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News for Oregon-licensed Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists, & SLPAs

FALL 2010 EDITION

THE VOICE

IN THIS ISSUE

The Times They Are A'Changin'

Ashley Northam, M.S. CCC-SLP
Board Chair



This issue contains the product of a LOT of Board work, reviewing and drafting changes to the statutes and rules that guide our work.

The proposed rules are ready for your review and comment—the public hearing is set for Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., and written comments can be mailed, faxed or emailed to arrive no later than Thursday, January 20, at 5:00 p.m. at the Board office. PLEASE take the time to see what we are proposing, and add your two cents to the process by attending the hearing or sending questions or concerns. If you like what we've proposed, please send a brief email saying that, too!

Probably the biggest rule change being proposed is to move the license renewal deadline up to December 31st of each even-numbered year—one month earlier than the current deadline. This is in response to many comments that licensees have voiced about the disconnect between ASHA

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Welcome New Board Members

Sandy Leybold, MPH
Executive Director

Jennie Price, SLP Pendleton, OR
Appointed June 1, 2010

Jennie has served schoolchildren in rural Oregon as an SLP for over 15 years. She promotes high professional standards, and particularly understands the issues that the SLP shortage presents in non-metropolitan areas. Jennie has also supervised SLPAs for 10 years, and appreciates the work the Board has done to create consistent guidelines for all licensees. In her few spare hours, she enjoys making cards, reading, and spending time with her husband.

Lyndsay Duffus, Au.D. Portland, OR
Appointed July 1, 2010

Lyndsay is a pediatric audiologist practicing at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, where her clinical interests are the diagnosis and habilitation of hearing loss in infants and children. Having completed her doctorate in 2006, she is relatively new in the profession, but is enthusiastic about bringing her fresh approach to the Board's work. When not working, Lyndsay enjoys knitting, reading, and watching/attending sports events.

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deadlines and BSPA deadlines for renewal and professional development. Since ASHA counts PD hours on a calendar year basis, it should be easier for licensees to keep track of PD hours if the Board's PD period becomes the two preceding calendar years, rather than the current January 30th cutoff. Importantly, this change will also help the Board because it will give a month between the renewal date and the license expiration date in which to review the PD submission and other renewal application items. It will also make it less likely that individuals will be practicing without a valid license if they file a late renewal. Take a look at the articles on PD in this issue; both Jennie Price and Tim Anderson have compiled information to help clarify Board requirements.

The Board has also drafted legislative concepts that have been turned into a draft bill for introduction in the 2011 Oregon Legislative Session. The concepts and text of the bill will be included in the Spring 2011 newsletter. OSHA and OAA leaders are supportive of the legislative concepts and both professional associations will be working closely with the Board and our licensees as the Session begins.

New legislators, a new governor, a new governor's health policy advisor, new/continuing budget concerns...these things all impact a state Board. But the work of the Board remains the same: to protect the public and to do our best to make sure that quality services are provided by competent professionals.

As ever, please feel free to contact me or the Board staff with your concerns, questions, and suggestions.

Happy Holidays!

Customer Service Survey Results

Tim Anderson
Administrative Assistant

We recently asked for your assistance in completing our customer service survey, and there was a good turnout: 207 licensees gave us feedback in October and November.

Licensee comments were mainly positive, including feedback that we responded more quickly than other states and were helpful in meeting licensees' needs. However, at times we had issues in timely response to phone or email inquiries, and this is reflected in the data.

Since 2006, the number of licensees, the administrative complexity based on state requirements and national best practices, and the number of complaints/investigations has risen dramatically. Given this increased workload, we are pleased that 85% or more of you score our service highly.

Availability of information was rated higher than in both previous surveys. We have received positive

Ralph Blanchard, Public Member **Dallas, OR**
Appointed December 20, 2010

A native Oregonian, Ralph has a long history of public service in Oregon, as a land surveyor, and as a Polk County Commissioner. As a community volunteer, he helped create a special district to support transportation needs for local senior citizens. As a consumer of hearing services, he looks forward to helping protect the public. Now retired, Ralph enjoys his time with family on their farm where they produce grass hay, Christmas trees, firewood and timber.

Elisa Williams, Public Member **Lake Oswego, OR**
Re-appointed July 1, 2010

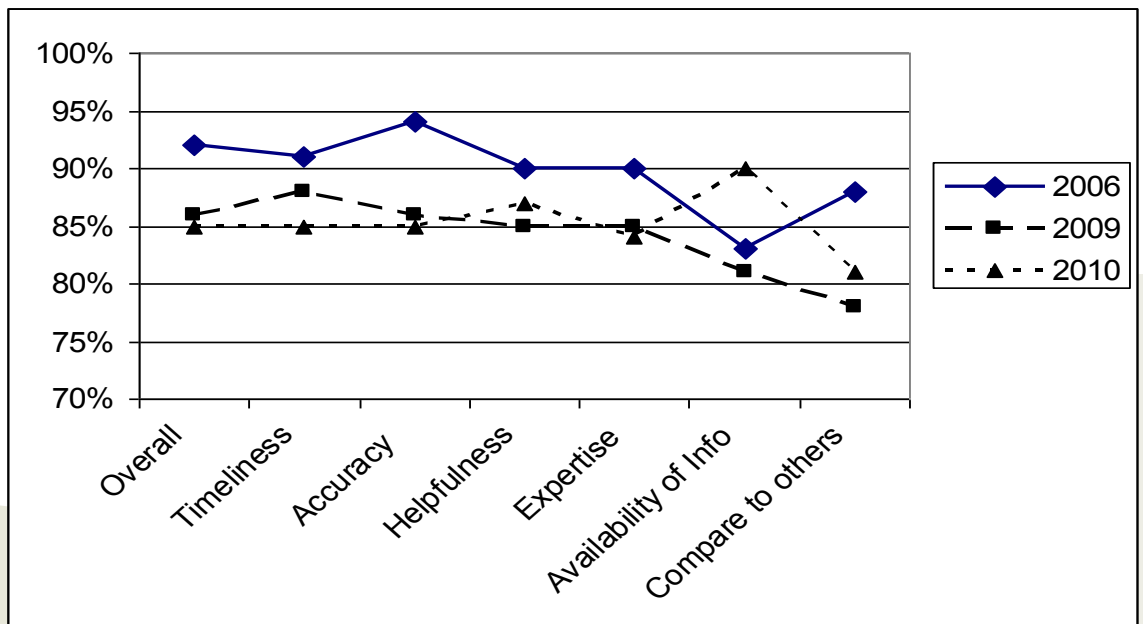
Elisa has ably contributed her consumer perspective to key Board decisions since her original appointment in November 2007. Elisa's Board membership inspired her to "re-career" into the hearing healthcare industry, qualifying recently as a Hearing Aid Dispenser and an Occupational Hearing Conservationist. She is now searching for a job where she can use her own hearing loss as an advantage when counseling others about better hearing and hearing protection. While she and her husband raise their two daughters, Elisa also enjoys crafting gifts and jewelry, cooking and sewing.

comments about our newsletters, email "news flashes", and website updates.

The Board discussed the survey data at the December 2010 meeting, and we take your comments seriously. We plan to serve you better by implementing an improved system for tracking and responding to your inquiries, and updating our website more regularly.

BSPA Customer Service Ratings on Fall Surveys

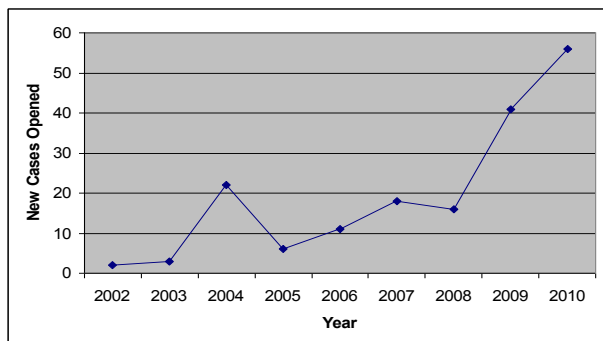
Note: Data for 2007 and 2008 are not included because we did not specifically ask licensees to complete the survey; therefore, the response rate was extremely low (only 20-40 per year).



Investigative Workload Grows

Sandy Leybold, MPH
Executive Director

The upward trend in complaints and compliance activities over the last several years has significantly added to the number of investigations the Board conducts to protect the public health and safety. Several other health professional licensing boards in Oregon are experiencing similar increases. A look at the “Recent Board Actions” on the website or in this newsletter will give a sense of the seriousness of the professional conduct and competence issues the Board has addressed.



Complaints and Confidentiality

Sandy Leybold, MPH
Executive Director

If a licensee believes that the Board’s professional and ethical standards have been violated, he/she is obligated to inform the Board, and we are obligated to conduct an investigation. Complaints can be submitted via a form available on-line through the Forms tab on our homepage, or can be submitted via a letter or email to the Board office.

The Board’s investigations are kept confidential; we cannot even disclose that an investigation is underway unless the Board decides to take action. The identity of the complainant is also kept confidential throughout the investigation process. Only if disciplinary action is taken by the Board, and a hearing is requested by the licensee, is it possible that the complainant could be asked to appear to testify as to the facts in the case, and thus his/her identity as a complainant would become apparent. In almost all cases, the complainant remains unknown to the licensee.

Recent Board Actions



Click on the licensee name or go to the Recent Board Actions tab on our website for details.

Actions involving ongoing administrative hearings are not included.

10/20/2010

Gray, Denise D. Speech-Language Pathologist #13111

Outcome: Final Order by Default Revoking License

Violation: Licensee failed to perform essential job functions as a school based speech-language pathologist and failed to comply with local district and ESD rules and policies during her employment with the SOESD in violation of OAR 335-005-0015(1) and (2). Licensee failed to maintain complete documentation of the clinical services she provided for students and patients in violation of OAR 335-005-0015 (16), OAR 335-010-0060 and OAR 335-010-0070. Licensee failed to provide all services competently in the treatment of her assigned patients with dysphagia in violation of OAR 335-005-0015(2). Licensee provided dysphagia services without the appropriate training, experience and competence in violation of OAR 335-005-0015(1).

10/13/2010

Clifton, Karen C. Speech-Language Pathologist #12102

Outcome: Final Order by Default: Reprimand and \$500 Civil Penalty

Violation: Licensee practiced speech-language pathology without a valid license for approximately one month, in violation of ORS 681.360(1). Licensee submitted her license renewal late in three instances, in violation of ORS 681.320(1) and OAR 335-060-0030. Licensee failed to complete required professional development, in violation of ORS 681.320(1) and OAR 335-060-0030, and to submit a timely professional development audit response to the Board, in violation of OAR 335-070-0050. Licensee failed to submit address changes to the Board within 30 days, in violation of OAR 335-005-0020(8).

7/2/2010

Gray, Denise D. Speech-Language Pathologist #13111

Outcome: Order of Emergency Suspension issued July 2, 2010

Violation: Board determined that licensee was not providing services to adult patients, specifically those with dysphagia, with due competence as required by OAR 335-005-0015(2): Individuals shall provide all services competently; OAR 335-005-0015(16): Individuals shall maintain clinical records as required by the Board’s rules to ensure the provision of competent and appropriate care for persons served; and OAR 335-005-0020(1): Individuals shall engage in only those aspects of the professions that are within the scope of their competence, considering their level of education, training and experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

Professional Development Questions

Q: I'm an SLP supervising a clinical fellow- -can I get PD credit for that?

A: You may apply for credit if supervising a CF is not part of your regular job duties. A maximum of 10 hours of PD will be granted. Use the regular application form on www.oregon.gov/bspa/forms.shtml.

Q: It's been more than 30 days since I completed a PD activity that is not on the list of approved activities. Can I still get credit for it?

A: You can, but you'll have to pay the \$200 delinquent fee to have it reviewed for special approval.

Q: How much professional development will I be required to report at 2012 renewal?

A: It depends on when you were licensed initially (look at your license or on our on-line license lookup at <http://bspa.oregonlookups.com> to see when you were initially licensed).

Initially Licensed*	Clock Hours of PD Due
Prior to August 1, 2010	SLPs and Auds: 30 SLPAs: 15
Aug 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011	SLPs and Auds: 15 SLPAs: 7.5
After Aug 1, 2011	If you submitted 100% (SLPs/Auds-30; SLPAs-15) of the hours due on initial application, you need not show any hours at renewal. If you elected to accrue 33% of required hours (SLPs/Auds-10; SLPAs-5) within the first year of licensure, you need to submit these now. Contact our office if you are not sure which option you elected.

Q: I'm taking a 3-credit audiology graduate level course. How many hours of PD credit can I get for it?

A: Licensees may only be granted up to 50% of your required PD hours for a college course (15 hours for SLP/Auds; 7.5 for SLPAs).

Other Questions

Q: Is there any charge for a license verification or letter of good standing to be sent from Oregon BSPA to another state?

A: No. You can send us an email to speechaud.board@state.or.us, requesting that we send a letter or if the other state has a form, just mail or fax it to us. We will complete it and send it directly to the other state's licensing agency.

Q: How do I change my name in your records?

A: We have posted a name and address change report form on the forms page of our website. Don't forget, we need a copy of the marriage license (this is not the certificate; it's the form you get

from the county), divorce decree, or court document decreeing the name change. You can mail or fax it to us at (971) 673-0226. There is no charge for us to issue you a duplicate license with your new name.

SLPA Supervision Questions

Q: Does an SLPA need to be supervised 30% of the time if she moves to a different school within the same district?

A: Administrative rule 335-095-0050(1)(a) says that an SLPA must be supervised for a total of 30% of her clinical interaction hours during the first 90 days with a given employer. The Board does not intend to make the rule more restrictive at this time based on the location of the assignment.

So, a SLPA who has moved within the district/employer must have the usual minimum 20% of total clinical interaction time supervised, as is required in OAR 335-095-0050 (b): "Subsequent to the first 90 calendar days of licensed employment with a given employer, a minimum of 20% of all the time an assistant is providing clinical interaction must be supervised. A minimum of 10% of hours spent in clinical interaction must be directly supervised."

Remember that the above OAR is meant to provide a minimum amount of required supervision, and that a broader guideline is outlined in OAR 335-095-0050 (1): "The amount and type of supervision required will be based on the skills and experience of the speech-language pathology assistant." If you have any reason to believe that additional hours are required based on the individual's skills and experience, then additional supervision hours should be provided.

Q: Can an SLP licensed by TSPC who is in their graduate program or in their CFY supervise an SLPA?

A: No. Minimum qualifications for SLPA supervisors are listed in OAR 335-095-0040:

- (1) Hold Board licensure or licensure by TSPC with an endorsement in communications disorders;
- (2) Have at least two years of professional speech-language pathology experience (the CFY may count as one of those years).
- (3) Agree to supervise according to Board requirements, as outlined in OAR 335-095-0050. This agreement is documented by the supervisor signing the SLPA's Notice of Change of Supervisor Form.

Q: An SLPA works for two different SLPs. One of those SLPs is completing their CFY, while the other has many years of SLP experience. Can the more experienced SLP provide all the SLPA's supervision?

A: No. Each supervising SLP can only supervise someone who is assisting with their own caseload. School districts may need to re-assign SLPs and SLPAs among different schools/caseloads so that the direct supervision of an SLPA by a qualified SLP can occur.

Comparison of ASHA and BSPA PD Requirements

Jennie Price, SLP
Board Member

This chart was developed by BSPA to help licensees compare the new ASHA requirements with already-existing continuing education regulations in Oregon.

ASHA Requirements	BSPA Requirements
30 contact hours, or 3 ASHA CEUs or 2 semester hours in 3-year time frame	30 clock hours per two year renewal period, from between January 31 to January 30 of even numbered years.
All ASHA CEU activities accepted	All ASHA CEU activities accepted
Employer-sponsored in-service or other continuing education activities accepted*	Employer-sponsored in-service or other continuing education activities accepted*
Academic course work from a college or university that holds regional, national, or governmental accreditation*	Academic course work taken for credit with a minimum grade of "C", from an educational institution accredited by an appropriate state or regional body or approved by the board. The courses must relate to the clinical practice of speech-language pathology or audiology.
International Association for Continuing Education and training (IACET) authorized provider*	
ASHA accepts, without pre-approval, professional development activities sponsored by individual private practitioners, professional associations and organizations, college/university, and IACET**	BSPA accepts without pre-approval workshops in the area of communication disorders sponsored by related professional associations and by individual private practitioners, as well as workshops and in-services that are university, school, clinic, hospital or state agency sponsored. Publication of articles in a peer-reviewed journal, scientific or educational lectures given by the licensee, and distance learning activities can be used to fulfill the continuing education requirements without pre-approval.

* Must meet ASHA definition of Professional Development (*Professional Development is defined as any activity that relates to the science and contemporary practice in Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, and Speech, Language, and Hearing sciences, and results in the acquisition of new knowledge and skills or the enhancement of current knowledge and skills. Professional development activities should be planned in advance and based on assessment of knowledge, skills, and competencies required for the independent practice of any area of the professions.*) Activities may be in the areas of communication disorders, professional issues (i.e., ethics, diversity, technology, reimbursement, etc.), and related professional areas (i.e., childhood development, geriatrics, literacy, autism, neurological disorders, genetics, etc.).

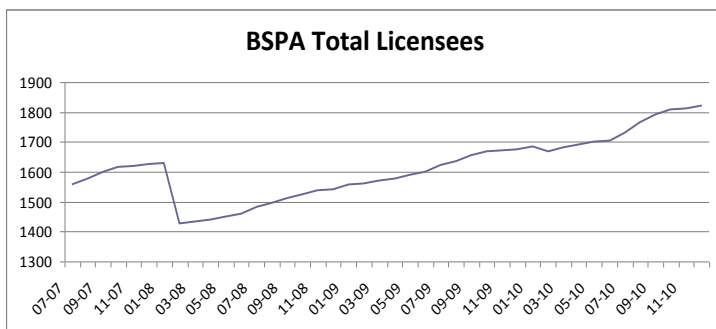
** Does not have to be pre-approved to be utilized towards maintenance of CCC's. Only ASHA CEUs will be maintained on the CE Registry; all other contact hours must be documented and reported by the individual certificate holders. The title of the activity, name of the sponsor for the activity, description of the activity, learner outcomes and information regarding target audience, syllabus or agenda for the activity, qualifications of the presenter(s), and certificate of completion must be documented. Individuals who are randomly selected for audit for maintenance of CCC's must provide all of the above-mentioned documentation for any activity which is not offered through ASHA-approved CE Providers. Activity content must meet ASHA definition of professional development.

Questions regarding requirements for maintenance of CCC's should be directed to ASHA at 800-498-2071 or certification@asha.org. For more information about ASHA Membership & Certification, and Maintenance of Certification, go to <http://www.asha.org>.

Licensing Volume Continues to Climb

Sandy Leybold, MPH
Executive Director

The Board currently has a total of 1,888 active and inactive licensees. Active SLPs have increased by 8.5%, audiologists by 12%, and SLPAs by 12%



since 2008.

We issue an average of 30 licenses per month from July – October 2010; almost triple the number during the same period in 2009.

Permit to Supervise SLPAs No Longer Issued

Sandy Leybold, MPH
Executive Director

The Board implemented a temporary rule in August 2010 to eliminate the need for a Board-issued "Permit to Supervise SLPAs" for SLPs licensed by TSPC. As part of the draft rules noticed in this newsletter, those temporary rules are proposed to become permanent.

The qualifications for SLPs supervising SLPAs, as laid out in OAR 335-095-0040 now are:

- (1) Board licensure or TSPC licensure with a communications disorders endorsement;
- (2) At least two years of professional SLP experience (the CFY may count as one year);
- (3) Agree to supervise according to Board requirements, as outlined in OAR 335-095-0050. Each supervisor, regardless of licensure, must sign the Supervision Change Notice form to demonstrate that they are aware of, and intend to follow, Board rules regarding SLPA supervision.

