



# Winter Quarter Newsletter

## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

### Board Members:

#### Chairperson:

Helene Levenfus, Au.D.

#### Vice Chairperson:

Loretta T. Embry, M.A., SLP

J. Paul Good, Public Member

Jane M. Kukula, Au.D.

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

Karen K. Mitchell, Au.D.

Malcolm J. Porter, Public Member

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

### 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. We held our strategic planning meeting on January 31, 2011, and set priorities for the upcoming year. The Board is looking forward to another productive year addressing issues that impact consumers, licensees, and employers. Committees have already reviewed their agendas and goals for 2011. I would like to encourage all licensees to share their feedback and input with the Board. Receiving your feedback on issues or concerns is one of the best ways to ensure that the Board maintains its responsiveness to the regulated

professions. Our executive director and office staff are very approachable, and stand ready to assist you with any questions or concerns.

As all of you know, effective January 1, 2011, we began the 2011-2012 licensure period. If you renewed your license as a speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or aide, your license will not expire until December 31, 2012. If you renewed your license by December 31, 2010, you should have received your pocket card in the mail. You and/or your

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

Welcome to the winter issue of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology eNewsletter. Since January, the Board has been very busy setting priorities and planning initiatives for 2011. This edition contains important updates and information related to

your license and the regulated professions in general. You will find an update regarding the licensure renewal period we completed on December 31, 2010. Overall, we had a very successful renewal campaign, and the vast majority of licensees took advantage of the online renewal (Continued on Page 2)

## Message from the Board Chairperson

(continued from page 1)

employer also may verify your licensure status on our website, which is the primary source verification method. The Board will receive final recommendations from the executive director based on feedback received to further enhance the renewal process. The Board is looking forward to sharing new licensure data that was collected during this renewal period. You may recall questions on the renewal application about your practice setting, employment status, and supervisory experience. All of this information will allow the Board to better track licensure trends in the professions and develop appropriate initiatives in the future that address shortages and other issues.

The next board meeting will be on March 17, 2011, and will coincide with the Ohio Speech-Language Hearing Association Annual Conference. The Professional Competency and Rules Committees also scheduled meetings to coincide with the conference. Please refer to the information in this edition for the specific date, time, and location of board-related meetings.

Thank you,  
Helene Levenfus, Au.D.

## Message from the Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

process. On behalf of the Board and the entire office staff, I would like to thank everyone who submitted comments and suggestions. All of your suggestions will be reviewed as part of our continuing effort to improve the license renewal process. We will update you of any changes that will occur during the next renewal period in 2012.

Some licensees will soon be receiving an audit letter for verification of completion of continuing education for the 2009-2010 license period. Although we have included information in previous editions about the audit process, we decided to continue its placement in the current edition. You also will find updates on other issues which appeared in previous eNewsletters. If you practice in a school setting, be sure to review our updates on Medicaid billing by conditional licensees and the student caseload ratio issue.

We always invite you to provide feedback. If there is a topic or question you would like the Board to address in the eNewsletter, please let us know. In addition, I personally invite you to contact me directly at [gregg.thornton@slpaud.ohio.gov](mailto:gregg.thornton@slpaud.ohio.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.  
Gregg B. Thornton  
Executive Director

## Has your contact information changed?

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

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

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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

## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

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

### Licensure Renewal 2010—Update

**All licenses expired at  
midnight on  
December 31, 2010**

By Michelle Cunningham, Licensing Administrator

The license renewal period for 2009-2010 was completed on December 31, 2010. The vast majority of licensees renewed their license online. If you are a speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or aide and did not renew your license by December 31, 2010, your license expired on January 1, 2011. You must have an active license for the 2011-2012 licensure period to be able to legally practice. If you have not renewed and wish to do so, you have until December 31, 2011 to submit a late renewal application. If you do not renew an expired license within one year of expiration, you will have to submit an application for re-licensure. The online renewal website is no longer active; therefore, please contact the board office at (614) 466-3145 to make arrangements to submit your late renewal application online. You may also download a late renewal application from our website at:

<http://slpaud.ohio.gov/application2.stm#renew> or the application for re-licensure at: <http://slpaud.ohio.gov/application2.stm#rel>

<b>Licensure Statistics</b>	
As of February 2011	
Speech-Language Pathologists:	5787
Audiologists:	899
Conditional Licenses:	346
Student Permits:	41
SLP Aides:	9
AUD Aides:	58
Inactive SLP:	108
Inactive AUD:	26
<b>Total Licenses:</b>	<b>7274</b>

<b>Renewal Statistics</b>	
Online Renewals	
August:	64
September:	1044
October:	577
November:	1208
December:	3380
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6273</b>
Total Paper Applications: 441	

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

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**Assistant Attorney General:**  
Melissa L. Wilburn, Esq.

**Board's Contact Information**

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

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



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### Continuing Education – Why did I receive an audit letter from the Board?

By Connie J. Stansberry, Board Investigator

We receive many questions about the continuing education audit. The following information will explain our continuing education audit process and what you are required to submit if you receive an audit letter. Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 4753-4-01(D), the Board may audit the continuing education of any licensee.

Licensees who renewed on time will be randomly chosen for the continuing education audit. The selection process is completely automated. Anyone who renews within one year after the deadline will automatically be audited for their continuing education.

The Board will send licensees who were selected for an audit a letter with information and instructions about the audit process. If you receive notification of the audit, you must submit documentation verifying that you completed the 20 hours of continuing education that are required pursuant to OAC 4753-4-01-(A). Acceptable documentation must show the sponsor, date of attendance, subject, credit hours, your name and a **brief description** of the **objective** of the course. The best documentation is a copy of the ASHA/AAA registry, an unofficial college transcript,

or a certificate of completion for a workshop, seminar, class or In-Service training. Copies may be faxed or scanned to PDF format and e-mailed to the Board office Investigator. Specific details are contained in the audit letter.

#### Important reminders about the CEU Audit

1. Verification of your continuing education shall reflect that continuing education hours were completed from 1/1/2009 through 12/31/2010.
2. Any hours that exceed 20 may not be carried over into the next renewal period.
3. Those newly licensed do not need to obtain continuing education for their first renewal and will not be included in the random selection process. If this is your first time renewing and you inadvertently receive an audit letter, please contact the Board's investigator.
4. Those who recently became re-licensed shall obtain 20 additional hours of CEUs for the renewal (unless the re-licensure date is 100 days or less of the renewal deadline).
5. Not complying with the audit in a timely manner, or not complying at all, could result in disciplinary action.
6. Attesting "yes" on your renewal application that you completed or intend to complete the required 20 hours of CEUs by December 31, 2010, yet not being able to demonstrate proof of those hours if you are audited, may result in disciplinary action.
7. Do not send Continuing Education documentation to the Board at this time. You are required to save documentation of completed Continuing Education for at least four years after the date of your license renewal. Documentation will be required in the event you are audited.



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### 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 17 through 19, 2011. The theme will be "Sharing the Keys to Unlocking Communication." For more information about conference sessions and registration, please visit OSLHA's website at [http://www.ohioslha.org/e\\_convention.htm](http://www.ohioslha.org/e_convention.htm). Conferences offer excellent opportunities to earn continuing education hours.



#### Special Note

The Board has been invited to present at the OSLHA conference on Friday, March 18, 2011, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The presentation will cover the role of the licensure board and include updates on issues affecting your license. You may find additional information in the conference program under the Professional Issues Track. Refer to presentation code MS22.

- **Learn about issues affecting your license**
- **Learn about new changes/updates to laws and rules**
- **Opportunity to ask questions**
- **Direct access to Board members and staff**

### March Board and Committee Meetings Coincide with OSLHA's Annual Convention

As an official public entity, the Board is committed to being accessible. Ohio law requires public notice of all Board and committee meetings. The Board has traditionally held its March board meeting to coincide with OSLHA's annual convention to afford both licensees and interested parties attending the convention with an opportunity to see first-hand how the licensure Board functions. It also allows individuals to pose questions, express comments, or make suggestions directly to the Board members and staff. Meetings are held at the same hotel OSLHA has selected to host its convention, and typically a day before the convention officially begins. This year, the Board has scheduled two committee meetings and a full board meeting. We invite everyone to attend these public meetings. We would like to especially invite interested persons to attend the Professional Competency Committee meeting and participate in discussion about clarification of duties for audiology aides and continuing education requirements to ensure continued competence in the professions.

#### Public Meetings in March 2011

March 16: Professional Competency Committee - 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 17: Board Meeting - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

March 17: Rules Committee - 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**The meeting on March 16 will be held at: 77 S. High St., 31st Floor; Columbus, OH 43215.**

**Both meetings on March 17 will be held in the Columbus Board Room at the Hilton-Columbus at Easton Town Center; 3900 Chagrin Dr., Columbus, OH 43219.**

Please visit the Board's website for the meeting agendas: <http://slpaud.ohio.gov/meet.stm>.

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### ODE Caseload Ratio— Update

#### ODE Reviewing Caseload Ratio Project Applications

A representative with the Office for Exceptional Children with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) attended the January 31, 2011 board meeting and provided an update on the status of the caseload ratio project. ODE is in the process of reviewing the applications it received in response to their request for proposals, in which selected school districts will receive up to \$35,000 to develop a plan to provide for an alternative method in the calculation of service provider ratios. The Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) reported that this opportunity will generate a variety of methods for the calculation of appropriate ratios which can be used by other districts within the state. OEC indicated that the remaining school year will focus on plan review, evaluation, and development. The second year of the project will focus on executing approved plans. The Board will continue to collaborate with ODE on this issue and include updates in its newsletter.

### Medicaid Billing—Update

The Board continues to work with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Medicaid Schools Program (MSP) coordinator, Mark Smith, to clarify questions about the condi-

tional license, which is issued by the Board pursuant to section 4753.071 of the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Smith submitted ODE's concerns to the Board in writing. At the January 31, 2011 board meeting, the Board voted to seek an formal opinion from the Ohio Attorney General's Office, which would clarify the status of the conditional license and ultimately determine whether this license is equivalent to the definition of a speech-language pathologist, as specified under Title 42, section 440.110 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Board has exchanged multiple communications with ODE to clarify the following: the conditional license is a "license" issued to individuals who have completed graduate-level academic requirements, passed the PRAXIS examination administered by ETS, and are permitted to provide services without limitations to their scope of practice. The Attorney General's Opinion will also address the issue of whether the license for speech-language pathology is equivalent the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) certification requirements for purposes of Medicare/Medicaid billing requirements established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). It is the Board's position that our requirements for completion of the professional experience in Ohio exceed those of ASHA. It is also our position that an individual holding an Ohio speech-language pathology license without ASHA certification, holds a license that is equivalent to and/or exceeds ASHA's certification requirements.



## Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

### Board to send letter to employers regarding their completion of the 2010 business filing

Ohio law requires each organization that employs one or more speech-language pathologists or audiologists to complete and submit a business filing form. This information shall be reported no later than March 1st of every even year, reporting for the previous year. Employers who submitted a business filing form in 2010 will be notified of their compliance with the submission requirements.

The Board will also take the opportunity to provide other information and resources to assist these employers regarding various issues. This will include how employers of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, conditional speech-language pathologists, student permit holders, speech-language pathology aides, and audiology aides may verify that a prospective or current employee holds a valid license with the Board prior to providing services. Other information will cover the biennial renewal, unauthorized practice, and certain provisions applicable to conditional licensees, student permit holders, and aides. We will also include a link to our listserv that employers can join to receive updates and information via e-mail, such as Board's eNewsletter.

The Board Chairperson, Dr. Helene Levenfus recently stated, "We are excited about this new form of communication to employers. The Board receives many questions from employers regarding a variety of issues. Reaching out to them in this

manner will further facilitate good communications about our licensure requirements and the impact laws and rules have on the delivery of services to consumers, especially the requirements that have an impact on third-party billing." For example, it is important for everyone to understand that practicing under an expired license could pose issues for employers if they unknowingly receive reimbursement for services rendered by someone without a valid license, even if the license was expired by just one day.

### Board Starts 2011 with Strategic Planning Meeting

The Board held its first meeting of the year on January 31, 2011, and determined its initiatives and priorities for the upcoming year. The Board will continue to provide updates of changes to laws or rules via the eNewsletter. Please ensure that you notify us of any changes to your e-mail address to avoid any disruption or delay in receiving these updates.

The Board is looking forward to a very busy and productive year addressing issues affecting the professions. For initiatives and opportunities related to speech-language pathology, the Board will continue its collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to address caseload ratios and shortages. Additionally, the Board will be requesting an Attorney General Formal Opinion seeking clarification about the conditional license and resolving current issues related to Medicaid reimbursement being sought by conditional licensees in the school settings under the ODE's Medicaid Service Program. For initiatives and opportunities related to audiology, the Board will be clarifying duties for aides, addressing internet sales of hearing



# Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

aids, pursuing appropriate action regarding improper advertisement and unlicensed practice. The Board will also be reviewing several rules during 2011 as part of the five-year review process and considering the adoption and/or amendment of rules clarifying a various issues. Additional details and updates about these anticipated rule changes will be included in future eNewsletters.

## OAA Conference Offered Attendees Opportunity to Interact with Board



The Board would like to thank the Ohio Academy of Audiology (OAA) for its invitation to



Former Board member, Dr. Raymond J. Lezak (1975-1978) with current Board Chairperson, Dr. Helene Levenfus.

present at their conference held on February 17-19, 2011 in Columbus. Audiology Board members, Dr. Helene Levenfus, Dr. Karen Mitchell, and the Board's Executive Director, Mr. Gregg

Thornton updated Ohio's audiologists and other interested parties in attendance on Board matters and audiology issues the Board is currently reviewing. In addition, the Board fielded questions and appreciated the many comments licensees gave at the information table the Board staffed throughout the conference. The conference culminated with a rousing and motivating presentation from Dr. Robert G.

Glaser, who is also a former Audiology Board member and past-chairperson of this Board (1984-1989).

## Miami University Hosts Sponsored Silence Event

The Board's executive director had the opportunity to experience first-hand a sponsored silence event hosted by Miami University's National Student Speech Hearing and Language Association during the RedHawks' basketball game against Buffalo at 7:00 p.m. on January 13, in Millett Hall. Special events, like this one,



Demonstration - Martha Cummings-Cohen with AAC device user.

help raise awareness in the public about communications disorders and how those disorders are being addressed by practitioners utilizing augmentative and alternative communication devices. Mr. Thornton underscored the importance of getting out to experience how licensees interact with consumers. Mr. Thornton stated, "When you see things in person, it brings a whole new perspective and promotes opportunities to experience the impact the professions have on people in our state."



# OBSLPA WINTER CALENDAR



March 1

**March 8**

March 15

**March 16**

**March 17**

**March 17**

**March 25**

April 1

**April 8**

April 15

**April 25**

May 2

**May 9**

May 16

**May 16**

**May 17**

**May 17**

**May 25**

June 1

Application Review and Approval

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval

**Professional Competency Committee Meeting**

**Board Meeting**

**Rules Committee Meeting**

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

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**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval

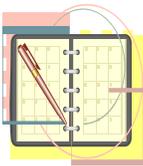
**Rules Committee Meeting**

**Board Meeting**

**Professional Competency Committee Meeting**

**Documents Received Deadline for Next Review**

Application Review and Approval



Please visit the Board’s website at [www.slpud.ohio.gov](http://www.slpud.ohio.gov) for the specific time and location of the Board and committee meetings. In addition, you may also download the Board’s agenda and meeting minutes. Please note that this calendar is subject to change without notice.



## Ask the Board:

### Regular Feature

Frequently asked questions will appear in each quarterly newsletter.



### **What are the requirements for supervisors to report changes in supervision of an Aide?**

The supervisor of an aide shall notify the Board of any changes in the approved application required in rule [4753-7-01](#) of the Administrative Code as a condition of licensure, including termination of employment of either party. Failure to notify the Board of a change or termination of an approved

application shall be grounds for discipline in accordance with section 4753.10(M) of the Revised Code. Supervision of an unlicensed aide shall be aiding and abetting unlicensed practice and shall be grounds for discipline in accordance with section 4753.10(D) of the Revised Code.