



**THE OHIO BOARD OF
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
AND AUDIOLOGY**

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SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY AND
AUDIOLOGY**

FY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2002 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003



A Letter to the Governor

Dear Governor Bob Taft:

It is my pleasure to submit on behalf of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, this FY 2003 Annual Report. The Report, filed in compliance with R.C. Section 4753.05(D), lists the significant actions taken by the Board.

All of the activities of the Board in FY 2003 were focused on the fulfillment of our mission to protect the Ohio consumers of speech-language pathology and audiology services through the regulation of the practices of these professions in our state. Significant progress was made on the Board's Strategic Plan. Throughout the year the Board adopted policies and procedures designed to ensure the protection of consumers and serve the needs of the professions. The Board also met all other obligations imposed by R.C. Chapter 4753 by such Activities as issuing Licenses to qualified applicants, taking disciplinary actions as appropriate, and taking steps to improve communications with licensees and professional associations.

FY 2003 was a year of growth for the Board. Thank you for your continued support or our efforts to administer and enforce Revised Code Chapter 4753.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Setty
Executive Director

BOARD MATTERS

There is hereby created the board of speech-language pathology and audiology consisting of eight members of this state to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. *Terms of office shall be for three years, *** (R.C. Section 4753.03)**

The Board serves Ohio's consumers of speech-language pathology and audiology services by ensuring that Ohio practitioners meet minimum competency standards for admission into the practice, maintain competency throughout practice, and practice within ethical standards.

BOARD MEMBERS DURING FY 2003

Jane M. Kukula, Au.D., Chairperson: Licensed Audiologist Euclid	Term Expiration: September 26, 2004
Cindy Satterfield, M.A., Vice-Chairperson: Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist Highland Heights	Term Expiration: September 26, 2003
Debra Abel, Au.D.: Licensed Audiologist Alliance	Term Expiration: September 26, 2005
M. Ann Glaser, M.S.: Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist Maineville	Term Expiration: September 26, 2003
Judith W. Harvey, Ph.D.: Public Member Dublin	Term Expiration: September 26, 2004
Carol Prah Leslie, Ph.D.: Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist Cincinnati	Term Expiration: September 26, 2004
Patrick N. Mangino, M.A.: Licensed Audiologist Westerville	Term Expiration: September 26, 2004
Ann Shotwell: Public Member Cleveland	Term Expiration: September 26, 2004

BOARD STAFF

Sallie J. Debolt, J.D.	Executive Director
Patricia Turner	Licensing Administrator
Doug Hart	Investigator
Deborah Howard	Administrative Assistant

The board of speech-language pathology shall hold at least one regular meeting a year, at which it shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its members. * (R.C. Section 4753.04)**

The Board met nine times during FY 2003. Seven meetings were held at the Vern Riffe Center, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio. The March meeting was held at the Easton Hilton in conjunction with the Ohio Speech, Language & Hearing Association Convention. An Open Forum for the Public and Professional Associations was held at each meeting.

Significant decisions of the Board during FY 2003 include the following:

- Developed and adopted a Board Ethics Policy as recommended by the Ohio Ethics Commission in support of the Governor’s ethics initiative
- Proposed a Board Secretary position to balance workload.
- Established an Ad Hoc Committee on Audiology to address issues related to training of Au.D. candidates, audiology scope of practice parameters, and oversight of audiology aides.
- Granted the Board Executive Director authority to approve license applicants periodically between board meetings in order to provide better service to our professional constituency.
- Developed and approved a new Board member orientation program as part of the Board’s strategic plan.

Licensure Matters

On June 30, 2003 the Board’s licensees numbered as follows:

Speech-Language Pathologists	6,276
Audiologists	860
Conditional Speech-Language Pathologists	162
Conditional Audiologists	28
Speech-Language Pathology Aides	10
Audiology Aides	79

Compliance Activities

The Board shall investigate all alleged irregularities in the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology by persons licensed pursuant to this chapter and any violation of this chapter or rules adopted by the board. *(O.R.C. section 4753.05 (E)).**

During the fiscal year 2003, a process of Board oversight of investigative activity was continued, with the Board’s Vice-Chairperson serving as the Board member on the investigative review group. Other members of the committee include the Board’s Assistant Attorney General, the Executive Director, and the Investigator. All other Board members, except for the Vice-Chairperson, are excluded from the details of complaints and decision on the committee’s recommendation to either close the case or take appropriate actions in compliance with O.R.C. Section 119.

The Board opened fifty-four (54) cases during FY 2003. This figure continues to reflect a profound increase of cases over a ten-year average.

Disciplinary actions by the Board, resulting from consent agreements and hearings during fiscal year 2003, reflected a dramatic increase from previous years.

The addition of approximately eight hundred (800) licensees, grandfathered into licensure, from the Ohio Schools, has been a major factor in the increase of investigations, consent agreements, and hearings.

Investigation Totals for Fiscal Year 2003

Cases carried over into FY 02/03	29
Cases opened in FY 02/03	54
Cases closed in FY	47
Hearings Conducted	6
Consent Agreements	9

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General Categories of Complaints

Unlicensed practice	22
Unprofessional conduct	1
Falsification of application	2

Suspended license from another state	1
Requirements not met for application	3
Misrepresentation	4
Applicant lacking continuing education for renewal	8
Unethical practice	10
Fraud/Falsifying documents	4
Arrest Record	4
Other Board's Complaints	6

Comparison To Ten Year Caseload Average

Average annual caseload from FY 1993 through FY 2001	25
FY 2002 case load	56
FY 2003 caseload	54

Comparison To Two Year Disciplinary Action Average

	FY02	FY03	% Increase
Hearings conducted	3	6	100% increase
Consent Agreements	2	9	350% increase

Financial Activities

Revenues for the Board are derived from license applications, license renewals and late service fees. License renewal is conducted on a biennial basis. In FY 2003 license renewal took place. Revenues generated from the renewal provide the bulk of funding for expenses for two fiscal years.

FY 2003

Revenue	Expenditures	Net
\$898,440	\$371,282	\$527,138

Board Activities

The Committees of the Board were active in meeting the goals set by the Board in the 2002 Strategic Plan. Specifically, the Communications Committee completed a New Board Member Orientation Program that was approved by the Board. Improvements were made in the Board web site to enhance communication with the public and licensees.

The Policy and Procedure Committee completed a number of policies related to Board structure and relationships. A Board Ethics Policy was adopted.

The Professional Competency Committee addressed many issues relation to the Professional Experience Year in order to simplify forms. The committee also began discussions on rule changes for 2004.

Recommendation for Improvement of the Professions

Amend R.C. 4753.06 to increase the educational requirement of an Audiologist from a masters degree to a doctoral degree.

Audiology is a young science, which has had an ever increasing knowledge base and expanding scope of practice. As a result, academic institutions are finding it difficult to adequately prepare entry level practitioners in the time allowed for a masters degree and are rapidly moving to doctoral degree programs. Further, both the American Academy of Audiology and American Speech-Language and Hearing Association are increasing the academic requirements of audiologists to that of a doctoral degree in 2012. It is prudent to increase the state requirements to reflect the consensus of the academic and clinical practitioners. This will continue a proactive approach to the provision of quality care for Ohio consumers.

