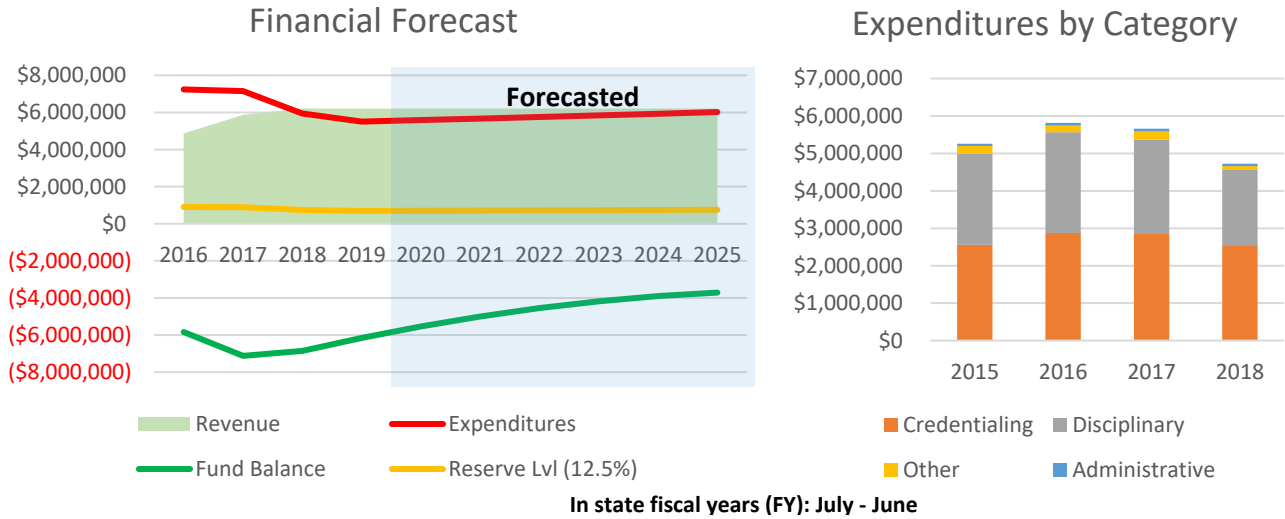


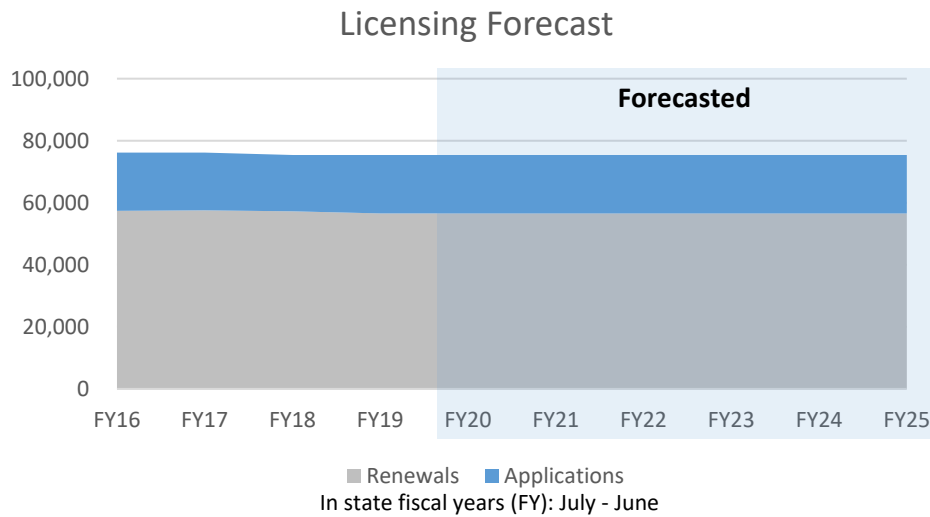
Nursing Assistants Program – FY 2018

The nursing assistant program is projected to reach a funding deficit¹ of **-\$6.8 million** by June 2019 and forecasted to reach **-\$4.4 million** by 2025. Per RCW 43.70.250, the Department of Health is obligated to have each profession’s program budget be self-sustaining and borne by the profession. The department has a policy that each profession should be self-sustaining within 6 years to be compliant with the law. The primary cost drivers are high credentialing and disciplinary costs, in combination with a declining licensing base.



LICENSING

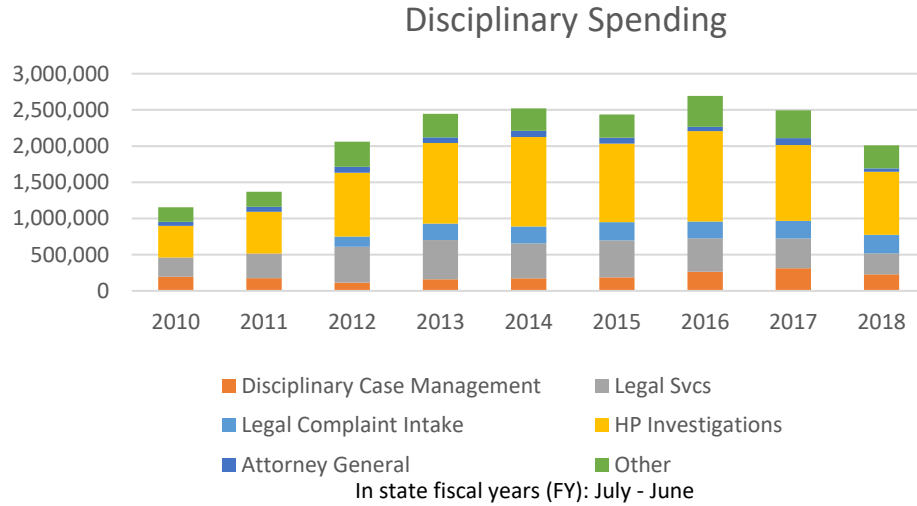
The program spends about 51% of its budget for credentialing activities, more than other secretary professions which averaged 39%. The primary reason for high credentialing costs is high turn-over in the profession. New applications take more time to process than renewals. This fact keeps the number of applicants relative to existing practitioners high and explains the higher cost ratio of credentialing for this profession. While there are a lot of new applicants, many existing nursing assistants are moving to other occupations. This results in no real growth in the number of nursing assistants and is essentially flat.



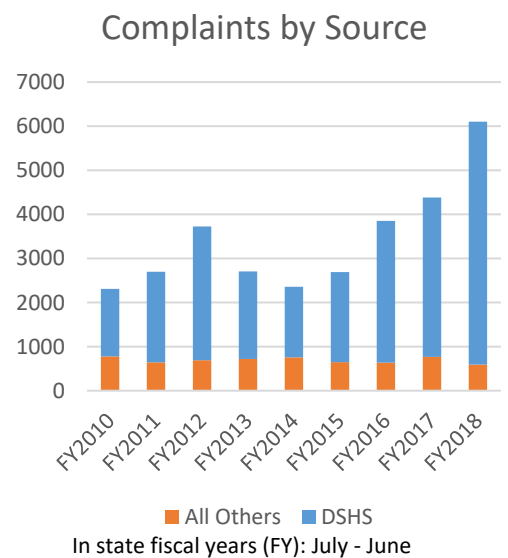
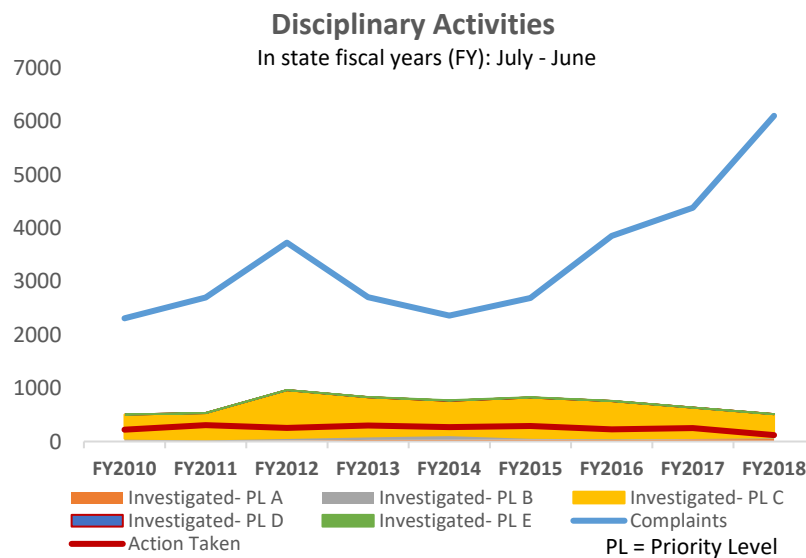
¹ The funding deficit amount includes the fund balance and the recommended reserve.

DISCIPLINARY

The program’s second biggest area of spending is discipline, which accounted for 45% of spending over the last 4 years. Disciplinary spending over the last two years has declined. This is largely the result of efficiencies enacted by the program related to the assessment of new complaints. It is assumed that future disciplinary costs will be reflective of these efficiencies.



The number of complaints more than doubled from 2015 to 2018. In FY 2018, 38% of all complaints against health practitioners in Washington involved nursing assistants. By comparison, nursing assistants make up about 16% of all practitioners. As a result, the complaint rate for nursing assistants is much higher than for other professions, 8% compared to 2% for other secretary professions in FY 2018. The higher volume of complaint types are primarily around standard of care (61%), abuse (6%), violation of rules (5%), theft (4%), and medication error (4%). Of the cases that ended with an action taken, alleged issues found were largely around exploiting a patient for financial gain (27%), criminal convictions (15%), patient care (10%), and sexual misconduct (9%). A large and growing number of complaints are received from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) because of a mandate to report per RCW 18.130.400.



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