



Spring Newsletter

Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Board Members:

Chairperson:

Valenta Ward-Gravelly, Au.D.

Vice-Chairperson:

Helene Levenfus, Au.D.

Loretta T. Embry, M.A., SLP

J. Paul Good, Public Member

Jane M. Kukula, Au.D.

Patricia L. Leppla, M.A., SLP

Malcolm J. Porter, Public Member

Amy K. Thorpe, M.Ed., SLP

Message from the Board Chairperson, Dr. Valenta Ward-Gravelly

The Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (OBSLPA) is excited and looking forward to another full and productive year. In January, we held a strategic planning meeting and set priorities and initiatives for the upcoming year.

Many of those initiatives have already begun to take place. We are preparing for the 2011-2012 licensure biennium renewal. We are moving forward on plans to have an inactive licensure status, which will make it easier for licensees to return to active status when they temporarily step away from their practice setting.

The licensure board office staff

continues to work diligently to ensure that the Board meets its charge of protecting the public and keeping our licensees informed. According to our most recent customer satisfaction survey, the professionalism of the board staff rated above 97%. We are very proud of the high level of service being provided to over 7,300 licensees. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the board staff. They are here to assist you with any issue. Your inquiries pertaining to ethical or scope of practice issues may be referred directly to the Board

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

Welcome to the spring issue of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology newsletter. 2010 marks the 35th year anniversary of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act in Ohio. Ohio was among the first group of states in the early-to-mid 1970s to

pass legislation requiring licensure in order to provide speech-language pathology and audiology services to the public.

This year also marks the time for licensure renewal. You

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Message from the Board Chairperson

(continued from page 1)

to address at an upcoming Board meeting.

When you do interact with the Board via e-mail, please take a moment to follow the link to complete the customer satisfaction survey to ensure we maintain the highest level of professionalism and service being provided to our regulated professions. The link to the survey is located at the bottom of every e-mail communication from the board staff.

As we prepare for licensure renewal, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to check their continuing education hours and review the information in this newsletter about the continuing education requirements.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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

Message from the Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

will find helpful information about the renewal process elsewhere in this newsletter. We also wanted to update you about recent changes to administrative rules and to inform you that we are accepting public comment on a proposed rule for web-based supervision.

It is our hope that this newsletter will allow you to have a direct line of communication with the Board. We encourage you to review the content in this issue. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Introducing the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology's Licensing Administrator

Michelle Cunningham joined the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology as Licensing Administrator on December 21, 2009. Ms. Cunningham brings to the Board twenty-five years of experience as a professional nurse having served in both staff and management positions. She has a strong background in public health, program and project management, the provision of continuing education and training, and quality assurance. Ms. Cunningham recently served for three years as

Has your contact information changed since the last time you renewed your license in 2008?

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

“I am grateful for this opportunity and honored to have been selected. I am looking forward to working with the Board and staff.”

**Michelle Cunningham
Licensing Administrator**

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Introducing the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology's Licensing Administrator (continued from page 2)

Director of Clinical Affairs for the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers. She was responsible for overseeing the development of state, regional and national collaborations, securing resources and implementing programming to support Ohio's Federally Qualified Health Centers with continuous quality improvement across clinical, fiscal and operational systems. Ms. Cunningham has a special interest in issues of access to health care and the development of strategies to address the shortage of health professionals.

Ms. Cunningham is a graduate of Mercy School of Nursing, Canton, Ohio. She and her husband John have been married for 26 years. They have two children; a daughter Sarah and son Sean. Both are enrolled at Walsh University.

Ms. Cunningham's priority for the coming year will be to review and update policies, procedures and forms to insure an accurate, timely application and renewal process.

Additionally, she will be working to improve our internal communication processes to increase teamwork among staff members. As a component of the application and renewal processes, she will be assessing how to improve data collection in order to inform and address policy issues confronting the professions.

Duty to Report

Submitted by Dr. Helene Levenfus, Au.D.,
Audiology Board Member

As licensed professionals in the State of Ohio, Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists are bound by the general State of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) as well as our own statute to report the observation of or potential for abuse. Since navigating the ORC can be tedious, we at the OBSLPA thought the following links and phone numbers would be of use:

Ohio Revised Code:
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2151.421>

Reporting child abuse or neglect.
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3721.22>

OBSLPA Staff:

Executive Director:
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614-644-9046

Licensing Administrator
Michelle Cunningham
614-644-9073

Investigator:
Connie J. Stansberry
614-728-2438

Administrative Assistant:
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Duty to Report (continued from page 3)

Reporting abuse or neglect of resident or misappropriation of property.

Toll Free Numbers for Ohio

Child Protective Services

Abuse / Neglect

800-442-4453

Nursing Home Abuse Hotline

800-342-0553

Domestic/Community Elder Abuse

800-635-3748

Is Your Board Contact Information Updated?

Please ensure that your contact information on file with the Board office is current. If you changed your mailing address, e-mail address, or name since the last RENEWAL IN 2008, please take a moment to submit your updated information in writing at board@slpaud.ohio.gov. You may also update your contact information using your user ID/password at any time at the following link on our website: <https://license.ohio.gov/secure/login.asp>. If you do not have your assigned user ID/password, please submit a written request to the

Board office via mail, fax or e-mail.

Updating your contact information will ensure that you receive your renewal notice in a timely manner. Additionally, all licensees are required to notify the board in writing through the U.S. mail, e-mail or fax of any change of name, place of business or mailing address within thirty days of said change.

Licensure Renewal

All licenses expire on December 31, 2010

All active licenses will expire on December 31, 2010, at midnight and must be renewed prior to January 1, 2011. The Board will mail an official renewal notice to all licensees in September 2010. You will receive your user name, password, and license number with instructions on how to renew online at the board's website. The Board strongly encourages online renewal through its secure website. The renewal fee will remain \$100.00 for speech-language pathologists and audiologists. The renewal fee for individuals who hold a dual license (SLP & AUD) will be \$150.00. The renewal fee for speech-language pathology and audiology aides will

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Licensure Renewal - All Licenses Expire on December 31, 2010 (continued from page 4)

be \$50.00. There will be a \$150.00 late fee applied to any renewal application that is not received or post-marked by December 31, 2010. The renewal process will begin after the renewal notices have been mailed in September.

All licensees are required to earn twenty hours of continuing education within the two-year renewal period immediately preceding the licensee’s renewal application. Ten continuing education hours shall be acquired in the area of licensure. For a speech-language pathology license the ten hours shall be specific to the clinical practice of speech-language pathology; for an audiology license the ten hours shall be specific to the clinical practice of audiology. Ten continuing education hours may be acquired in areas related to speech-language pathology or audiology or both.

An individual licensed as both an audiologist and speech-language pathologist shall earn twenty continuing education hours for each license within the two-year period immediately preceding the licensee’s renewal applications. However, appropriate continuing education hours may be used for both licenses. Ten continuing education hours shall be acquired in each area of licensure. A licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the first renewal. Please refer to continuing

education requirements under Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-4-01 for more information.

Finally, please ensure that your contact information is current. If you changed your mailing address, e-mail address, or name since the last RENEWAL IN 2008, please take a moment to submit your updated information in writing at: board@slpaud.ohio.gov. You may also update your contact information using your user ID/password at any time at the following link on our website: <https://license.ohio.gov/secure/login.asp>. If you do not have your assigned user ID/password, please submit a written request to the Board office via mail, fax or e-mail. Updating your contact information will ensure that you receive your renewal notice in a timely manner. Additionally, all licensees are required to notify the board in writing through the U.S. mail, e mail or fax of any change of name, place of business or mailing address within thirty days of said change.

We look forward to renewing your license beginning in September 2010. If there are any questions about the renewal process, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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Continuing Education Requirements for 2010 An Overview

At the time you renew your license, you will have to certify that you have satisfied the continuing education requirements for this renewal biennium. All licensees are required to earn twenty hours of continuing education within the two-year renewal period immediately preceding the licensee's renewal application. Ten continuing education hours shall be acquired in the area of licensure. For a speech-language pathology license the ten hours shall be specific to the practice of speech-language pathology; for an audiology license the ten hours shall be specific to the practice of audiology. Ten continuing education hours may be acquired in areas related to speech-language pathology or audiology or both.

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be acquired in each area of licensure.

A licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the first renewal. The following list of questions and answers may be helpful:

Can I renew my license in September if I have not completed my continuing education hours?

Yes. The checkbox on the renewal application certifying completion of your continuing education hours will specify that the applicant has either completed or will complete all continuing education hours required by December 31, 2010.

What should I do if I have not completed my continuing education hours by December 31, 2010?

You must complete all continuing education requirements by December 31, 2010. You should only check the continuing education verification box if you will complete your required hours by December 31, 2010. If you will not have the required hours completed before December 31, 2010, you will not meet the requirements for renewing and



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Continuing Education Requirements For 2010 - An Overview (continued from page 6)

your license will expire. In the event your license expires, you must not practice after December 31, 2010. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist may apply for renewal of an expired license if the license has been expired for one year or less by completing the appropriate application, submits an attestation of completing the continuing education hours required for the two-year period immediately preceding the year of the application for renewal, and paying the renewal and late fees set by the Board.

What happens if I check the continuing education verification box without completing the required hours and continue to practice after December 31, 2010?

Any practice after December 31, 2010 without appropriate continuing education and based on inaccurate information provided on the renewal application constitutes practicing without a valid license. You could face serious consequences as a result, including but not limited to, fraud, deception, or misrepresentation in obtaining or attempting to obtain a license, as well as unlicensed practice of speech-language pathology and/or audiology, which is a criminal offense. Any inaccurate information provided on the renewal application may result in disciplinary action.

Board Amends Rules New Rules Take Effect May 1

On March 11, 2010, the Board conducted a formal rules hearing to amend three rules. Prior to the rules hearing, the Board communicated with the Governmental Affairs Coalition for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and received public comments about the rules. The rules will take effect on May 1, 2010.

The Board amended Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) section 4753-3-04 to be more consistent with Ohio Revised Code section 4753.06(F).

OAC 4753-3-04(A)(2), (A)(2)(a), and (A)(2)(d)

(A)(2) For licensure as an audiologist applicants shall have obtained at least a doctor of audiology degree before or after January 1, 2006 or the equivalent from an audiology program accredited by an organization recognized by the "United States Department of Education" or at least a masters degree in audiology or equivalent if all requirements under Revised Code section 4753.06(F) were met prior to January 1, 2006 and if the application was submitted prior to January 1, 2006.

(A)(2)(a) The educational requirements shall be deemed met when the applicant is certified by the "American Speech-Language-Hearing Association" and/or the "American Board of Audiology".

(A)(2)(d) Applicants applying based on at least a



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Board Amends Rules (continued from page 7)

master's degree in audiology obtained prior to January 1, 2006 shall meet the requirements of 4753-3-04(A)(3), 4753-3-05, 4753-3-06 and 4753-3-07 as stated on October 1, 2005, and has submitted the application prior to January 1, 2006.

The Board amended section 4753-3-07 to be more consistent with Ohio Revised Code section 4753.071

OAC 4753-3-07(B)(5)(a)

- (B) Conditional license for professional experience
(5) Expiration of the conditional license
(a) The length of the professional experience is determined by the professional experience year plan.
(b) The professional experience year report and supervision log must be submitted to the board within thirty days of completion of the professional experience.

The Board amended section 4753-3-07 (G)(1) and (G)(3)(a) specifying the time period in which the supervised professional experience report and supervised contacts log is due. The rule now clearly reflects that the professional experience report and supervision contacts log are due with thirty calendar days.

OAC 4753-3-07 (G)(1) and (G)(3)(a)

- (G) Supervised professional experience report and supervision contacts log
(1) Upon completion of the professional

experience year or when there is a change in the professional experience year plan, the conditional licensee shall submit a "Supervised Professional Experience Report" and a "Supervision Contacts Log" of the supervisory contacts that occurred during the experience to the board within thirty calendar days.

- (3) Completion of professional experience
(a) The "Supervised Professional Experience Report" and "Supervision Contacts Log" are due within thirty calendar days of completion of the professional experience.

The Board amended section OAC section 4753-3-10(E)
(2) for exempt practice and renewal procedures.

OAC 4753-3-10(E)(2)

- (E) Expired license:
(2) The board shall not renew the license of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist who fails to apply for renewal of the license within one year after the license expires. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist whose license has been expired for more than one year may become licensed if he/she:
(a) Presents proof of a current certificate of clinical competence in speech-language pathology or audiology that is in good standing and received from the "American Speech-Language-Hearing Association" and/or proof of a current certificate from the American Board of Audiology stating "Board Certified in Audiology" in the area in which licensure is sought; or
(b) Presents proof of current certification or licensure



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Board Amends Rules (continued from page 8)

in good standing in the area in which licensure is sought in a state that has standards at least equal to the standards for licensure that are in effect in this state at the time the applicant applies for the license; or

- (c) Submits to the board documentation of completion of continuing education hours required of a licensee during the period prior to expiration of the license and for each renewal period of expiration, or forty hours within the two years prior to the application or as approved by the board; and
- (d) Pays to the board the application fee set by the board.

Board Working With GAC On Legislative Amendment For Inactive Licensure Status

The Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is working with the Governmental Affairs Coalition on seeking an amendment to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4753 to allow the Board to process requests by licensees to place their license in “Inactive” status. Presently, the Board does not have the statutory authority to grant a licensee’s request to place their license in inactive status if he/she needs to temporarily step away from the practice of speech-language

pathology or audiology. If the practitioner’s license remains expired after one year, he/she must meet the current licensure requirements, complete a requisite number of continuing education hours, and pay the required licensure fee. Allowing inactive licensure status would establish a less cumbersome means for the practitioner to return to the profession. Once the appropriate statutory provision under R.C. Chapter 4753 is amended, the Board would propose administrative rules addressing the specific procedures for placing the license in inactive status and the requirements that must be met to return the license to active status. We will keep you updated in the next newsletter.

Board Accepting Public Comment For Web-based Supervision Rule

The Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is accepting public comment on the following proposed rule governing web-based supervision. Public comments may be submitted via e-mail at board@slpaud.ohio.gov, via fax at (614) 995-2286, by mail to the board’s office located at 77 South High Street, Suite 1659; Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108; or in person at the next board meeting on May 10, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. The board meeting will be held in the “Board Room” on the 31st Floor at the same address noted above.

Proposed rule for Web-based Supervision under Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-3-07

- (F) Supervision of professional experience



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Board Accepting Public Comment For Web-based Supervision Rule (continued from page 9)

- (1) Professional experience shall entail the direct involvement of the supervisor in any and all ways, INCLUDING TELEMEDICINE, that will permit the supervisor to monitor, improve, provide feedback, and evaluate the applicant's performance in professional employment.
- (2) WHEN ONSITE SUPERVISION OCCURS VIA TELEMEDICINE APPLICATIONS, SUPERVISION SHALL OCCUR USING REAL TIME, SYNCHRONOUS, ENCRYPTED VIDEO CONFERENCING.

since August 1996. On March 1, 2010, private hospitals and other entities concerned with patient safety and quality, gained access to information in HIPDB. The Board was informed in February to review its reporting practices to ensure there were no missing data or gaps in reporting. After review, the Board determined that its reporting of adverse actions were not complete since August 1996 to present and took immediate steps to update its reporting to HIPDB.

The Board was fully compliant with the federal reporting requirements by February 26, 2010. Licensees who were previously disciplined by the Board received notification by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that their adverse action was submitted to the data bank as required by federal law. The Board has addressed any deficiencies and will ensure that all future disciplinary actions taken are reported to HIPDB in a timely manner. The Board views the federal data bank as an important resource to ensure the protection of the public.

The Board recognizes that many individuals were unaware of the Board's duty to report this information to the data bank. We regret that prior notification could not have been made to those individuals who were subject to adverse actions in the past, informing them about the new reporting requirements and to expect information directly from HIPDB. If anyone affected by this action believes that their adverse action report is incorrect, please contact the Board's Executive Director, Gregg B. Thornton.

Board Complies With New HIPDB Guidelines Implemented March 1, 2010

In early February the Board was informed of important changes in the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB). This is a federal data bank operated and maintained by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These data banks serve as flagging systems intended to facilitate a more comprehensive review of health care practitioners, providers and suppliers who have been disciplined or named in medical malpractice settlement.

The Board is mandated by federal law to report all adverse/disciplinary actions taken against licensees

Contact Information

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Board Member Appointments

Patricia Leppla reappointed to full term and Amy Thorpe appointed to replace Patricia Zurlinden

In September 2009, Governor Ted Strickland reappointed Patricia Leppla to serve a full-term on the board. Ms. Leppla will serve a three year term as one of the three speech-language pathologists who serve on the board. In October 2009, Governor Strickland appointed Amy Thorpe to complete a three year term as a speech-language pathologist board member. Ms. Thorpe is replacing Patricia Zurlinden whose term expired on September 26, 2009. The Board would like to congratulate Ms. Leppla and Ms. Thorpe on their appointments and express our appreciation to Governor Strickland and his staff that coordinates the board member appointments for these timely appointments. The Board would also like to express its gratitude to Ms. Zurlinden for her dedication and service to the board during her term.

Board To Hold Formal Rules Hearing June 22, 2010

Board to adopt rules mandated by the State of Ohio regarding access to confidential personal information

On March 23, 2010, the State of Ohio announced the release of model rules regarding the access to confidential personal information maintained by state agencies. All state agencies are required to file administrative rules with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) by June 30, 2010, in order to be in compliance with Ohio Revised Code section 1347.15.

The new rules will now require the Board to log access to confidential personal information. We would like to inform you that since 1986, the Board has been operating under policies and procedures, as well as administrative rules, that ensure the protection of all confidential personal information, such as social security numbers.



OBSLPA SPRING CALENDAR



April 1

Application Review and Approval

April 8

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review

April 15

Application Review and Approval

April 21

Rules Committee Meeting

April 24

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review



May 1

Application Review and Approval

May 8

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review

May 10

Board Meeting

May 15

Application Review and Approval

May 25

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review



June 1

Application Review and Approval

June 8

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review

June 15

Application Review and Approval

June 22

Board Meeting and Rules Hearing



August 2010

Summer Quarterly Newsletter

Please visit the Board’s website at www.slpaud.ohio.gov for the specific time and location of the board meetings. In addition, you may also download the board’s agenda and meeting minutes.



Ask the Executive Director:



Regular Feature

Frequently asked questions will appear in each quarterly newsletter.



Are CEUs required when renewing your license for the first time?

This is a good question, and one that we frequently receive during a renewal year. Pursuant to OAC section 4753-4-01(A)(5), a licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the first renewal.

Please note that continuing education

is an essential component for maintaining your level of competency in your area of practice. The Board recommends that all practitioners renewing their license for the first time acquire continuing education hours to ensure a strong and competent profession whose services are received by the public.