

Kansas State Board of Healing Arts



In the early 1900s, about 20 years after Bat Masterson fought his last gun battle in Dodge City, the governor of Kansas appointed a number of state boards to oversee specific branches of the “healing arts.” The healing arts are defined as any system, treatment, operation, diagnosis, prescription or practice for the ascertainment, cure, relief, palliation,

adjustment or correction of any human disease, ailment, deformity or injury, and includes specifically but not by way of limitation the practice of medicine and surgery; the practice of osteopathic medicine and surgery; and the practice of chiropractics. These boards included the Board of Medical Registration and Examination (established in 1901), the State Board of Osteopathic Examination and Registration (established in 1913), the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (also established in 1913) and the Board of Podiatry Examiners (established in 1927).

In 1957, Kansas statutes established the State Board of Healing Arts to assume the functions of the governor-appointed boards. The mission of the current board is to protect the public by authorizing only those persons who meet and maintain certain qualifications to engage in the health care professions regulated by the board and to utilize the least restrictive yet effective means to protect the public from incompetence, unprofessional conduct or other proscribed practice by persons who have been granted authority to practice in the state; and from unauthorized practice by persons and entities who have not been granted authority to practice in the state.

The board licenses and registers individuals involved in healing arts, restricts licenses as needed, investigates all matters alleging professional incompetence, unprofessional conduct and other statutorily proscribed conduct and promptly submits completed investigations to review committees and advisory councils for fair and consistent recommendations. In addition, the board educates stakeholders through various programs about the mission and function of the State Board of Healing Arts.