

# THE VOICE

*Spring 2017 Edition*

## News For Oregon Licensees

Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech -Language Pathology & Audiology

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### Farewell from the Board Chair

My eight years on the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology Audiology is coming to a close. As a member of this board, I have learned many aspects of the profession in both speech-language and audiology while keeping the focus on protecting the community. I have had the opportunity to meet, network and make everlasting friendships. I would like to thank the current and past board members for their hard work and dedication to the profession. Your passion and desire to keep the clients safe is/was greatly appreciated.

While my term is ending, it is with great honor that I introduce John Evans, Speech-Language Pathologist, who has been recently appointed by Governor Brown to serve a three-year term for the Board of Examiners. John will be a great asset to this already amazing Board with his knowledge and expertise in the profession.



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# IT IS ALMOST LICENSE RENEWAL TIME!

It is almost time to renew your license for the 2018-19 license cycle! The online renewal system will open at the beginning of November. All licensees must renew their licenses on or before December 31, 2017 to avoid a late fee.

Please **make sure your contact information is current so that you receive our renewal notices**. Last renewal period more than 12% of renewal notices were returned as undeliverable. Failure to update your contact information is a violation of the Board's professional and ethical standards ([OAR 335-005](#)) and the Board has the authority to charge a \$100 fee for failure to submit changes within 30 days.

As part of the Board's performance measures required by the Oregon Legislature, the Board will select 5% of licensees for a professional development (PD) audit. If you are selected for a PD audit, you must submit valid documentation of your professional development activities. These must be in the form of signed certificates of attendance. We will also accept ASHA CEU registry print outs and unofficial college transcripts for graduate level coursework.

SLPs and Audiologists must submit 30 hours of acceptable PD completed in calendar 2016 and 2017. SLPAs must document 15 hours. By rule, PD documentation must be maintained by the licensee for four years. Licensees selected for PD audit must submit acceptable documentation prior to the renewal deadline in order to avoid additional delinquent fees and/or disciplinary action from the Board. Licensees with insufficient or unacceptable PD will not be renewed until they have submitted the required amount, and if that requires going into the 2018-2019 period they will be subject to an additional delinquent fee.

- University Courses—For a graduate level course to count as professional development it must be taken for credit (pass/no pass is not acceptable) and the individual must earn a “C” or better. Documentation can be in the form of an official or unofficial transcript.
- In-Service Activities—In-service activities are only applicable without pre-approval when put on by public school districts, ESDs, hospitals, or universities, **for their own employees**. If you are employed by a school and attend a program sponsored by another district or the ESD, you must obtain special approval within 30 days of the course date. Ideally the sponsor will apply for such approval when they decide to open it up to other professionals who are not their employees but it is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure it is an approved activity. Any PD activities must directly related to speech-language pathology and/or audiology. All PD documentation must have the title, date & length of the activity and must be signed as verified by a third party administrator.
- CPR and basic life support courses put on by the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or equivalent providers qualify for PD. Licensees may use the card earned after the course as documentation of completion.
- All other activities should be approved by ASHA, AAA, ABA, OSHA or the Board. Documentation can be an unofficial CEU registry and/or certificates of attendance.
- Remember that 1.0 ASHA CEUs are equal to 10 PD hours. You must report your professional development in hours not ASHA CEUs.
- Cultural Competency—licensees are encouraged, but not required, to take courses in this topic. Oregon law now requires the Board to ask licensees during the renewal process if they have taken such courses.

## **Per OAR 335-070-0020 -**

Activities not accepted as professional development include but are not limited to:

- Supervision of practicum students or clinical fellows, making presentations, or teaching classes;
- Serving on professional boards or committees;
- Attending professional association business or committee meetings (whether paid or not);
- Attending staff meetings (See article above for acceptable in-service activities);
- Performing volunteer work;
- Reading or studying professional journals or articles, unless part of a self-study program that is sponsored and verified by an independent third party.

## Agency 2017-19 Budget Bill Passed

The agency's budget bill, SB 5523, passed the House on May 10th and the Senate on June 1st and will now move on to Governor Brown for her signature. The total budget for the biennium is \$626,713, a reduction of 8% from the 15-17 budget. The savings was generated due to the Executive Director Haag relying on a contract investigator rather than filling the limited duration part time investigator position that was approved for 15-17. The budget contains a note requiring Haag to report back to the legislature in February, 2018 on the investigations process. At that point the Board will have the opportunity to make the case to add that position back into the budget. The approved budget allows for cash reserves of about nine months of operating expenses, which is needed to ensure cash flow given the fact that renewals are every two years. BSPA's budget must be approved along with its five other "sister" boards which are in the same budget fund, aka the "833 fund—Health Related Licensing Boards." The legislature also included a budget note asking the six HRLB agencies to report back on I.T. needs. For many years our six agencies have relied upon a contractor to provide our daily information technology needs including firewall, security, desk-top support and database support. Because of the Governor's recent Executive Order that requires statewide consolidation of security and other issues, the contractor will not be extending BSPA's contract for another two years, and will be providing services on a month to month basis until new solutions are implemented. HRLB is talking with other health profession licensing boards regarding the possibility of sharing a contractor or employee to provide services. The group will also have to invest in a new database system as ours is outdated.

## The Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association invites you to be part of its 2017 Day at the Capitol, to be held on June 15, 2017!

### Agenda

- 8:30 AM Galleria Set-up
- 9:00 AM Welcome/Overview/Legislative Briefing - Room 243
- 10:30 AM House Opening Ceremonies\*
- 11:00 AM Senate Opening Ceremonies\*
- 12:00 Lunch - (Box Lunch provided)
  - Legislator Updates (if schedules permit)
  - Erin Haag, Executive Director, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
  - Attendee Feedback/Questions
- 1:00 PM Committee Meetings/Building Tours/Meetings with Individual legislators\*
  - List of Hearings Provided during Morning Briefing
- 3:00 PM Galleria Tear-down

**For more information contact OSHA at 503-378-0595.**

# Telepractice Rulemaking Update

The Telepractice Rulemaking Committee has held two meetings and hopes to wrap up its work at a meeting at 5:30PM, Tuesday, June 6th. Licensees and those with an interest in providing input are welcome to attend this meeting, which will be held in the Board's conference room 445 located at 800 NE Oregon Street in Portland.

The timeline is for the committee to agree on language which will be submitted to the Board for consideration at its August 11th meeting. A public hearing will be scheduled, and the plan is for the rules to be finalized and take effect on January 1, 2018.

We strongly encourage you to provide input to the Board on this matter by sending your thoughts to Director Haag via email: [Erin.Haag@state.or.us](mailto:Erin.Haag@state.or.us). If you would like to discuss the issue with Haag, you can call on her direct line: 971-673-0087. You can read the minutes from the two committee meetings on BSPA's website by accessing this link:

<https://www.oregon.gov/bspa/Documents/TelepracticeMinutesAll.6.2.17.pdf>

## A reminder about events to report to the Board office:

- Any name used professionally. If you legally change your name you must submit a copy of whatever legal documentation you used to change the name, within 30 days. We will update our records and mail you a new license.
- Changes in work or home address, email, and phone number must be reported within 30 days.
- Changes in supervision, whether you are an SLPA or a CF holding a Conditional SLP license, must be reported within 30 days.
- Any licensee's conviction for a misdemeanor or felony and any arrest for a felony crime must be reported within 10 days after the conviction or arrest.
- Prohibited or unprofessional conduct on the part of yourself or another licensee must be reported within 10 working days (see the Fall 2011 issue of *The Voice* for details).
- Any adverse action taken against a license by any state or federal agency or professional association.
- Any reasonable belief that another individual is violating the Board's Professional and Ethical Standards.
- Any suspected Child Abuse (ORS 419b) Communicable Disease (ORS 433 & OAR 333-018) or Elder Abuse (ORS 124)

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!