



# THE OHIO BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

May 2005

Message From  
Patrick N. Mangino, Au.D.,  
Board Chair

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dawn Gleason, Au.D. to the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Dr. Gleason has been active with both OSLHA and OAA. She is president and chief executive officer at Columbus Speech and Hearing Center.

The past two months have been active on the political front, with the debate in the Ohio legislature over the 2006-2007 state budget. Part of the proposed budget (HB 66) calls for the consolidation of most of the professional licensing boards to be consolidated under the Department of Health, Commerce or Public Safety. The Board and the state professional associations oppose this model for consolidation. This model would diminish the authority and autonomy of the Board and fail to insure the protection of the consumers we represent. The consolidation would also divert the fees of our licensees into other state programs that have no connection with our professions.

It is important that you contact your state senator or representative to voice your opinion on this issue. A list of their E-Mail addresses is located at

<http://www.house.state.oh.us/jsps/Representatives.jsp>

<http://www.senate.state.oh.us/senators>

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### 4753 Law Change

The state budget bill (HB 66) has an amendment that will require the Au.D. degree for licensure after 2006. This amendment was sponsored by Representative Peterson with the support of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Association, the Ohio Academy of Audiologists and the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. This change in our law will not impact audiologists who are currently licensed in Ohio or other states that have a masters

level degree in audiology. It impacts those individuals who receive a degree in audiology after 2006. HB 66 will be voted on by the legislature by the end of June.

### **WHY IS THIS CHANGE NECESSARY IN OHIO?**

- All of the Ohio university programs offer only academic and clinical training programs leading to the Doctor of Audiology Degree. Master's level programs in Audiology are no longer offered at any Ohio university. This change in academic requirement is a needed edit in updating the Ohio licensing language.
- We need to meet new national standards. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the American Board of Audiology have both changed their academic requirements to a Doctoral degree beginning 2007.
- Two states, Oklahoma and New Mexico, have already changed the academic requirement for licensure to a doctorate degree and 24 other states are in the process of doing so.

### **HOW WILL THIS CHANGE AFFECT EMPLOYMENT OF AUDIOLOGISTS?**

- Audiologists licensed prior to January 1, 2006 can continue to practice simply by renewing their license which includes completion of continuing education requirements. Changing academic requirements to a doctoral degree will not affect currently licensed practitioners across the spectrum of work settings.
- New applicants for audiology license who don't have a Doctorate level degree or who are entering from another state after January 1, 2006 must provide proof of completing the Master's level academic and professional experience requirements prior to December 31, 2007. This portability will continue to encourage new audiology professionals to enter Ohio for employment.
- Employers in all work settings can continue to rely on Ohio audiology licensure requirements to uphold the state's consumer protection goals.
- Doctorate degree programs have increased required practicum hours. These hours include educational/school based experience. This potentially increases the number of audiologists ready to practice in the schools versus having to complete state or grant funded coursework prior to being hired in the school setting.
- The new training model and Doctorate level degree is positively recognized by national accrediting bodies and quality reviewing agencies that compare healthcare agencies and their employees' qualifications in the national market.

### **HOW WILL THE OHIO CONSUMER BENEFIT FROM THIS CHANGE?**

- Ohioans will have access to the high standard of audiological services they deserve. Timely updates in licensure language maintain consistency with national standards.

- Greater accessibility can lead to more time efficient treatment, greater consumer satisfaction, and short and long term financial savings.
- Consumers will benefit from more specialized professionals' knowledge of auditory and balance systems and remediation techniques across age and developmental spectrums.
- Updating the minimum standard affirms consumer expectations for improved outcomes of audiological management and treatment given consumers' own increased knowledge of auditory and balance afflictions. Consumers' sense of protection and trust will be maintained.
- By moving to the Doctoral degree as the minimum academic requirement for licensure, Ohio will reduce the risk of licensing individuals who fall below the national education standards. This affects all citizens and ensures the state's duty in consumer protection.

### Board Strategic Plan

The Board conducted a strategic planning retreat in January to focus on future goals and initiatives for the Board and its staff. Goals were established for Licensure and Investigations. The following is a summary of the Goals and Objectives:

#### Licensure Goals

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>
<b>Improve license certificate and renewal card</b>	1. Change R.C. 4753 to require carrying renewal card on person.  2. Reissue license certificates	1. 2006-2007  2. Upon Law change
<b>Create different fee structure for dual licensees, and reinstitute inactive license status</b>	1. Perform financial analysis of change 2. Recommend any changes to Rules Committee	1. September 2005  2. September 2005
<b>Improve E-Licensing system accessibility and potential</b>	1. Enable licensees to change ID, and PIN 2. Enable on line application	1. June 2005  2. June 2005
<b>Create Better demographic information in licensee data base</b>	1. Extract information in licensees' paper file to post on CAVU file. 2. Provide licensees editing capabilities to their files	1. January 2007  2. January 2006
<b>Use Licensing system for Continuing Education Tracking and Verification</b>	1. Create a new field in the Licensee file to accommodate for CE information	1. July 2006

## Enforcement/Investigations Goals

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
<b>Ability to fine licensees</b>	Revise R.C. 4753 to permit fining for infractions	2006
<b>Increase penalty for unlicensed practice from minor misdemeanor to a felony</b>	Revise R.C. 4753 to increase penalty	2006
<b>Make Business filing at the discretion of the Board</b>	Change A.C. 4753-1-03 to allow discretionary filing and even numbered year business filing	May 2005

These goals are ambitious and will require a focus on the political processes, however with the input and support of our licensees the Board should be able to achieve many if not all of these goals.



### Board Meeting Dates

There are two changes in the previously published dates for the 2005 Board Meetings. The June 27 meeting was changed to June 13 and the November 28 Meeting was changed to December 5. The dates for the remaining meetings for 2005 are as follows

June 13                      Meeting to be held at the Riffe Center

July 28                        Meeting to be held at the Riffe Center

September 19              Meeting to be held at the Riffe Center

December 5                 Meeting to be held at the Riffe Center

**FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE BOARD GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT:**

[www.slpaud.ohio.gov](http://www.slpaud.ohio.gov)