



Summer Quarter eNewsletter

Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

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Message from the Board Chairperson, Dr. Helene Levenfus

Happy Summer to everyone receiving this edition of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (OBSLPA) eNewsletter. It may be of interest to know that the OBSLPA eNewsletter reaches more than the nearly 8,000 individuals holding an Ohio license in the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. Other groups include consumers, legislators, national, state, and local associations, governmental agencies from across the country, and employers whose licensees provide speech-language pathology and audiology services. In each edition of our eNewsletter we

strive to provide information that reflects the diversity of the groups that are interested in receiving news and updates on licensure matters. We always encourage and invite your feedback. If there is a specific topic or question you would like us to address in a future edition, please feel free to let us know by e-mailing the Board at Board@slpaud.ohio.gov.

This edition includes important information regarding licensure renewal. The Board would like to take this opportunity to remind

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

Welcome to this edition of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology eNewsletter. This edition includes important information regarding licensure renewal. There are also updates regarding proposed changes to the continuing education requirements,

anticipated for the 2013-2014 practice biennium. Since this is license renewal year, please update your contact information if it has changed since your last renewal in 2010.

Our eNewsletter is your direct source for information (Continued on Page 2)

Message from the Board Chairperson

(continued from page 1)

licensees to review their continuing education hours. More details about the licensure renewal process and continuing education requirements are in this edition.

Thank you,
Helene Levenfus, Au.D.

KEY DATES DURING RENEWAL PERIOD

See Page 3 for Complete Details

Aug. 27

Renewal Notices Mailed

Sept. 1

Online Renewal Website Opens

Nov. 26

Final Reminder Renewal Notices Mailed

Dec. 31

All AUD, SLP, Dual AUD/SLP, AUD-Aide, and SLP-Aide Licenses Expire at Midnight

Message from the Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

related to licensure, whether it's proposed rules or information of interest to employers and consumers about the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.

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.

OBSLPA Staff:

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gregg.thornton@slpaud.ohio.gov

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Melissa L. Wilburn, 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.

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

Licensure Renewal Notices – Mailings Begin Last Week of August

The Board will begin mailing license renewal notices to all licensees during the last week of August. Practitioners holding an AUD or SLP license will receive their user name, password, and license number with instructions on how to renew online at the board's website. The renewal fee will be \$120.00 for speech-language pathologists and audiologists. The renewal fee for individuals who hold a dual license (SLP & AUD) will be \$170.00. The renewal fee for speech-language pathology and audiology aides will 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, 2012.

The website to renew your license online will be available beginning September 1, 2012. The following credit cards will be accepted for online renewal: American Express, Visa, Master Card, and Discover.



Licensure Statistics

As of July 20, 2012

Speech-Language Pathologists:	6525
Audiologists:	957
Conditional Licenses:	233
Student Permits:	35
SLP Aides:	9
AUD Aides:	72
Inactive SLP:	104
Inactive AUD:	24
Total Licenses:	7959

In addition, 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 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 said change.

We look forward to renewing your license beginning September 1, 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 Finalizes Proposed Changes to Continuing Education Requirements - Defers Ethics Requirement Until 2015

The Board has finalized the proposed changes to the continuing education requirements under Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4753-4. After reviewing the public comments, the Board will not require licensees to earn two clock hours of continuing education in ethics. The Board's Chairperson, Dr. Helene Levenfus stated that although there were comments about the proposed ethics requirement, the majority of those comments were not in opposition. The comments focused on cost, availability, and allowing ethics in more areas, rather than limiting it to the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology. Dr. Levenfus noted that the Board has been exchanging information with other SLP/AUD licensure boards, across the country, that are also proposing ethics as a requirement. Since this issue is being discussed at the national level, the Board will defer any decision on the ethics requirement and move forward on finalizing the other proposed changes by the end of this year. The proposed changes 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 - **Proposed Ethics Requirement Deferred**
- 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

Better Hearing and Speech Month - Updates

Board commemorated the month with support of new Bill and visit to Nationwide Children's Hospital

Board Joins Groups Supporting SB 304



The Board has joined several groups in support of Ohio Senate Bill 304, which would designate the month of May as Better Hearing and Speech month in Ohio. Sponsored by Sen. Troy Balderson, the SB 304 was unanimously passed out of the Senate and House Committee on Health and Aging in June, where it awaits approval by the full House in the fall. With approval by the House, SB 304 will go to Gov. John Kasich's desk for his signature, upon which it would become law.

Today an estimated 42 million Americans have some type of communication disorder. Referring to Sen. Balderson's sponsoring testimony, "If we factor lost work productivity, special education, and medical treatment, this causes an economic impact in excess of \$1.45 billion annually in Ohio alone. Nevertheless, when properly addressed, most people with communication disorders can lead full and productive lives." Other groups which testified in support of SB 304 included: Ohio School Speech-Language Educational Audiology Coalition, Ohio Speech-Language Hearing Association, Ohio Academy of Audiology, Hearing Healthcare Alliance of Ohio, and the Columbus Speech and Hearing Center.

There are nearly 8,000 licensed audiologists, speech-language pathologists, conditional speech-language pathologists, permit holders in speech-language pathology, audiology aides, and speech-language pathology aides throughout Ohio who work to bring better hearing and speech to those living with communication disorders. These individuals serve all ages, from newborns to the elderly, in settings such as hospitals, public and private schools, universities, community speech and hearing centers, rehabilitation agencies, nursing homes, Head Start programs, VA Clinics, and private practice offices.

By officially acknowledging May as "Better Hearing and Speech Month" in Ohio, we can raise awareness about communication disorders, the importance of early intervention, and the treatment options available that will help Ohioans, who have some form of hearing, speech, or language impairment, lead full and productive lives.

Pictured below and standing outside the Senate Committee Hearing Room at the Statehouse in Columbus, after providing testimony in support of SB 304 are:



Dawn Gleason, Au.D., (right) President & CEO of the Columbus Speech & Hearing Center, representing the Ohio Academy of Audiology; Sen. Troy Balderson; OSLHA President Janice M. Wright, MA, CCC-SLP; and Executive Director Gregg B. Thornton (left)

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Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Better Hearing and Speech Month - Updates

Board commemorated the month with support of new Bill and visit to Nationwide Children's Hospital

(Continued from next page)



Board Visits Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Departments at Nationwide Children's Hospital

On May 16, 2012, the Board's Executive Director was invited by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Departments at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus to celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month. During the event, Mr. Thornton updated the group on a variety of licensure issues, which included the status of SB 304. Afterwards, he joined everyone for a tour of the new hospital, which is cited as being the largest pediatric expansion project in U.S. history. Be sure to check out our photos on the following page. Things were still under final preparation during the tour. The official grand opening was on June 20, 2012. Nationwide Children's Hospital is one of the largest and most comprehensive pediatric hospitals in the country. For more information about the grand opening, please visit their website at: <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/grandopening>.

Board Chairperson, Dr. Helene Levenfus expressed appreciation for the invitation to join Nationwide Children's Hospital's celebration of Hearing and Speech Month, as they prepared for their grand opening. Dr. Levenfus stated, "It is important that practitioners encourage their employers to sponsor events that raise awareness about hearing and speech disorders. Awareness not only promotes the important services practitioners provide to consumers in virtually every age group and work setting, but also educates consumers about the benefits of early intervention and screenings."

The event at Nationwide Children's Hospital was one of many held across the country during the month of May. 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.

"It is important that practitioners encourage their employers to sponsor events during the month of May that raise awareness for consumers about hearing and speech disorders and the benefits of early intervention." Dr. Helene Levenfus, Board Chairperson

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Photos of Board's visit to Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) on May 16, 2012 as they celebrated Better Hearing and Speech Month



The new 12-story Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus



Audiologists Nikia Bridges, Au.D., (left); Gina Hounam, Ph.D., Program Director of the NCH Audiology Department (center); and Brittney Sprouse, Au.D. (right)

*Raising Public Awareness During
Better Hearing and Speech Month*
How did your organization recognize Better Hearing and Speech Month? We'd like to know. Send your information and photos about your event to board@slpaud.ohio.gov



Above - NCH Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists during their celebration event for Better Hearing & Speech Month

Below & Right - Photos during NCH tour - Admissions, Emergency Dept., Imaging, Cafeteria, Atrium, Sculptures



Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

AUD and SLP Graduates Applying For Licensure

Summer has always been a very busy time for the licensure board, and this year is no exception. Between the months of May through September, the Board receives a higher volume of applications from individuals who graduated from programs in audiology, speech-language pathology, and communication disorders. Ohio is fortunate to presently have ten universities with accredited graduate-level programs that produce the very best practitioners in speech-language pathology and audiology. Listed alphabetically, those universities are:






Bowling Green State University
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland State University
Kent State University
Miami University
Ohio University
The Ohio State University
The University of Toledo
University of Akron
University of Cincinnati

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The Board would like to remind employers who hire newly licensed practitioners that it takes up to thirty days before the licensee receives their wall certificate and credential pocket card in the mail. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 4753.07 and Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-3-02, all licensees shall display their certificate in a conspicuous place where the licensee practices. If licensees practice in multiple locations, the Board will provide additional certificates to the licensee at no cost, upon request.

Licenses are approved by the Board twice each month, on the first and fifteenth. The status of an individual's license may be verified online by visiting our website at: <http://slpaud.ohio.gov/lv.stm>. Please consider this on-line license status information as fulfilling the primary source requirement for verification of licensure. Newly licensed individuals are legal to practice as soon as the on-line license status reflects them as having an "Active" license.

The Board would like to congratulate and recognize the following individuals for receiving an exceptional score of 800 or higher on the National Praxis Examination administered by the Educational Testing Service:

In Audiology

Krista Holderman, Au.D., A.01811 (licensed July 2, 2012)

In Speech-Language Pathology

Bethany Pasternak, MA-SLP, COND.2012271 (licensed June 1, 2012)

Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Upcoming Conferences

Fall 2012 OSSPEAC Conference



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

OSSPEAC will hold its annual convention in Columbus at the Hilton at Polaris from October 21-23, 2012. This year's theme is "Applying Evidence to Communication Practice." 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 for continuing education hours and networking.

Special Note

The Board has been invited to present during the OSSPEAC convention (Oct. 21-23), at a date and time to be determined. Those who have attended licensure board presentations at this conference in the past can attest that the group discussions about school-based issues are very informative. This year, we were asked to cover a full session.

The Board's presentation will briefly cover the role of the licensure board and include updates on issues impacting your license, such as telepractice and caseloads. The majority of the presentation will be open to group discussion of various scenarios typically encountered in the school setting.

- **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**



Spring 2012 OSLHA Conference—Update

On March 10, 2012, the Board's Executive Director, along with Michelle Burnett, M.A., CCC-SLP, with the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center and Barbara Prakup, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, with Baldwin Wallace University, co-presented Session MS28, entitled Hot Topics in Ethics, at the Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association (OSLHA) Annual Convention.

This ninety-minute presentation covered various ethical scenarios speech-language pathologists and audiologists deal with on a regular basis in their professional settings. The presentation focused on empowering practitioners to recognize and resolve ethical dilemmas by reviewing the regulations and guidelines, and receiving resources. The session was well-attended and attendees had the opportunity to participate in discussion and share their own experiences in a learning-enriched environment. Many attendees with years of experience, along with current and former board members, shared their expertise and experiences in dealing with challenging ethical situations and dilemmas.

The co-presenters are currently preparing for an expanded presentation (Double-Block Session) for the OSLHA convention in March 2013.

Here are a few comments attendees provided about the Hot Topics in Ethics Presentation:

- ◇ The presentation made me think about situations I didn't consider before.
- ◇ Hearing other feedback from the audience about "real" situations was helpful.
- ◇ The topics raised good discussion; the interactive style was engaging and insightful.
- ◇ The resource materials were very helpful.

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

Ohio Department of Health – Newborn Hearing Screenings - Important Updates for Audiologists

Submitted by Sheryl M. Silver, Ph.D., CCC-A
Infant Hearing Program Audiologist
The Ohio Department of Health

The Ohio Department of Health has the following resources available regarding reporting requirements for audiologists who evaluate infants not passing their Hospital Hearing Screening.

The results of hearing evaluations performed on infants and toddlers who did not pass their Newborn Hearing Screening must be documented on the UNHS Follow-up Hearing Evaluation form (HEA 8017). This form must be completed and should be sent to the Ohio Department of Health within 48 hours of the evaluation. For more information about reporting requirements and the use of Form HEA 8017, please view the training material available on OhioTRAIN.

To access the training, please go to: <https://oh.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx>

You will need to create an account and enter the **Course ID Number: 1021428**

The name of the training is: [Audiologist Training for Early Hearing Detection Intervention: Follow-up Testing and Reporting](#)

The following is an update regarding Genetics and Hearing Loss:

More than 50% of hearing loss in infants is genetically related according to research. Yet, many infants diagnosed with permanent hearing loss are not referred for genetic evaluation and counseling to determine the cause of the hearing loss. To address this issue, the Region 4 Genetics Collaborative established a workgroup to improve access to genetic services for families whose children have been identified with hearing loss. The Work Group developed a guide with excellent tools for providers to help identify and refer families to genetic services. The guide is titled: *An Action Guide for Providers Serving Children Who Have Hearing Loss: Increasing Genetic Referrals for Children Identified Through the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention System.*

Please follow the links below to access the CDC Genetics Guide/Brochure, and to learn more information about the Genetics Collaborative:

http://region4genetics.org/region4_products/_docs/EHDI_Guide_092010.pdf

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/freematerials/GeneticsTeamQuestions.pdf>

www.region4genetics.org



Ohio Board of Speech-Language
Pathology and Audiology

Board Maintains Alert to Ohio Consumers With Hearing Loss

Board part of Workgroup supporting HB Bill 545

As many in the audiology profession know, online hearing tests and purchasing of hearing aids online without a face-to-face evaluation pose serious risks to consumers with hearing loss. In December 2011, the Board posted an important notice to its website alerting Ohio consumers about the importance of seeing an audiologist when concerns arise about hearing loss. This important Consumer Alert can be viewed at: <http://slpaud.ohio.gov/pdfs/Letter-Consumer.pdf>

Since early 2011, the Board has been part of Workgroup engaged in efforts to address this issue legislatively. In May 2012, Rep. Rex Damschroder introduced HB 545, which would prohibit the sale of hearing aids through the mail to the ultimate consumer without a prior in-person evaluation between the consumer and individuals permitted to recommend or fit a hearing aid. Additionally, this issue has garnered attention by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Food and Drug Administration. The Board will continue to monitor this issue closely and seek appropriate protection for consumers through the legislative process. Members of the Workgroup include the Ohio Speech and Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition, the Hearing Healthcare Alliance of Ohio, and the Ohio Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensure Board.

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 or information may be submitted via e-mail at board@slpaud.ohio.gov or to our mailing address at:

Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
ATTN: Investigations
77 S. High Street, Suite 1659
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108
(614) 466-3145



Ohio Board of Speech-Language
Pathology and Audiology

Upcoming Regional Events



Support the Cincinnati Children's Hearing Aid Trust in Cincinnati Walks for Kids!

WHO: All funds raised in the name of Team "CCHAT Champions" will go towards buying the first set of hearing aids for OH children birth- age 3

WHAT: Cincinnati Walks for Kids is more than just a fundraiser – the walk is an exciting day full of activities, including face painting, music, five classic Coney Island rides and plenty of refreshments for the whole family to enjoy.

WHERE: Coney Island in Cincinnati

WHEN: Saturday, October 20th, 2012

WHY: To help families overcome obstacles and alleviate the stressors associated with hearing loss

HOW: Visit www.cincinnatichildrens.org/walk and Register or Sponsor a Walker by searching for "CCHAT Champions"

Thank you for supporting



and making a difference in the
lives of children with hearing loss!

Ohio Board of Speech-Language
Pathology and Audiology

Continuing Education Requirements for 2012 – An Overview

At the time licensees renew their license, they will have to certify their completion of the continuing education requirements for the 2011-2012 practice biennium. Continuing education hours must be completed between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2012. 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 complete continuing education hours 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, 2012.

I heard the Board is considering new rules for continuing education, including a requirement to complete certain hours in ethics. Must I complete ethics as part of my continuing education requirements for the 2012 renewal?

No. Ethics is not a requirement for continuing education at this time. The Board is in the process of reviewing the public comments received to the proposed rule changes for continuing education. The Board will notify all licensees of any changes to the continuing education requirements once the rules are finalized. The Board will notify licensees via the Board eNewsletter, Board listserv, and website. It is the licensee's responsibility to stay current with all laws and rules related to the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology. Licensees should update their e-mail address to ensure receipt of the Board's eNewsletter and other electronic notifications distributed via the board listserv. Licensees may update their records with an e-mail address at the time of renewal or by e-mailing the board at Board@slpauld.ohio.gov. Information about the laws and rules, including any changes, is always available on the Board's homepage at: <http://slpauld.ohio.gov/> and clicking on the link "Laws and Regulations."

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Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

What should I do if I have not completed my continuing education hours by December 31, 2012?

In order to practice under a valid license beginning January 1, 2013, licensees must complete all continuing education requirements by December 31, 2012. You should only check the continuing education verification box if you will complete your required hours by December 31, 2012. If you will not have the required hours completed before December 31, 2012, you will not meet the requirements for renewing your license and must not practice after December 31, 2012. 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, 2012?

Any practice after December 31, 2012 without satisfying the appropriate continuing education requirements and providing inaccurate information on the renewal application constitutes practicing without a valid license. Licensees could be subject to disciplinary action and other serious consequences as a result, including but not limited to, fraud, deception, or misrepresentation in obtaining or attempting to obtain a license. Licensees in this situation would also be engaged in the unlicensed practice of speech-language pathology and audiology, which is a criminal offense.

What should I do if I have additional questions?

The licensure board is always here to assist you resolve special circumstances and at the same time remain compliant with the statutes and rules governing the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology. Do not hesitate to contact the Board's Executive Director, Gregg B. Thornton, Esq. at gregg.thornton@slpaud.ohio.gov or (614) 644-9046.

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OBSLPA SUMMER/EARLY FALL QUARTER CALENDAR



August 8
August 13
August 14
 August 15

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review
Rules Committee
Board Meeting and Professional Competency Committee Meetings
 Application Review and Approval



August 27
September 3
 September 4
September 10
 September 17

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review
State Holiday - Labor Day - Board Office Closed
 Application Review and Approval
Documents Received Deadline for Next Review
 Application Review and Approval



September 24
 October 1
October 3
October 4
October 8

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review
 Application Review and Approval
Rules Committee
Board Meeting and Professional Competency Committee Meetings
State Holiday - Columbus Day - Board Office Closed



October 9
 October 15
October 21-23
October 25
 November 1
November 8
 November 15

Documents Received Deadline for Next Review
 Application Review and Approval
OSSPEAC Annual Convention - Board Presentation
Documents Received Deadline for Next Review
 Application Review and Approval
Documents Received Deadline for Next Review
 Application Review and Approval

Please visit the Board’s website at 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 Can I Renew My License Online?

Beginning September 1, 2012, individuals holding a speech-language pathology or audiology license may renew their license online from our website. The online renewal process is quick and secure. There are no forms to sign or mail to the board office. The Board received positive feedback about the online renewal process during the 2010 renewal period. Practitioners may renew their license with the following credit cards: American Express, VISA, Master Card, or Discover.

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.slpud.ohio.gov for the latest updates and information.

