



# Fall Quarter Newsletter

## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

### Board Members:

#### Chairperson:

Helene Levenfus, Au.D.

#### Vice Chairperson:

Loretta T. Embry, M.A., SLP

Jane M. Kukula, Au.D.

Patricia L. Leppla, M.A., CCC-SLP

Karen K. Mitchell, Au.D.

Malcolm J. Porter, Public Member

Amy K. Thorpe, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

Elizabeth E. Tracy, Public Member

### Message from the Board Chairperson, Dr. Helene Levenfus

As fall and cooler weather approach our great state, I would like to once again extend all of you a warm welcome to this edition of our eNewsletter. The Board has been very busy this year addressing a number of important issues impacting the professions. Inside this edition, you will find information regarding the proposed rules the Board plans to amend at our formal rules hearing scheduled for October 12, 2011. The Board is also in the process of reviewing our license renewal fee and expects an increase will occur for the 2013-2014 licensure biennium. More information about the renewal fee

increase will appear in future editions of our eNewsletter. I am also pleased to report that the Board's efforts to communicate directly with employers who provide speech-language pathology and audiology services to consumers are paying off. We continue to inform employers about the scope of duties for speech-language pathologists and audiologists to assure that appropriate services are being provided by properly licensed individuals. We have also seen an increase in the number of registered individuals on

(Continued on Page 2)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Board  
Chairperson - p.1

Message from the Executive  
Director - p.1

New Board Member - p.3  
Proposed Rules - p.4

Medicaid Billing - Update - p.6  
License Renewal Fees - p.6

ODE Caseload Ratio - Update - p.7  
Ohio's Caseload Ratio Law - p. 8

Dr. Kathe Shelby - p. 9

ETS - New AUD Exam - p. 10

Restoring Inactive License - p. 10

Upcoming Conferences - p.7

OAA Fall CEU Event - p. 11  
OMNIE Highlights - p.12

Special Interest Story - p. 13

Special Interest Story - p. 14

OBSLPA Upcoming Events - p.15

Ask the Board - p.15

### Message from the Executive Director, Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.

Welcome to this issue of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology eNewsletter. This edition contains important updates and information related to your license and the regulated professions. I would like to draw your attention to the update concerning the Board's

intent to increase the license renewal fee for the 2013-2014 biennium. You will find updates related to the Ohio Department of Education, including some information about a tuition reimbursement program and employment opportunities in school districts seeking (Continued on Page 2)



## Message from the Board Chairperson

(continued from page 1)

the Board's listserv. In addition to licensees, our eNewsletter is distributed to employers, consumers, and other individuals who are interested in receiving news and information from the licensure board about the regulated professions. We encourage all licensees who receive the eNewsletter to share it with your employer and the consumers you serve.

We look forward to keeping you updated and informed with our quarterly eNewsletter. As always, if you are experiencing any issues or concerns in the regulated professions, please let us know by contacting the board's Executive Director, Mr. Gregg B. Thornton.

Thank you,  
Helene Levenfus, Au.D.

## Message from the Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

to fill positions. The Board is proposing to amend several rules at the October 12 board meeting, and you can find a summary of those rules in this edition, along with information on how to submit comments. If you're an audiologist seeking opportunities for continuing education, you will find information about a continuing education fall event sponsored by the Ohio Academy of Audiology in October. You will also find an update on the status of the Board's request for a formal opinion from the Ohio Attorney General's Office on the status of conditional licensees being eligible to provide services for which reimbursement will be sought under Medicaid. We hope you will find the special interest stories highlighting milestones and noteworthy events among licensees in the professions very enjoyable. This edition also has information about the Board's newest board member, Ms. Elizabeth E. Tracy. Finally, we have some important information regarding the recent change to the national exam for audiology, which is administered by the Educational Testing Service.

We always invite your feedback. If there is a topic or question you would like the Board to address in the eNewsletter, please let us know. I personally invite you to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.

## Important Information

### Has your contact information changed?

You may submit a written request to update your contact information at [board@slpaud.ohio.gov](mailto:board@slpaud.ohio.gov). Please include your license number. You may also update your information at any time using your assigned User ID/Password.

All licensees are required to notify the Board in writing of any change of name, place of business, or mailing address within thirty days of said change per OAC section 4753-3-03.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Reminder: Board and Committee meetings are open to the public.
- Public comment is welcome at all Board meetings.
- Please visit our website at [www.slpaud.ohio.gov](http://www.slpaud.ohio.gov) for the latest updates and information.

## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**The Mission of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is to regulate the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology by establishing, promoting, and enforcing practice standards and professional competency among licensees pursuant to Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code.**

### Elizabeth E. Tracy Appointed to Board as Public Member

Elizabeth E. Tracy was recently appointed by Governor John Kasich to serve as the public member on the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Ms. Tracy was appointed to complete the remaining term of Mr. J. Paul Good, who passed away in February of this year. Ms. Tracy's term will expire on September 26, 2013. Her appointment satisfies the requirement that at least one of the members representing the general public shall be at least sixty years of age.

Ms. Tracy is a native of Tiffin, Ohio, and presently resides in New Albany, near Columbus. She brings a wealth of professional and board member experience. She held a position with the Ohio Republican Party until retiring in 2009, and was involved in all aspects of the party's activities, including editor of the Ohio Republican News and coordinator of the state's delegations to several national conventions. Ms. Tracy brings experience as a board member and secretary with the International Visitors Council of Columbus. This

organization has been designated by the United States Department of State as an official affiliate whose mission is to promote mutual understanding between the United States and citizens of other nations through educational and cultural exchange activities. She is member of the Columbus Bar Association Alliance, whose purpose is to foster understanding of the legal profession through education and community service. Ms. Tracy is also a former board member of WOSU stations in Columbus, which are affiliated with the nonprofit Public Broadcast Service.

Board Chairperson, Dr. Helene Levenfus stated that the Board looks forward to welcoming Ms. Tracy at the next board meeting on October 12, 2011.

<b>Licensure Statistics</b>	
As of September 19, 2011	
Speech-Language Pathologists:	6135
Audiologists:	936
Conditional Licenses:	338
Student Permits:	47
SLP Aides:	10
AUD Aides:	64
Inactive SLP:	108
Inactive AUD:	25
<b>Total Licenses:</b>	<b>7663</b>

#### OBSLPA Staff:

##### Executive Director:

Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.  
gregg.thornton@slpaud.ohio.gov

##### Licensing Administrator:

Michelle Cunningham  
michelle.cunningham@slpaud.ohio.gov

##### Investigator:

Connie J. Stansberry  
connie.stansberry@slpaud.ohio.gov

##### Administrative Assistant:

Darlene D. Young  
darlene.young@slpaud.ohio.gov

##### Assistant Attorney General:

Melissa L. Wilburn, Esq.

#### Board's Contact Information

**Vern Riffe Center for  
Government & the Arts  
77 South High Street, Suite 1659  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108**

**Phone: 614-466-3145  
Fax: 614-995-2286  
E-mail: board@slpaud.ohio.gov**

**Office Hours:  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday**

**Board office is closed during  
observance of state holidays**



## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

### Board Proposes Amendments to Rules

The Board proposes to amend several rules through the rule-making process. The Board will hold a rules hearing at its next board meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, at 77 South High Street, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor – Board Room, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The rules hearing will convene at 1:30 p.m. and last until all interested parties have testified.

*The following rules are being proposed as amended rules:*

#### **4753-3-04 – Educational Requirements for Licensure**

Purpose of the amended rule: proposed change to one section to make educational requirements equivalent with the guidelines set forth by the American Speech Language Hearing Association – Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). Specifically, proposed change to section (A)(2)(c)(iii). Additionally, a proposed change to section G related to the university verification letter accepted to expedite licensure pending receipt of the applicant's transcript. Proposed change requires statement verifying that the applicant completed the student practicum requirements.

#### **4753-3-05 – Student Clinical Experience Requirements**

Purpose of the amended rule: proposed change to make requirements for the student clinical experience for speech -language pathology equivalent with the guidelines set forth by the American Speech Language Hearing Association – Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). Specifically, proposed change will require applicants to obtain four hundred hours of supervised clinical practicum, of which twenty-five clock hours shall be clinical observation prior to beginning initial clinical practicum and three hundred seventy-five clock hours shall be clinical practicum. Three hundred twenty-five of the four hundred clock hours shall be at the graduate level in the area in which licensure is sought.

#### **4753-3-06 – Examination Requirements**

Purpose of the amended rule: Removes reference to the specific passing score of 600 for the national exam administered by ETS due to re-generation of the Praxis exam by ETS. Proposed change will require passing of the national exam administered by ETS without citing the specific score.

#### **4753-3-07 – Professional Experience Requirements**

Purpose of the amended rule: Proposed rule will clarify eligibility requirements to serve as a supervisor. Specifically, proposed change will require 24 months of full time clinical experience as a licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist. Additionally, proposed change will clarify when an amended plan must be submitted to the board. Proposed change removes reference to the specific passing score of 600 for the national exam administered by ETS due to re-generation of the Praxis exam by ETS. Proposed change will require passing of the national exam administered by ETS without citing the specific score.

#### **4753-3-09 – Reinstatement of License**

Purpose of the amended rule: Proposed changes to allow the board to consider additional requirements for applicants who have not practiced for more than five years to demonstrate their competency when applying for reinstatement of their license.

*(Continued on next page)*



---

## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

---

### Board Proposes Amendments to Rules

(Continued from previous page)

#### **4753-3-10 – Exempt Practice; Renewal**

Purpose of the amended rule: Proposed changes to allow the board to consider additional requirements for applicants who have not practiced for more than five years to demonstrate their competency when applying for relicensure.

#### **4753-6-01 – Screening**

Purpose of the amended rule: Proposed rules clarifies that pure tone air conduction screening is performed with earphones; clarifies that tympanometry screening is performed with screening tips.

#### **4753-7-01 – Licensure of Aides**

Purpose of the amended rule: Proposed rule adds “Otoscopy” as a diagnostic test and duties that aides are prohibited from performing.

#### **4753-10-03 – Supervision of Student Permit Holders**

Purpose of the amended rule: Proposed change to require 24 months of full time clinical experience as a licensed speech-language pathologist in order to be eligible to serve as a supervisor of a student permit holder.

A copy of the proposed rules referenced above may be downloaded from the Register of Ohio at [www.registerohio.state.oh.us](http://www.registerohio.state.oh.us). In addition, individuals may request a complete text of the proposed rules by contacting the Board office at the address and/or telephone number noted above. Requests may also be submitted via e-mail at [board@slpaud.ohio.gov](mailto:board@slpaud.ohio.gov).

#### **All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.**

Those persons who wish to provide oral testimony at the hearing are encouraged to inform the Board prior to the hearing date and may be given preference in the order of testimony.

#### **Written comments received by the Board before the close of the hearing record will be considered.**

Written comments in lieu of oral testimony may be submitted by:

Written comments brought to the public hearing;

Written comments via e-mail to [board@slpaud.ohio.gov](mailto:board@slpaud.ohio.gov)

Written comments mailed to the attention of:

Gregg B. Thornton, Executive Director

Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

77 South High Street, Suite 1659

Columbus, OH 43215-6108



## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**The Mission of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is to regulate the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology by establishing, promoting, and enforcing practice standards and professional competency among licensees pursuant to Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code.**

### Medicaid Billing by Conditional Licensees— Update

#### Board seeks Formal Opinion from the Ohio Attorney General

The Board is currently reviewing a final draft of a formal opinion expected from the Ohio Attorney General's Office clarifying that status of the conditional license for purposes of providing services for which reimbursement will be sought under the Medicaid Program. As previously reported in the Spring 2011 eNewsletter edition, the Board has been working with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Medicaid Schools Program (MSP) coordinator, Mark Smith and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to clarify questions about the conditional license.

This issue has mainly affected conditional licensees who practice in a school setting. The Board continues to receive questions and inquiries from school districts regarding whether conditional licensees fall under the definition of a qualified service provider as set forth under the requirements for Medicaid. Mr. Smith with ODE recently indicated that until this issue is resolved, conditional licensees are qualified to provide services eligible for subsequent reimbursement under Medicaid.

Any questions that arise may be sent directly to the Board's Executive Director, Gregg B. Thornton, at [gregg.thornton@slpaud.ohio.gov](mailto:gregg.thornton@slpaud.ohio.gov)

or by contacting him at the board office at (614) 466-3145.

### License Renewal Fee Expected to Increase for 2013-2014 Biennium

Before you know it, licensees will be completing their first year of the 2011-2012 licensure biennium. As those of you who hold an active license are well aware, the renewal fee for your license to practice speech-language pathology or audiology was \$100.00 for the last renewal period. What you may not be aware of is that after the 2004 practice biennium, the Board reduced the renewal fee from \$150.00 to \$100.00. The Board reduced the renewal fee in order to draw down a surplus that had accumulated through the previous years. Consequently, for the past three renewal cycles (2006, 2008, and 2010), the renewal fee for a speech-language pathologist or audiologist has remained \$100.00. In June 2011, the Board was notified that our surplus was fully utilized. Therefore, we are currently working with the Office of Budget and Management to determine the appropriate license renewal fee necessary to sustain our operations, while at the same time fulfilling our mission. The Board will set renewal fees at the appropriate level to meet known expenditures. Licensure fees are set forth under the Board's administrative rules; therefore, before licensure fees can be changed, the Board must hold a public rules hearing. We also do not anticipate the renewal fee exceeding the 2004 level. We expect to have the license renewal fee finalized at the Board's strategic planning meeting in January 2012, followed by a public rules hearing in March 2012.



## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**The Mission of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is to regulate the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology by establishing, promoting, and enforcing practice standards and professional competency among licensees pursuant to Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code.**

### Board Receives Update from ODE on Caseload Ratio RFP Project

At the August board meeting, Bernadette Laughlin with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) updated the Board on the status of the request for proposal (RFP) ODE announced in the fall of 2010 to address caseload ratios for speech-language pathologists and audiologists working in school settings.

Ms. Laughlin is the liaison for the ODE's Office for Exceptional Children by overseeing the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and Audiologist programs. She interprets and implements policy related to SLPs and Audiologists; consults with school administration and special education personnel regarding the development and management of effective services for audiology, speech and language; determines district compliance with regulations and policies; develops complaint procedures; responds to complaints from parents and organizations; resolves violations in a timely manner; and makes decisions on divisions' interpretation of standards, regulations, rules and policies.

Ms. Laughlin indicated that ODE has completed its evaluation of plans submitted by school districts selected to participate in the caseload ratio project. This school year will focus on further development and implementation of workload formulas in order to provide better services to students. Implementing finalized

plans will be contingent upon successful completion of the year one project and available IDEA Part-B funds.

In May 2011, the Office for Exceptional Children announced that Charles Carlin, Ph.D., assistant professor in the school of speech-language pathology at the University of Akron, has joined the Caseload Ratio Project as the researcher. Dr. Carlin has 15 years experience working in the public school setting as a special education supervisor, professional presenter, researcher, speech-language supervisor and speech-language pathologist. In addition, Dr. Carlin has conducted several collaborative caseload studies for special education and related service providers. Ms. Laughlin indicated that ODE will utilize Dr. Carlin's expertise to analyze the data being collected from participating school districts, which will be used to finalize plans and develop workload formulas.

The Board also decided at the August board meeting to withdraw its support, at this time, of any proposed legislative efforts that address the caseload issue. The Board will continue to work with other groups, such as the Ohio Occupational/Physical Therapy Associations and the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board, who are among other school healthcare providers being impacted by this issue.



Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Summary of Ohio’s caseload ratio law as it pertains to school speech-language pathologists and educational audiologists

Submitted by Bernadette Laughlin, Esq., SLP

Ms. Laughlin is the consultant at the Ohio Department of Education for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services.

Ohio law mandates a two-prong approach to determining caseload ratios for service providers in the Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-09 (I)(1) (a-d)

The Local Education Agency (LEA) shall determine ratios for an individual service provider by considering scheduling and time demands which include (but are not limited to):

- a. All areas of service provided to children with and without disabilities including: Screening, Assessment; Consultation; Counseling; Training; Related school duties; Intervention design; Educational interventions.
b. The severity of each eligible child’s need: The level and frequency of services necessary for children to attain IEP goals.
c. Time needed for planning: For a full time service provider or intervention specialist with a teacher day of six hours or longer (excluding lunch), planning time is 200 minutes per week (OAC 3301-35-05(A9)) Planning includes: Evaluating student progress; Conferencing; Collaborative planning for lesson plans; Professional development; Shared learning.
d. Additional time for: Diagnostic testing/classroom observation; Coordination of the program; Parent, staff and agency conferences concerning individual children; Staff development activities and follow up; Demands of an itinerant schedule including number of buildings, distance and travel.

Once the above factors have been taken into consideration, Intervention Specialists should provide direct services to no more than the following students with disabilities:

(Note: Direct Services are defined as hands-on, face-to-face interactions between the service provider and the student.)

Educational Audiologists - 100 School Age or 75 Preschool Children

Speech-Language Pathologists - 80 school age children or 50 preschool, hearing impaired, orthopedically handicapped/other health impairments-major or multiple disabilities

(Information continues on next page)



## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

### Summary of Ohio's caseload ratio law as it pertains to school speech-language pathologists and educational audiologists

(Continued from previous page)

#### Determining Caseloads for Service Providers Who Have Mixed/Shared Caseloads

Ohio law does not bar a Service Provider from servicing a caseload that has both school age and preschool children, or in the case of a speech-language pathologist, a caseload of school age children in which some, but not all, of the children are identified as MD, HI, OH or OHI. The Office for Exceptional Children recommends using the shared caseload formula in the document, *Determining Caseloads for Service Providers Who Serve Both Preschool and School Age Children*, which is available on their website.

#### The question that we at the Office for Exceptional Children ask is this:

Can the Service Provider or Intervention Specialist reasonably provide services to a given number of students, accounting for all the factors in Part 1 that, by Ohio law, must be considered?

The Board would like to thank Ms. Laughlin for submitting this information for our newsletter. If you have questions about caseloads or the caseload ratio project, you may contact ODE's Office for Exceptional Children.

#### ODE Office for Exceptional Children Contact Information:

EMIS Questions: Anne Skaggs (614) 728-7850

Waiver Questions: Shelly Rensch (614) 995-0979

Caseload Questions: Bernadette Laughlin (614) 752-7406

### Board Remembers Dr. Kathleen Shelby

For the past three years, Dr. Kathe Shelby served as the Director of the Ohio Department of Education's Office for Exceptional Children. Throughout her career, she led county and state programs for students with disabilities. Many practitioners who work in the school setting were keenly aware of Dr. Shelby's hard work and dedication for Ohio's children with special needs.

The Board was informed that Dr. Shelby passed away on August 4, 2011, from pneumonia. Board Chairperson, Dr. Helene Levenfus issued a statement at the August 12th board meeting praising Dr. Shelby for her dedication to raising the standards of special education services to Ohio's children. Most notably, Dr. Levenfus acknowledged Dr. Shelby's commitment and collaboration with the Board to resolving the caseload ratio formula issue for nearly 3,000 licensed speech-language pathologists and educational audiologists who practice in school settings across Ohio.

More information about Dr. Shelby can be viewed on the Cleveland Plain Dealer's website at: [http://www.cleveland.com/obituaries/index.ssf/2011/08/post\\_42.html](http://www.cleveland.com/obituaries/index.ssf/2011/08/post_42.html)



## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

### ETS – Regenerates AUD Praxis Exam

In early June, the Board received notification from the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J. (ETS) that the national examination for audiology is being regenerated. Due to the academic requirement changes to the Au.D. programs at universities across the country, ETS is in the process of finalizing updates to the “Praxis Series II Test in Audiology.” The first administration of the new test is scheduled for November 2011.

According to ETS, the new Audiology test will be code number 0341, and scores will be reported on a 100-200 scale.

In response to ETS’ notification, the Board will be proposing appropriate changes to its rules related to the examination requirements at the October 12 board meeting. Please refer to the update about the Rules Hearing in this edition for more details. The Board will also take action to officially approve the new passing score for the audiology exam.

### Restoring An Inactive License

During the last renewal period in 2010, the Board received statutory authority to allow speech-language pathologists and audiologists to place their license in inactive status. Presently, there are 108 speech-language pathologists and 25 audiologists whose applications for inactive status were approved during the renewal period. Inactive status allows a licensee, who has to temporarily step away from their practice, the ability to return to practice by restoring their license to active status without having to meet all of the traditional licensure requirements. This includes payment of the licensure application fee, which is currently \$200.00. Since the Board is beginning to receive applications for restoration from licensees seeking to return to active status, the following information

should be noted related to the requirements for continuing education that must be submitted, pursuant to section 4753-3-11(B)(5) and (B)(5)(a) through (d).

- Contain proof of at least twenty contact hours of continuing education within the two year period immediately preceding the application for restoration.
- A license in inactive status for less than twelve months shall complete an additional ten contact hours of continuing education during the time the license was in inactive status.
- A license in inactive status for twelve months to twenty-four months shall complete an additional twenty contact hours of continuing education during the time the license was in inactive status.
- A license in inactive status for twenty-five months to forty-eight months shall complete an additional forty contact hours of continuing education during the time the license was in inactive status.
- A license in inactive status for forty-nine months to sixty months shall complete an additional fifty contact hours of continuing education during the time the license was in inactive status.
- The Board may consider additional requirements for applicants who have not engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology for more than five years prior to the date of application.

#### Other Important Information

- ⇒ A person may request a return to active status at any time.
- ⇒ The restoration application may be downloaded from the Board’s website.
- ⇒ The fee for restoration of an inactive license is currently one hundred dollars.



## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

### Upcoming Conferences

#### The Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition (OSSPEAC) announces:

OSSPEAC will hold its Annual Fall Conference in Columbus at the Polaris Hilton Hotel, Columbus, Ohio beginning October 23 through 25, 2011. The theme will be *"Focus on Communication."* For more information about conference sessions and registration, please visit OSSPEAC's website at <http://www.osspeac.org/site.cfm/conference.cfm>

Conferences offer excellent opportunities to earn continuing education hours.

#### Special Note

The Board has been invited to present at the OSSPEAC conference on October 24, 2011, during the chat sessions, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The presentation will cover the role of the licensure board and include updates on issues affecting your license. There will also be time for open discussion regarding issues that affect school-based practitioners.

- **Learn about issues affecting your license**
- **Learn about new changes/updates to laws and rules**
- **Opportunity for discussion of issues in a group setting**
- **Opportunity to ask questions**
- **Direct access to Board members and staff**

### OAA Announces Fall CEU Event



The Ohio Academy of Audiology (OAA) has announced a Fall continuing education event in Perrysburg, Ohio.

#### OAA Fall CEU Event Details

*Date:* October 28, 2011

*Where:* Way Public Library, 101 East Indiana Ave., Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

*Schedule:*

- ⇒ 9:00-12:00 - **Ethics: It's a matter of trust!** (*Erin L. Miller, Au.D.*)
- ⇒ 12:00-1:00 - Lunch provided by OAA
- ⇒ 1:00-5:00 - **Audiology Grand Rounds**
  - **Vestibular** (*Jill Kramer, Au.D. and Stacy Weisend, Au.D.*)
  - **Cochlear Implants** (*Julie Yeater, Au.D.*)
  - **Amplification** (*Clint Kiefer, Au.D.*)
  - **Pediatrics in Schools** (*Kirsten Marconi Hutkay, Au.D.*)

CEUs offered by AAA/0.7 (Pending academy approval)

Note: Limited seating available for this event

\*Event is **FREE** to all **members of OAA**. There is a \$65 registration fee for non-members; fee will be waived if membership is purchased at time of registration.

Please visit the Ohio Academy of Audiology's [website](http://www.ohio-academy-of-audiology.org/board.asp) at <http://www.ohio-academy-of-audiology.org/board.asp> to register for this event. Additional questions may be directed to the OAA's President-Elect, Brittney Sprouse, Au.D., via e-mail at [brittney.sprouse@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:brittney.sprouse@nationwidechildrens.org)

## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**OMNIE has announced that funding for its initiatives will completely discontinue after 2013. The Board will continue to work collaboratively with the other OMNIE Project sponsors and supporters to address any impact this may have in the future.**



### ANNOUNCEMENT - OMNIE Tuition Reimbursement Program

### OMNIE Highlights

The Ohio Master's Network Initiatives in Education-Speech Language Pathology (OMNIE Project) is the collaborative endeavor of dedicated individuals who have undertaken a leadership role in identifying issues necessary to ensure the education, recruitment, and retention of qualified speech-language pathologists in Ohio schools. The OMNIE Project is sponsored and supported by the [Ohio Department of Education](#) (ODE) and collaborates with the [Ohio Board of Speech Pathology & Audiology](#) (OBSLPA), the [Ohio Speech Language and Hearing Association](#) (OSLHA), the [Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition](#) (OSSPEAC).

### OMNIE Announces Open Positions

The Ohio Department of Education's OMNIE program recently announced open positions for any speech-language pathologist or audiologist in school settings. If you are a licensee looking for employment, information for open positions can be found on the OMNIE website at:

[http://www.omnie.org/Jobs/employment\\_opportunities.html](http://www.omnie.org/Jobs/employment_opportunities.html)

For more information about open positions, please contact OMNIE's Project Coordinator, Nada Allender, M.A., CCC-SLP at: [nada@ameritech.net](mailto:nada@ameritech.net) or 330-699-4019.

### \$5,000 - 2011 Tuition Reimbursement Employment Incentive

Do you know of a first-year speech-language pathologist or audiologist working in an Ohio school district? Speech-language pathologists or audiologists graduating in 2011 from Ohio universities are invited to request tuition reimbursement of \$5,000. This scholarship is funded by the Ohio Department of Education through the OMNIE (Ohio Master's Network Initiative In Education) program and is intended to address the statewide shortage of speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Ohio school districts.

Applicants must have completed a school-based practicum (student teaching), and must obtain full-time employment in an Ohio school district for the 2011-12 academic year no later than November 1, 2011. Stipend for part-time employment will be pro-rated.

Visit [www.omnie.org](http://www.omnie.org) and click on the link "\$5000 Scholarship" for an application.

Employees contracted by private agencies or those who have received financial compensation through the OMNIE SLP intern graduate program option are not eligible for the \$5,000 tuition reimbursement incentive.



## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**The Mission of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is to regulate the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology by establishing, promoting, and enforcing practice standards and professional competency among licensees pursuant to Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code.**

### Special Interest Story

Looking back...looking forward

**My 35 years as a Speech Language Pathologist, by Carol Gold**

Carol Gold is a licensed speech-language pathologist who recently notified the Board that she was retiring from practice after 35 years with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. We asked Ms. Gold to share some of her experiences through the years about the profession, especially since her clinical experience has been focused in a school setting. She submitted this reflection for our newsletter to share with fellow licensees and consumers who receive speech-language pathology and audiology services for the better enrichment and understanding of the professions.



There must be a better word than “satisfaction” in that often used refrain – My job has given me more than satisfaction. In speech pathology, even minor successes translate to job “elation.” For me, it’s always been a personal, one-on-one process. I aim for results that not only correct speech problems, but also build self esteem, increase interest and participation in education, and increase social skills. I’ve helped hundreds of kids improve their speech, and therefore improve their chances for a successful life. I am proud to have been a part of the Cleveland School District for 35 years, and I am extremely proud for each child that I’ve helped succeed. I heard from a former student recently. As a 6th Grader from China, he had many language problems, as well as pronunciation problems.

We struggled together to improve his speech patterns. I encouraged him to strive to reach his full potential by sticking with the speech therapy. He contacted me just to let me know he is now a 20 year-old student at OSU. I consider that a personal success. That’s “elation” – both mine and his.

Though I’ve been at 12 different schools over the years, I’ve been at the same school, Case, for 35 years. It’s been such a pleasant place to work, and I’ll miss both the kids and my colleagues. The kids at school called me “Grandma.” Colleagues called me “Senior Diva.” I think this familiarity and playfulness demonstrates the mutual affection we feel for each other.

I was so touched by the lovely retirement party organized by my Case colleagues, followed by dinner at a nearby fabulous Chinese restaurant. I hope that in this next phase of my life I will continue to meet wonderful and interesting people. I plan to spend time with my daughters, travel, possibly do some volunteer work, and keep in touch with the friends I made at CMSD.

Thanks to everyone who made my years in the Cleveland School District so enjoyable. I will miss you all, but most of all, I will miss my kids!



## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**The Mission of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is to regulate the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology by establishing, promoting, and enforcing practice standards and professional competency among licensees pursuant to Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code.**

### Special Interest Story

#### Close Up with Michelle von Debschitz—making a difference abroad!



Therapy Team Members in Quito, Ecuador - ENT, Dr. Juan Carlos Vallejo (Left); Ohio SLP, Michelle von Debschitz; and Neurologist, Dr. Fernando Bossano (Right).

Michelle von Debschitz is a licensed speech-language pathologist, who has been utilizing her training and experience in Quito, Ecuador. We had an opportunity to catch up with Ms. von Debschitz this past summer, when she contacted the Board to update her contact information. After close to ten years working in Ecuador specializing in dysphagia, Ms. von Debschitz will be soon returning to the states to continue her career. She shared her story about her professional path and how her skills as a speech-language pathologist are benefitting others in another country. We bring this special interest story to everyone interested in the speech and hearing professions, as one of the many dynamic and profound ways speech-language pathologists and audiologists licensed in Ohio serve, not only the citizens of our state, but individuals on the global stage.

Ms. von Debschitz began her professional career in Ohio, after completing her graduate level education at the University of Georgia. Fluent in Spanish, she did not initially think her work would involve her serving patients as a bilingual SLP. However, following eight years with pediatrics, adults with

developmental disabilities, and as Ms. von Debschitz states, “every dysphagia patient I could get,” she ended up with a clear call to Quito.

According to Ms. von Debschitz, “At that time, this specialty area didn’t exist here, and the only people less prepared to attack the problem than the SLP’s, were the doctors.” Ms. von Debschitz and her team were very hands-on with their training. Reflecting on the experience, she stated, “And off we went, patient by patient, doctor by doctor, training two of my Ecuadorian colleagues and the entire hospital staff, developing forms and protocols, teaching documentation and physiology, risks and benefits...rules of engagement, priorities and boundaries.” Now, after seven years of hard work, perseverance, patience, and some trepidation, a local hospital in Quito now boasts the only formally trained speech therapy team in Ecuador, complete with videofluoroscopy and nasolaryngoscopy. The model Ms. von Debschitz helped developed is being followed in other countries in South America. Although she has had less time to devote to clinical practice, due to the administrative focus, she continued to work on building relationships that would give credibility to the team that was formed in Quito, and to potentially certify their specialty practice. She’s been working towards curriculum, with the hopes of establishing a “diplomado” that recognizes the tremendous effort that the therapists put forward in order to become proficient in this area.

We asked Ms. von Debschitz what she would like to share with fellow licensees about her experience abroad. She stated, “I would encourage any of you who is considering the possibility of reaching, stretching, and growing professionally in ways that also contribute tremendously to the growth and professional development of your colleagues who have fewer opportunities – please don’t hesitate to take advantage of the programs and grants available through ASHA or your local and state universities.”



## OBSLPA LATE SUMMER/FALL QUARTER CALENDAR



**September 8**

September 15

**September 26**

October 3

**October 11**

October 11

October 12

October 12

October 17

**October 25**

November 1

**November 8**

November 15

**November 25**

December 1

December 1

December 2

December 2

**December 8**

December 15

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Rules Committee

Board Meeting and Rules Hearing

Professional Competency Committee Meeting

Application Review and Approval

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval

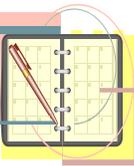
Professional Competency Committee Meeting

Board Meeting

Rules Committee Meeting

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval



Please visit the Board’s website at [www.slpud.ohio.gov](http://www.slpud.ohio.gov) for the specific time and location of the Board and committee meetings. In addition, you may also download the Board’s agenda and meeting minutes.

Please note that this calendar is subject to change without notice.



### Ask the Board:

#### Regular Feature

Frequently asked questions will appear in each quarterly newsletter.



#### **When is a Plan for Supervised Professional Experience due?**

Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-3-07 (E)(4)(b) upon employment, the conditional licensee shall submit a new plan for supervised professional experience within thirty days. Pursuant to section (E)(4)(c) a new plan shall be submitted for changes in employment and supervision within thirty days of a change.

#### **When are the SPE Report and Contacts Log due?**

Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-3-07 (G)(1) upon completion of the professional experience year, the conditional licensee shall submit a “Supervised Professional Experience Report” and Supervision Contacts Log’ of the supervisory contacts that occurred during the experience to the board within thirty calendar days.