

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: January 13, 2015
ATTENTION: Members, Enforcement Committee
SUBJECT: Third Party Review of Disciplinary Action
Demographic Data
STAFF CONTACT: Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Executive Director

REQUESTED ACTION:

After review and consideration of the information, make a motion to request the California Research Bureau to review and analyze the Medical Board of California's (Board's) disciplinary action demographic data and issue a report on their findings.

BACKGROUND:

At the October 2014 Enforcement Committee and Quarterly Board Meetings, the Members directed staff to research potential third party organizations that could analyze the data presented related to disciplinary action demographics. It was suggested that board staff contact the Office of Health Equity and other appropriate third party organizations that have the ability to conduct a third party review of the Board's data and present their findings.

Board staff contacted the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), where the Office of Health Equity (OHE) resides. It was explained to Board staff that this type of review of data from another state agency related to health care professionals is not really in line with the mission and charge of OHE. OHE's focus is on the communities in California (patients) and OHE is charged with achieving the highest level of health and mental health for all people in California; working collaboratively with the Health in All Policies Task Force to promote work to prevent injury and illness through improved social and environmental factors that promote health and mental health; increasing access to culturally and linguistically competent health and mental health care services; and improving the health status of all populations and places, with a priority on eliminating health and mental health disparities and inequities. OHE is looking at public health issues from a community perspective, and then making recommendations for policy changes to the Director of CDPH.

Board staff then contacted the California Research Bureau (CRB). The CRB provides nonpartisan research services to the Governor and his staff, to both houses of the Legislature, and to other elected State officials. The CRB is a central services agency and, as such, they generally do not charge clients for their services. These services include preparation of reports and memoranda on current policy issues, which might cover topics such as the history of the issue, experiences and proposals in other states, case studies and examples, data analysis, and development of legislative proposals. A state government agency only has to request CRB's services in writing to initiate the data analysis project. Board staff has worked with CRB in the past and they have published reports for the Board. In addition, staff has contacted CRB and they are interested in performing a data analysis review of the Board's disciplinary demographic data and publishing a report on their findings.