

**Agency:** 303 Department of Health  
**Decision Package Code/Title:** N8 MQAC Discipline Enhancement  
**Budget Period:** 2015-17  
**Budget Level:** PL-Performance Level

**Recommendation Summary Text:**

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission (MQAC) requests additional spending authority from the Health Professions Account for the purpose of adding professional level discipline staff and addressing growing discipline costs related to expert witness and prosecution functions. This request also provides funding for anticipated increased research and investigative tasks related to medical marijuana authorization and complaints. Funding this proposal will not result in any fee increases.

**Fiscal Detail**

<b>Operating Expenditures</b>			<b><u>FY 2016</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2017</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
	02G-1	Hlth Professions Acct	545,000	535,000	1,080,000
<b>Total Cost</b>			<b>545,000</b>	<b>535,000</b>	<b>1,080,000</b>
<b>Staffing</b>			<b><u>FY 2016</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2017</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Avg</u></b>
	<b>FTEs</b>		<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>

**Package Description:**

MQAC is facing a spending authority and performance shortfall due to increasing discipline workload and increased litigation by respondents. Additionally, recruitment and retention issues are evident due to increasingly favorable market conditions for clinically trained staff. We are also looking at succession planning as numerous staff retirements will be taking place over the next three years.

MQAC relies on clinically trained investigators to deal with standard of care investigations. MQAC anticipates additional research and investigative tasks related to medical marijuana issues with the normalization of marijuana in Washington. The commission anticipates increased interest in medical marijuana authorization business models to generate increased workload related to advertising and standard of care. Based on current and anticipated workload, the commission requests the addition of one Health Care Investigator 3 to the investigations unit.

MQAC is requesting to add two Hearings Examiners 3 to supplement its work in case disposition. The reasoning for this is two-fold. First, we currently are not meeting performance targets with current staffing levels. Current open cases over timelines in case disposition, where the Hearings Examiner 3s do their work, fluctuate between 30 and 40 percent of open cases being over timelines. The goal in this measure is to have a low percentage of cases over timelines. The target for this performance measure is 23 percent of open cases over timelines. The addition of these two HE3s will allow the Commission to meet and exceed the 23 percent target. Second, this is a proactive attempt to mitigate any performance drop, as 80 percent of MQAC hearings examiners will retire in the next three years. Past experience shows that a minimum of twelve months is required to properly train a staff attorney for Medical Commission work.

In addition to increasing MQAC disciplinary staffing, we also need to ensure that we have sufficient spending authority to cover the costs of prosecutions and expert witnesses.

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 Program Contact: Medical Quality Assurance Commission, Micah Matthews, (360) 236-2834

**Narrative Justification and Impact Statement:**

*What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?*

	Incremental Changes for MQAC	
	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>
<b>Outcome Measures</b>		
Case Disposition backlog	60	10
<b>Output Measures</b>		
Case Disposition completed in 140 days	90%	95%
Case Disposition open over 140 days	40%	10%
Cases Resolved in 180 days or less	72%	85%

**Performance Measure Detail**

**Activity: A015 Patient and Consumer Safety**

*Is this Decision Package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency’s strategic plan?*

This package contributes to:

Goal 3: Improve access to quality, affordable, and integrated care for everyone in Washington  
 Objective 2: Ensure safe, quality healthcare.

The Commission’s strategic plan under Goal One: Promote Patient Safety. Recruitment, retention, and succession planning is key to functioning, efficient discipline units and this package proactively addresses those needs.

*Does this decision package provide essential support to one or more of the Governor’s Results Washington priorities?*

This package links to:

Goal Four: Healthy and Safe Communities.

Timely response and resolution to public complaints against medical practitioners is essential in keeping Washington citizens safe and keeping trust in the health care delivery system.

*What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?*

Patient safety advocates, the state medical association and defense bar will become vocal should our disciplinary performance fall below a certain level.

*What alternatives were explored by the agency and why was this alternative chosen?*

The commission brought in a part time, non-clinical overfill investigator in the last biennium. While that has helped, the majority of the cases received by the commission are standard of care, which requires clinical expertise.

***What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?***

The commission will continue to fall behind for the next three years in the case disposition, with possibly 60 percent of cases being over timelines.

***What is the relationship, if any, to the state capital budget?***

None.

***What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?***

None.

***Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions***

Revenue:

The commission has sufficient fund reserves. No additional fees are requested and no new revenue is projected.

Expenditures:

The 2015-2017 biennial costs for one HCI3 and two HE3s total \$413,000. Associated staffing costs, such as goods and services and travel, agency indirect charges, and \$132,000 for anticipated expert witness/AGO contract cost results in a total fiscal year cost of \$545,000 in FY2016 and \$535,000 in FY 2017. Total biennium impact is \$1,080,000.

***Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?***

All costs are ongoing. The commission has sufficient revenue and reserve to cover these costs with no increase to fees or decline in services.

***For federal grants: Does this request require a maintenance of effort or state match?***

Not applicable.

***For all other funding: Does this request fulfill a federal grant's maintenance of effort or match requirement?***

No.

<b>Object Detail</b>		<b><u>FY 2016</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2017</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
A	Salaries and Wages	274,000	273,000	547,000
B	Employee Benefits	82,000	82,000	164,000
C	Personal Service Contracts	132,000	132,000	264,000
E	Goods and Services	41,000	42,000	83,000
G	Travel	0	0	0
J	Capital Outlays	10,000	0	10,000
T	Intra-Agency Reimbursements	6,000	6,000	12,000
<b>Total Objects</b>		<b>545,000</b>	<b>535,000</b>	<b>1,080,000</b>