigations during the year, and at year-end, there were a total of 113 active investigations. Of these active cases, over 75 percent had been received in the preceding thirty days – an impressive timeliness rate that represents a significant improvement in our already impressive timeliness statistics.

In FY 2006, the Board implemented a new probation compliance function in order to more adequately monitor compliance with the conditions the Board

imposed in its consent orders. The results from the first year exceeded CSBME's high expectations, as the compliance manager logged nearly 900 contact hours with over 260 licensees in the compliance caseload.

Our Staff

Our people are at the heart of our accomplishments. CSBME is fortunate to have dedicated, competent personnel who take their jobs – and our mission – seriously. Every day, these men and women perform the tasks that enable CSBME to protect the health of Georgians through our licensing and enforcement activities. They include:

LaSharn Hughes, MBA
Executive Director

Jeffrey D. Lane, M.S.
Director of Investigations

Whenda P. James, Esq.
Legal Services Officer

Surender Kumar, M.D.
Medical Consultant

Robert Sessions, M.D.
Medical Consultant

Phyllis White
Operations Analyst

Idrisa Smith
Licensing Manager

Rosemary Cantelli
PA Licensure

Teri Raven
*RCP, Acupuncture, Perfusion, and
Orthotist/Prosthetist Licensure*

Karen Smith
Enforcement Unit Supervisor

Tosha Giles
Enforcement Unit

Steve Wills
Medical Board Agent, Senior

Lem Roberts
Medical Board Agent, Senior

Nancy Teele
Paralegal

Carol Dorsey
Information and Referral Specialist

Jim H. McNatt, M.D., MBA
Medical Director

Robert Jeffery
Director of Operations

Diane Atkinson
Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director

Peter Ciejek, M.D.
Medical Consultant

Jeriste Dorsey
Financial Administrator

Tommy Kelly
Systems Administrator

Deborah Bruce
Physician Licensure

Lynette Riddle
Physician Licensure

Gladys Henderson
Physician Licensure

Sharon Cloud
Enforcement Unit

Shonda Roberts
Enforcement Unit

Adrienne Baker
Medical Board Agent, Principal

Charles Kingsland
Medical Board Agent, Senior

Emmalie Kirkland
Medical Board Agent, Senior

Stephanie Cleary
Medical Board Agent

Elizabeth Beavers
Compliance Manager

FY 2006 Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue:

Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriation	\$ 2,135,705
Application, Renewal, and other License Fees	\$ 4,656,838
Fines	\$ 88,050
Other Income	\$ 166,559

Total Revenues **\$ 7,046,552**

Expenditures:

Personal Services	\$ 1,749,276
Regular Operating	\$ 136,401
Travel	\$ 29,241
Equipment	\$ 8,038
Computer Charges	\$ 185,810
Rent	\$ 40,000
Telecommunications	\$ 37,611
Per Diem, Fees	\$ 62,252
Contracts	\$ 53,875

Total Expenditures **\$ 2,302,504**

Net Contribution to State Treasury: **\$ 5,695,359**