

# **MARYLAND BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS**

## **ANNUAL REPORT – 2015**

*This report covers the activities of the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for the period ending December 31, 2015*

The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists functions under Health Occupations Article, Title 17, Annotated Code of Maryland. The State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) is the licensure and certification authority of alcohol and drug counselors, art therapists, behavior analysts, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors in the State of Maryland. The Board is mandated to regulate the practice of professional counseling, therapy, and behavior analysis in Maryland by licensing and certifying qualified counselors, therapists, and behavior analysts by promulgating regulations for the practice of professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, art therapy, alcohol and drug counseling, and behavior analysis, verifying credentials, issuing licenses and certificates, establishing requirements for and verifying completion of continuing education hours, investigating complaints based on alleged violations of regulations and statutes, formal and informal disciplining of licensees and certificate holders, establishing committees as deemed appropriate to advise the Board, and submit an annual report to the Governor and Secretary.

### **Mission**

The Mission of the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists is to protect the citizens of Maryland and to promote high quality health care in the field of professional counseling, alcohol and drug counseling, marriage and family therapy, art therapy and behavior analysis.

### **Meetings**

During the year, the Board held 10 formal meetings and committee meetings.

### **Board Members**

The Board consists of 13 members: four licensed clinical professional counselors, three licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselors, three licensed clinical marriage and family therapists, one licensed clinical professional art therapist, and two consumer members.

#### **Board Members**

#### **Term**

Carol A. Deel, LCMFT, LCPC, Chair	June 30, 2017
Susan Tangires, LCPC, LCADC, Vice Chair	June 30, 2017
Candice Richardson Dickens, LCPC, LCADC, Secretary	June 30, 2018
Amanda Bechtel, LCPC, LCPAT	June 30, 2016
Linda Allen-Benton, LCMFT	June 30, 2017
Sara Carlton, Consumer Member	June 30, 2016
Anna DeJong, LCPC, LCADC	June 30, 2018
Risa Ganel, LCMFT	June 30, 2018
Lorraine G. Garcia, LCPC	June 30, 2017

## Board Members

## Term

Meena Gupta, Consumer Member	June 30, 2017
Elizabeth Hlavek, LCPAT	June 30, 2016
Marcia L. Mityga, LCADC	June 30, 2017
Ronald Narain, LCADC	June 30, 2017

## Committees

1. Credentials: Ms. Lorraine Garcia, Chair; Ms. Anna DeJong; Ms. Risa Ganel; and Mr. Ronald Narain, and Ms. Candice Richardson Dickens
2. Ethics: Ms. Elizabeth Hlavek, Chair; Ms. Susan Tangires; Ms. Linda Allen-Benton; and Ms. Meena Gupta; and Ms. Sara Carlton
3. Regulations/Legislation: Dr. Carol A. Deel, Chairperson and Ms. Marcia Mityga

## Staff

Tracey DeShields, Executive Director  
Ari S. Elbaum, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel  
Anna Sullivan, Licensing Administrator  
Janice Isaac, Licensing Coordinator  
Sandra Boxley, Office Secretary  
Tawana Brown, Office Secretary  
Edward Fox, Board Investigator  
Swagata Pramanik, Programmer Data Analyst

## Finances

The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists is special funded. Revenues, which support the Board's operations, are generated through licensing and certification fees. No other State funds can be used to support the Board's operations.

The Board generated \$644,150 in revenues in 2014 and its expenditures totaled \$694,103.

## Complaints

The Board received 80 complaints in 2015. The number of investigations conducted during the year was 37. The Board issued 8 formal disciplinary actions. All public disciplinary orders can be found on the Board's website at [www.dhmh.maryland.gov/bopc](http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/bopc).

## Legislation

### **HB805 - State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists - Examination of Applicants, Licensees, Certificate Holders, and Trainees - *Passed* (Chapter Number 457)**

This bill authorizes the Board to require a mental health or physical examination by a health care practitioner if, while reviewing an application for licensure, certification, or trainee status or investigating an allegation against a licensee, certificate holder, or trainee, the Board finds reasonable evidence that the individual may cause harm to a person. In return for the privilege to practice counseling and therapy in the State, an applicant, licensee, or certificate holder is deemed to have consented to an examination and waived any claim to the examination report or testimony (which is confidential except for contested case proceedings) of the health care practitioner who examines the individual. The same applies to trainees who practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling in the State without a license or certification. The failure or refusal of an applicant, a licensee, a certificate holder, or a trainee to submit to a competency examination is sufficient evidence of the individual's inability to practice competently unless the board finds the failure or refusal was beyond the individual's control.

### **SB575 – Health Occupations - Alcohol and Drug Counselors - Qualifications and Practice Limitations – *Passed* (Chapter Number 368)**

This bill alters the qualifications individuals are required to meet to be licensed to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling, to qualify to practice as a licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselor under supervision for a limited period of time, to qualify as a certified associate counselor-alcohol and drug, or to qualify as a certified supervised counselor-alcohol and drug counselor.

### **SB157 - Consultation, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Mental and Emotional Disorders - Consent by Minors- *Passed* (Chapter Number 327)**

This bill establishes that a minor 16 years or older has the same capacity as an adult to consent to consultation, diagnosis, and treatment of a mental or emotional disorder by a health care provider. This capacity to consent does not extend to the capacity to refuse consultation, diagnosis, or treatment for which a parent, guardian, or custodian of the minor has given consent. The bill defines “health care provider” as an individual licensed under the Health Occupations Article and acting within the scope of the individual's license to diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders. This bill also authorizes a health care provider, or a member of a hospital medical staff or public clinic on the direction or advice of a health care provider, to give a minor's parent, guardian, or custodian, or the parent's spouse, information about treatment the minor needs or received, without the consent of or over the express objection of a minor. If a health care provider is on a treatment team for a minor that is headed by a physician, the physician must decide whether the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian, or the parent's spouse, should receive information about the minor's needed treatment.

## **Regulations**

10.58.07: Alcohol and Drug Counselors—Requirements for Certification and Licensure

Regulation .03A, D amended

Regulation .04 amended

Regulation .05 amended

Regulation .06 amended

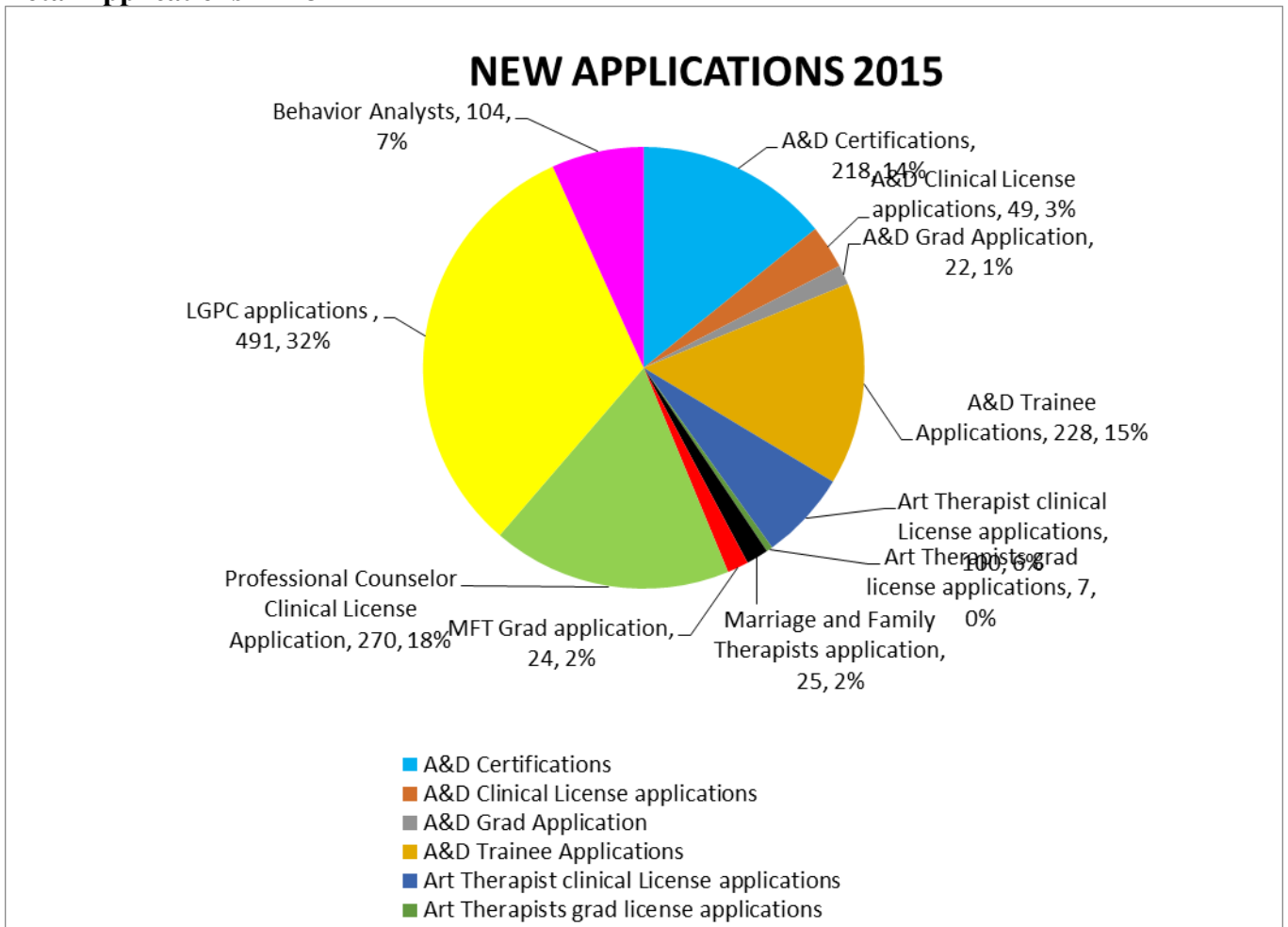
Regulation .07 amended

10.58.02: Fees - Regulation .02 amended

## NEW APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Alcohol and Drug Certifications	218
Alcohol and Drug Clinical Licenses	49
Alcohol and Drug Graduate Licenses	22
Alcohol and Drug Trainees	228
<b>Total A &amp; D Application</b>	<b>517</b>
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Clinical Marriage and Family Therapy	25
Graduate Marriage and Family Therapy	24
<b>Total MFT Application</b>	<b>49</b>
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Clinical Professional Counselor License	270
Graduate Professional Counselor License	491
<b>Total New Applications</b>	<b>761</b>
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Licensed Clinical Art Therapists	100
Graduate Licensed Clinical Art Therapists	7
<b>Total New Applications</b>	<b>107</b>

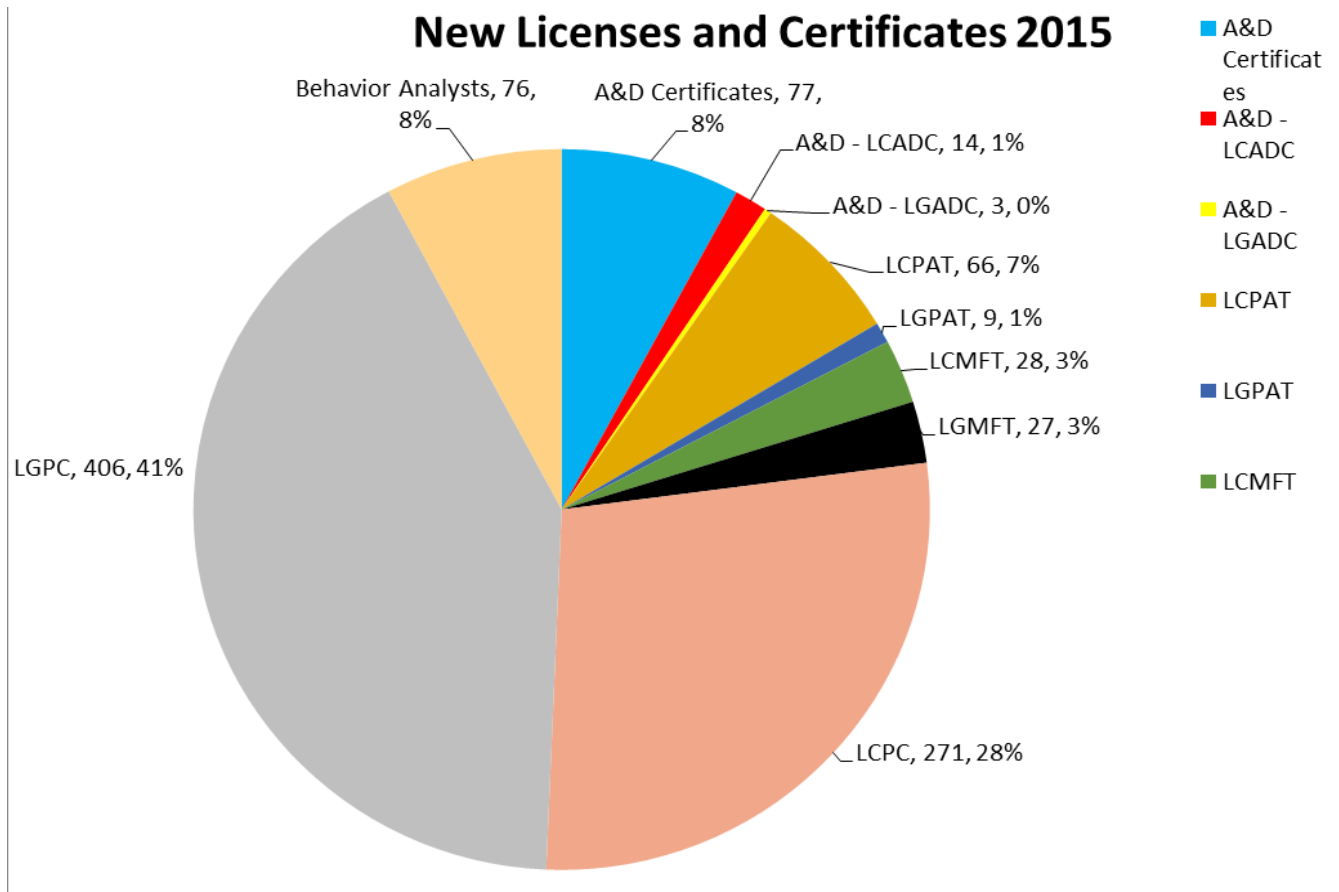
**Total Applications = 1434**



**NEW LICENSEES AND CERTIFICATES**

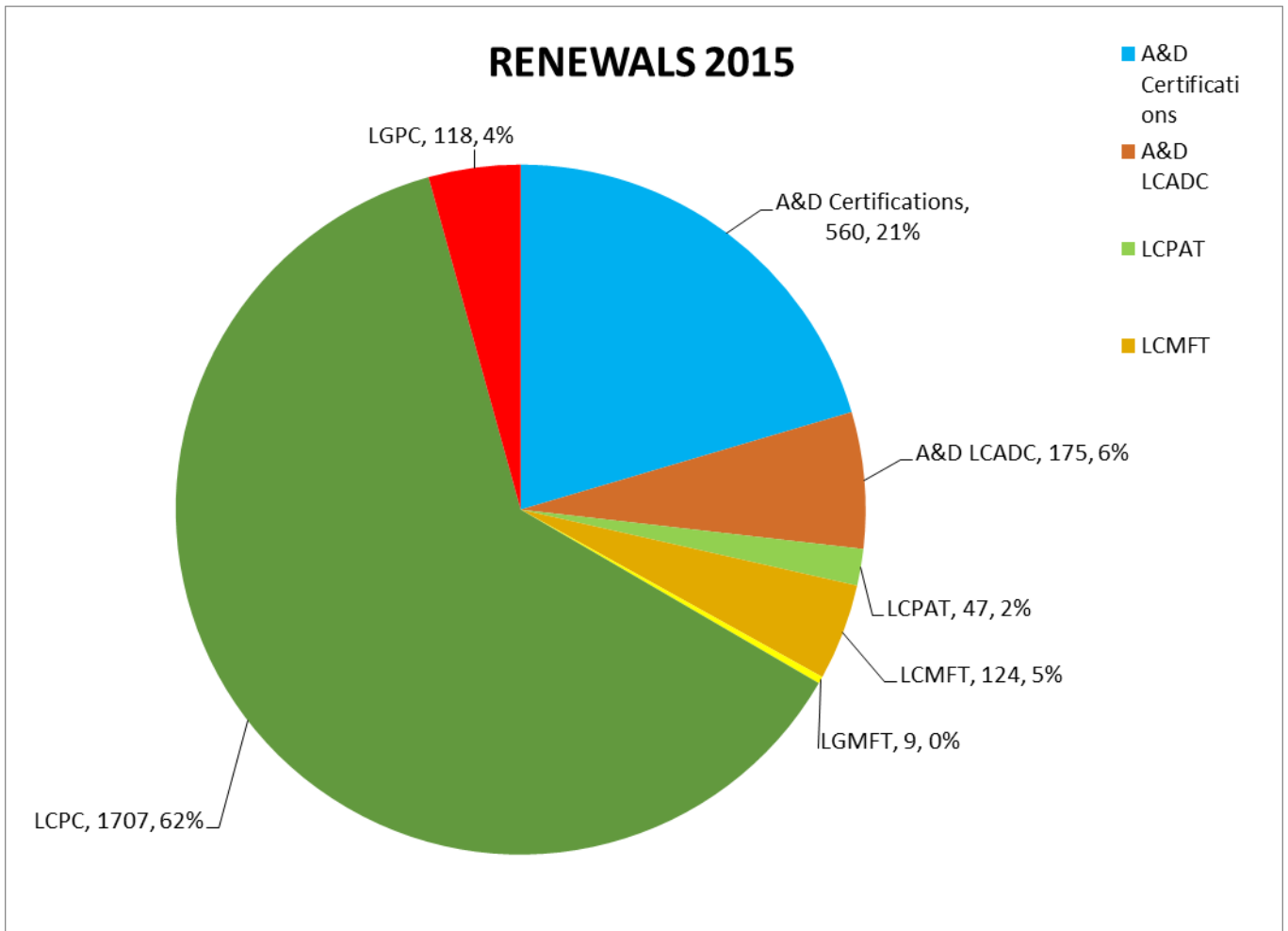
A&D Certificates	77
LCADC	14
LGADC	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>
LCMFT	28
LGMFT	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>
LCPC	271
LGPC	406
<b>Total</b>	<b>677</b>
LCPAT	66
LGPAT	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>
LBA	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>76 (*beginning of initial licensure)</b>

**Total of New Licenses and Certificates = 736**



## RENEWALS

Alcohol and Drug	735
Art Therapist	47
Marriage and Family Therapists	133
Professional Counselor	1825
<b>Total Renewals</b>	<b>2740</b>



## REINSTATEMENTS

Alcohol and Drug	45
Art Therapists	3
Marriage and Family Therapists	4
Professional Counselors	34
<b>Total Reinstatements</b>	<b>86</b>

