



Winter Quarter eNewsletter

Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Board Members:

Chairperson:

Helene Levenfus, Au.D.

Vice Chairperson:

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

Loretta T. Embry, M.A., SLP

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

Karen K. Mitchell, Au.D.

Malcolm J. Porter, Public Member

Elizabeth E. Tracy, Public Member

Message from the Board Chairperson, Dr. Helene Levenfus

I would like to extend to each of you a warm welcome to this edition of our eNewsletter. The Board has some very exciting and important updates in this edition. Since the Fall eNewsletter edition was issued, the Board held its organizational meeting in December, elected officers, and made committee appointments for 2012. I am looking forward to serving another year as Board Chairperson. I would like to thank Ms. Loretta Embry for serving as Board Vice Chairperson during 2011, and I look forward to working with Ms. Amy Thorpe, who will serve in this position during 2012. We held our strategic planning meeting on

January 18, 2012, and set priorities for the year. Many initiatives have already been referred to standing committees for further review and recommendations. As the Board provides more updates and information throughout the year about some of these important initiatives, I would like to encourage you to share your feedback and input with us. Board meeting minutes are posted to our website. We are now accepting public comments on proposed changes to the continuing education requirements. Our Executive

(Continued on Page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Board
Chairperson - p.1

Message from the Executive
Director - p.1

Licensure Renewal in 2012 - p.3
Licensure Statistics - p. 3

Public Comment on Proposed
Rule Change to CEs - p. 4

Dr. Jane Kukula Recognized - p.5
Business Filing Statement - p. 5

Recent Rule Changes - pg. 6-7

Attorney General Opinion - p. 8
Strategic Planning - p.9

License Renewal Fee Increase
Expected - p. 9

Upcoming Professional Events - p. 10

Regional Event for CE Credit - p. 11
Upcoming Conferences - p.12

Fall 2011 OSSPEAC Conference - p. 12
OMNIE Highlights - p. 13

Better Hearing & Speech Month p.14
Board Completes Ethics Training p. 14

OBSLPA Calendar - 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. The Board is accepting public comment on proposed changes to the

continuing education requirements. A summary of the proposed changes appears in this edition, and the entire proposed rule is posted on our website. We are in the process of mailing business filing statements to employers that provide speech-language pathology and audiology (Continued on Page 2)

Message from the Board Chairperson

(continued from page 1)

Director and team of professional staff members are very approachable, and stand ready to assist you with any questions or concerns. You will find their contact information in this edition and on our website.

This is also an important reminder that all speech-language pathology, audiology, and aide licenses will expire on December 31, 2012. Please note that conditional licenses are valid for a period of eighteen months from the date of first issuance. Important information about the renewal process is featured in this edition and will continue to be updated throughout the year. Renewals notices will be mailed to affected licensees beginning in August. If your contact information has changed since your last renewal in 2010, please update your mailing and e-mail address to ensure timely receipt of licensure renewal information.

The next board meeting will be on March 8, 2012, and coincide with the Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention. The Professional Competency and Rules Committees also scheduled meetings to coincide around the convention. If you are planning to attend the convention, we invite you to attend any of these meetings. Please refer to the information in this edition for the specific date, time, and location of board related meetings or visit our website.

Thank you,
Helene Levenfus, Au.D.

Message from the Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

services in Ohio. Be sure to check out other updates on licensure renewal and the status of conditional licensees being eligible to provide services for which reimbursement will be sought under Medicaid. Additionally, there are some excellent professional events in March and April offering continuing education credit.

We always invite you to provide feedback. If you recently contacted the Board for services or information, please take a moment to complete a brief customer satisfaction survey and let us know your opinion about that experience. The survey may be accessed at the bottom of our home page:

<http://slpaud.ohio.gov/>

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 at gregg.thornton@slpaud.ohio.gov 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. 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 for the latest updates and information.

Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Licensure Renewal – All licenses expire on December 31, 2012

All active licenses will expire on December 31, 2012, at midnight and must be renewed prior to January 1, 2013. The Board will mail an official renewal notice to all licensees beginning in August 2012. You will receive your user name, password, and license number with instructions on how to renew online at the board's website. Over 95% of licensees renewed their license online during the last licensure biennium. The Board strongly encourages online renewal through its secure website.

Licensure Statistics	
As of February 1, 2012	
Speech-Language Pathologists:	6218
Audiologists:	938
Conditional Licenses:	331
Student Permits:	46
SLP Aides:	10
AUD Aides:	66
Inactive SLP:	107
Inactive AUD:	24
Total Licenses:	7740

In addition, all licensees are required to earn twenty hours of continuing education within the two-year licensure 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 2010, 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 the change.

We look forward to renewing your license in 2012. If there are any questions about the renewal process, please do not hesitate to let us know.



Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Board Accepting Public Comment to Proposed Changes to Continuing Education Requirements

The Board is proposing significant changes to the continuing education requirements under Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4753-4. The Board is accepting public comment through March 2012 to the proposed changes, which can be viewed on our website at: <http://slpaud.ohio.gov/lawsandrules.stm>

Here is a summary of the major changes:

- Requires licensees to earn at least two clock hours of continuing education in ethics in the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology within each two year renewal period.
- The Board may grant an extension of time for licensees to obtain the required continuing education hours if the licensee presents evidence that the failure to obtain the required hours was due to personal illness, military service, or other circumstances beyond the licensee's control.
- The Board may reduce the continuing education requirements for an individual under extenuating circumstances.
- Expands acceptable continuing education programs to include:
 - ◊ Lectures, scheduled courses or workshops at local, regional, national, or international conferences concerning speech-language pathology or audiology, or both;
 - ◊ Presentations or other professional activities such as books, papers, publications, or audiovisual materials;
 - ◊ Independent study activities, including professional journals, audio or video tape programs, or internet programs approved as continuing education experience under OAC Chapter 4753-4, which includes a post-test to document successful completion, or other independent study activities approved by the board;
- No limit on the number of credit hours that may be earned through independent study activities listed above if proof of passing the post-test is obtained;
- A maximum of ten (10) hours of the required twenty (20) hours may be obtained from internet programs approved as a continuing education experience under OAC Chapter 4753-4 without a post-test. A maximum of twenty (20) hours may be obtained from internet programs for an individual licensed as both a speech-language pathologist and audiologist;
- Licensees who submit a renewal application after the expiration date may be subject to an audit of their continuing education;
- Board may audit up to ten percent of licensees to verify compliance with continuing education requirements;
- All board members shall be audited for the required continuing education hours.

Public comments may be submitted in writing to the following address:

Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

ATTN: Rules Committee

77 South High Street, Suite 1659

Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Public comments also may be submitted via e-mail to:

board@slpaud.ohio.gov

IMPORTANT NOTE

Any changes formally adopted by the Board to the continuing education requirements would not become effective until the 2013-2014 licensure biennium, which runs from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014.

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 Recognizes Jane Kukula, Au.D. for Service on Board

At its October meeting, the Board recognized and thanked Dr. Jane Kukula for her term of service as an audiology board member. Dr. Kukula was appointed in 2008 and completed her three year term, officially on November 26, 2011. Dr. Kukula chaired the Professional Competency committee. She is also a past board member having served on the Board from 1996-2004. Dr. Kukula served as the Board's Vice-Chairperson in 2000 and Chairperson from 2001-2004. She brought a wealth of experience and expertise during her tenure. The Board presented Dr. Kukula with a plaque in recognition of her dedication, service, and significant contributions as a public official and board member to the citizens of Ohio.



Photo:
Executive Director Gregg Thornton, Dr. Jane Kukula and Board Chairperson Dr. Helene Levenfus

Business Filing Statements Due March 1

Business filing statements were sent to employers who provide speech-language pathology or audiology services. The prescribed form is available on the Board's website at <http://slpaud.ohio.gov/bus.stm>

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 4753.12(A), an entity may provide speech-language pathology or audiology services without licensure if it employs or contracts individuals in the direct practice of speech-language pathology or audiology, in accordance with Chapter 4753. Such entity is required to submit a business filing on a prescribed form with the Board no later than March first of each even numbered year. The business filing is an excellent opportunity to inform and educate employers about the licensure requirements for speech-language pathology and audiology. The business filing acknowledgement letter that employers will receive will include important information such as how to verify the status of a license, join the Board's listserv to receive updates and our eNewsletter, and how to contact the Board with any questions about the licensure requirements or scope of practice for speech-language pathology and audiology.

OBSLPA Staff:

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

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

Administrative Assistant:
Darlene D. Young
darlene.young@slpaud.ohio.gov

Administrative Assistant:
Brandy R. Thomas
brandy.thomas@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

Important Update on Recent Rule Changes

In October, the Board amended the following rules to implement necessary changes to fulfill its mission. All changes became effective December 1, 2011.

4753-3-04 – Educational requirements for licensure

- Amended section (A)(2)(c)(iii) to be consistent with national accreditation standards. Requires applicants seeking audiology licensure based on equivalency from non-accredited programs to complete a minimum of 2000 clock hours of supervised clinical extern experience sufficient in depth and breadth to achieve the knowledge and skills outcome in the fourth year of academic training supervised by a preceptor.
- Amended section (G) relating to the university verification letter accepted to expedite licensure pending receipt of the official transcript. Additional statements must verify that the applicant has met all requirements for clinical practicum and that the university's program is fully accredited and adheres to the guidelines set forth by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

4753-3-05 – Student clinical experience requirements

- Amended section (B)(1) to be consistent with national accreditation standards. Requires applicants seeking licensure as speech-language pathologist based on equivalency from non-accredited programs to obtain four hundred hours of supervised clinical practicum, of which twenty-five clock hours shall be clinical observation and three hundred seventy-five 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

- Amended this section by removing reference to the specific passing score of 600 for the national exam administered by ETS due to re-generation of the Praxis exam for audiology.

4753-3-07 – Professional experience requirements

- Amended section (D) clarifying that individuals supervising professional experience must have twenty-four months of full time clinical experience as a licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist.
- Amended section (E) by adding a provision under subsection (4)(d) setting forth the requirements and time frame in which to submit an Amended Plan during the professional experience year for speech-language pathology. The amended plan shall be submitted for changes in supervision or in the start or end date of an approved plan within thirty calendar days of the change.

4753-3-09 – Reinstatement of license

- Amended this rule by adding section (F) which allows the Board to consider additional requirements to demonstrate competency when an applicant seeking reinstatement of license has not been engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology for more than five years prior to the date of application for reinstatement.



Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Continued on next page

Important Update on Recent Rule Changes (continued)

4753-3-10 – Exempt practice; renewal

- Amended this rule by adding section (F) which allows the Board to consider additional requirements to demonstrate competency when an individual seeking application of an expired license more than one year has not been engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology for more than five years prior to the date of application for relicensure.

4753-6-01 – Screening

- Amended section (A)(1)(a) clarifying that pure tone air conduction screening is performed with earphones. Other provisions in this section were not changed.
- Amended section (A)(1)(b) clarifying that tympanometry screening is obtained with screening tips. Other provisions in this section were not changed.

4753-7-01 – Licensure of aides

- Amended section (I)(1) specifying that aides shall not perform diagnostic testing, including but not limited to use of an otoscope. An aide may use an otoscope when all of the requirements have been met for environmental hearing conservation/prevention programs. See rule 4763-6-01 paragraphs (C)(3)(b) and (C)(3)(b)(i).

4753-10-03 – Supervision of permit holders

- Amended section (B) requiring a supervisor of a student permit holder to hold a current Ohio license in speech-language pathology and have at least twenty-four months of full time clinical experience or the equivalent within the last sixty months under a valid license as a speech-language pathologist or certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.



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.

Ohio Attorney General Formal Opinion Issued on Status of Conditional License - Update

In October 2011, the Ohio Attorney General issued Formal Opinion 2011-40, which the Board requested to clarify the status of the conditional license for purposes of being eligible to seek reimbursement for their professional services under Medicaid. The Board requested a formal opinion after receiving questions and concerns from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Medicaid Schools Program about whether individuals holding the conditional license met the legal definitions set forth by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

The opinion affirms the following:

- For purposes of 42 C.F.R. §440.110(c)(2) (ii), a speech-language pathologist licensed in Ohio pursuant to R.C. 4753.07 has satisfied requirements equivalent to the 2005 Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) if the licensee completes her graduate course work and the student clinical experience through a degree program accredited by ASHA's Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.
- For purposes of 42 C.F.R. §440.110(c)(2) (iii), a speech-language pathologist

conditionally licensed in Ohio pursuant to R.C. 4753.07 and R.C. 4753.071 has satisfied requirements equivalent to those of an individual who has completed the academic program necessary for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and is acquiring the supervised work experience to qualify for ASHA certification if the conditional licensee completes her graduate course work and student clinical experience through a degree program accredited by ASHA's Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

This issue has mainly affected conditional licensees who practice in a school setting. The full text of this opinion may be viewed by visiting the Ohio Attorney General's website by clicking the link below.

AG Formal Opinion 2011-40:

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/getattachment/8d126736-25cb-48e1-8e73-52c4db652ad9/2011-040.aspx>



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.

Boards Begins 2012 with Strategic Planning Meeting

How licensees can report incidents involving alleged violations of Ohio Revised and Administrative Code Chapters 4753

On January 18, 2012, the Board held its strategic planning meeting to prioritize important initiatives for the year. The Board set many initiatives to address issues impacting the speech-language pathology and audiology professions. One initiative we would like to highlight in this eNewsletter edition relates to the audiology profession. Online hearing tests and purchasing of hearing aids online without a face-to-face evaluation can pose serious risks to consumers with hearing loss.

In December 2011, the Board posted an important notice to its website to Ohio consumers with hearing loss, including those who are receiving or intending to receive hearing aids. You can view this consumer notice at:

<http://slpauld.ohio.gov/pdfs/Letter-Consumer.pdf>.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to remind licensees to report information or incidents in which consumers have been harmed by the sale of online hearing aids or online hearing tests to the Board. Complaints investigated by the Board are not necessarily those initiated by consumers, and all licensees have a duty to report violations of Chapter 4753. Information or complaints may be submitted via e-mail at board@slpauld.ohio.gov or to our

mailing address at:

Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**ATTN: Connie J. Stansberry, Board Investigator
77 S. High Street, Suite 1659
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108
(614) 466-3145**

License Renewal Fee Expected to Increase for 2013-2014 Biennium

After the 2004 practice biennium, the Board reduced the license 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 renewal biennium periods. 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 (OBM) 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. The Board has submitted its revenue projections to OBM for review and expects to make a final determination of the license renewal fee by the June board meeting.



**Ohio Board of Speech-Language
Pathology and Audiology**

Professional Events in Columbus During March and April Offer Opportunity for Direct Access to Board

The Board is strongly committed to being accessible and approachable to consumers, employers, and licensees. During the months of March and April, the Board will be in attendance at the following events.

Rules Committee Meeting – March 8

The Rules Committee will meet in the Columbus Board Room at the Hilton Hotel at Easton at 7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting – March 9

The Board will hold its regular business meeting on March 9 in the Columbus Board Room at the Hilton Hotel at Easton at 9:30 a.m.

Professional Competency Committee Meeting – March 9

The Professional Competency Committee will meet immediately following the board meeting.

Please note that agendas for all meetings will be posted to our website approximately ten days prior to the scheduled meeting date. All meetings are open to the public.

OSLHA's Annual Convention – March 8 – 10

The Board was invited to present at the Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Annual Convention. The Board will be making two presentations on Saturday, March 10. The first is an ethics presentation with co-presenters Michelle Burnett, M.A., CCC-SLP, with the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center and Barbara Prackup, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, with Cleveland State University. The second presentation will be on the role of the licensure board and include updates on board issues. Board members Loretta Embry, M.A., SLP, Patricia Leppla, M.A., CCC-SLP, and Vice-Chair Amy Thorpe, M.A., CCC-SLP will co-present, along with the board's Executive Director. Attendees will have the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. Specific times for these presentations will be listed in the conference materials.

OSHGAC Legislative Event – April 24

Several board members, along with the Board's Executive Director, are registered to attend the Legislative Event, sponsored by the Ohio Speech and Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition. The event will be held in the Atrium of the Columbus Statehouse on April 24, 2012, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. More information can be found at: http://www.ohioslha.org/adv_legislativeEvent.htm.



Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Regional Event in Northeast Ohio in March Offers CE Credit

The Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition (OSSPEAC) will be sponsoring a regional event for continuing education on March 17, 2012. The event is a one day seminar entitled:

Fast, Fun, Effective Phonology Practices for Children with Severe Phonological Disorders

Saturday, March 17, 2012 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Educational Service Center at Cuyahoga County

5811 Canal Road

Valley View, OH 44125

Presenter: Teresa Farnham, M.A., CCC-SLP, who has more than 30 years of experience working with children and adults with communication disorders as a speech-language pathologist, speech pathology supervisor, and assistive technology consultant.

This presentation will discuss current assessment and intervention strategies for children with speech sound disorders, with emphasis on linguistic theory and linguistically based analysis, target selection, and intervention methods. Foundational principles for best practices in intervention for phonologic disorders will be discussed, followed by therapy practices derived by these principles. Mrs. Farnham has been implementing research-based practice in phonology intervention for the past five years, targeting phonemes in what would traditionally be considered reverse order, with significant student success in a relatively short time. Samples of therapy materials and video demonstration of therapy principles in practice will be provided.

Learner Outcomes:

Participants will:

1. identify key issues in efficiency in phonologic treatment, according to current research.
2. identify necessary elements of phonological assessment to support selection of appropriate phonemic targets for therapeutic intervention.
3. analyze results of a sample student's phonological testing and select appropriate targets for therapeutic intervention.
4. develop basic tools for implementation of maximal pair target words.

Cost:

\$50/person member

\$65/person non-member

CE Credit:

Certificate of Attendance & ASHA CEUs Available

This in-service is offered for .5 ASHA CEUs

Intermediate Level; Professional Area

Registration Form:

The registration form may be downloaded at: <http://slpaud.ohio.gov/ceprog.stm>

Please contact the Board at board@slpaud.ohio.gov if you would like your upcoming regional or statewide event, offering continuing education credit for speech-language pathologists and audiologists, to appear on our website or in our eNewsletter. We recommend that you submit information at least six months prior to the scheduled event.



Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Upcoming Conferences

The Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association (OSLHA) announces:

OSLHA will hold its annual convention in Columbus at the Hilton-Columbus at Easton beginning March 8-10, 2012. This year's theme is "Communication: Transporting Us To the Future." For more information about conference sessions and registration, please visit OSLHA's website at http://www.ohioslha.org/e_convention.htm

Conferences offer excellent opportunities to earn continuing education hours and network.

Special Note

The Board has been invited to present at the OSLHA convention on March 10, 2012. **Session MS28 (Hot Topics in Ethics)** is from 8:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and will be co-presented with Michelle Burnett, M.A., CCC-SLP, with the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center and Barbara Prakup, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, with Cleveland State University. This presentation will review ethical scenarios and rules. **Session MS36 (Role of Licensure Board with Updates on SLP/AUD Issues)** is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This presentation will cover the role of the licensure board and include updates on issues impacting your license. There will also be time for open discussion.

- **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**



Fall 2011 OSSPEAC Conference—Update

On October 24, 2011, the Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition (OSSPEAC) invited the Board to present at its annual fall conference held in Columbus. The theme of the conference was "Focus on Communication." Over 700 participants attended this year's conference. SLP board members Loretta Embry and Patricia Leppla, along with Mr. Thornton, facilitated two well attended chat room discussions. The discussions focused on issues that impact practitioners in school settings, such as caseloads, supervision, billing, shortages, and use of technology, to name just a few. After the sessions, many participants approached the Board to provide additional comments and feedback. Our information will be shared with OSSPEAC, and we look forward to presenting at next year's conference.



Photo: SLP Board Members Patricia Leppla (far left) and Loretta Embry, with Executive Director Gregg B. Thornton during a short break between two chat room sessions with licensees.



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.



News Flash For OBSLPA Licensed SLPs Seeking ODE Licensure

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

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

The Ohio Department of Education welcomes requests from **OBSLPA LICENSED** speech language pathologists for a review of their credentials by the Ohio Credential Review Board in order to determine if they qualify for the Pupil Services license required for Ohio school-based employment.

Requests for a review by the Credential Review Board must include:

- Valid license granted by the Ohio Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology (OBSLPA)
- Verification of professional experience working with children and/or other populations (multiple letters of recommendation and third party documentation of work experience)
- Official transcripts of all college coursework, undergraduate and graduate
- A summary cover letter from the candidate providing background information and requesting a credential review for ODE SLP licensure
- A resume
- Documentation of training, education, competency and/or professional development work related to the practice of speech language pathology with school age children
- Praxis II speech language pathology specialty area test scores
- Any other materials the candidate wishes to provide for review

Please visit the OMNIE website at: <http://www.omnie.org/Whats%20New/ODElicensurenews.html> for more information and where to send your materials.



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.

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month



Since about 1927, May has been recognized across the country as Better Hearing and Speech Month. It is an opportunity to bring attention and raise awareness of various forms of communication disorders related to speech-language pathology and audiology. The Board would like to encourage all licensees to participate in local, regional, or national events. Special events are being planned to promote screening among people with hearing or speech disorders. A simple web-based search on any popular search engine using the terms “Better Hearing and Speech Month” will get you started. There are many good resources to assist you in recognizing this event.

The Board plans to recognize the occasion at its board meeting on May 10, 2012. We also were recently informed by the Ohio Speech and Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition that Governor Kasich has issued a resolution officially proclaiming May 2012 as “Better Speech and Hearing” month in Ohio.

Board Completes Annual Ethics Training

During its January meeting, board members and staff completed one hour of ethics training pursuant to Governor Kasich’s Executive Order 2011-03K. All board members and staff are required to complete one hour of ethics training annually. The ethics training is facilitated by the Board’s Executive Director and Assistant Attorney General. Ethics training among employers and various professions are increasingly becoming common place. The Board’s Chairperson, Dr. Levenfus, commented that the ethics training is an invaluable tool and resource to ensure the integrity of the Board’s decision-making process. Dr. Levenfus stated that the discussions following various hypothetical scenarios are very interesting and contribute to a better understanding about the appropriate manner to prevent and resolve ethical dilemmas while serving on the board. What ethical situation is a board member most likely to encounter during their term? It is dealing with conflicts of interest. Board members often make decisions which impact individuals, entities, and professional issues. Board members are well trained to not only recognize a situation that could potentially become a conflict of interest, but also when to disclose it and recuse themselves from the decision-making process.



OBSLPA WINTER/EARLY SPRING QUARTER CALENDAR



February 8
February 15

February 23
March 1

March 7

March 8

March 8

March 10

March 15

March 26

April 2

April 9

April 16

April 24

April 24

May 1

May 9

May 10

May 10

May 8

May 15

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review

Application Review and Approval

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review

Application Review and Approval

Rules Committee

Board Meeting and Professional Competency Committee Meetings

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review

Board Presentations - OSLHA Convention

Application Review and Approval

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review

Application Review and Approval

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review

Application Review and Approval

OSHGAC Legislative Event

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.slpaud.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.



Why is the Board proposing that two out of the twenty hours of continuing education be in ethics?

The Board recognizes the challenges many practitioners face to find time and resources to deliver services to clients and maintain and develop their competencies through continuing education. Many regulated professions which have promulgated codes of ethics, require their licensees to complete a minimum of 1 clock hour per year in the area of ethics. Adhering to an ethical code is one of the defining features of a profession. The Board has a duty to ensure that licensees

understand and are proficient with the code of ethics under Chapter 4753. Licensees are required to apply ethics in their practice and interactions with patients/clients and their family members, professional peers, administrators and supervisors, students, and manufacturers of professional products. The Board has a role to promote ethical behavior and ethical practices among licensees. We invite public comment on this proposed requirement. Please refer to the bottom of page four for more information on how to submit your comments.