

# THE VOICE

**Chair**  
Gail Swanstrom, AUD  
**Vice-Chair**  
Victoria Edwards, SLP

**Professional Members**  
Dustin Ooley, AUD  
Jean Verheyden, MD  
Vacant: SLP position

**Public Members**  
Anna Sanger Reed  
Elynor McPeak

**Executive Director**  
Erin K. Haag  
**Administrative Assistant**  
David Linn

(971) 673-0220  
fax (971) 673-0226  
[www.oregon.gov/bspa](http://www.oregon.gov/bspa)

*Spring 2018 Edition*

## News For Oregon Licensees

Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech -Language Pathology & Audiology

### 2018 SLPA Supervision Audit

The Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology is conducting its annual audit of the supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) by Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs), in accordance with Key Performance Measures established by the Board and approved by the Oregon Legislature. We know this is a busy time of year and appreciate the cooperation of those being audited.

The audit process involves sending letters to a school district's Superintendent, Director of Special Education & SLP Coordinator (if applicable) and requesting a listing of all SLPs and SLPAs working in a district and their licensing information. The SLPAs must provide two months of supervision logs (January & February, 2018) to their administrator to compile for the audit response. In addition to reviewing logs, the Board also verifies that all SLPs/SLPAs working at the district have proper licensure and have submitted all Supervision Change Notices within 30 days of any change.

If logs show inadequate supervision or indicate other issues, the Board office will request additional documentation which might include additional months of supervision logs, personnel records, and/or clinical records of patients assigned to the SLP's caseload. If there are indications of a violation of any state laws or rules, an investigation will be conducted and referred to the Board for potential disciplinary action.

#### In This Issue:

<b>Message From Executive Director</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>2018 Legislative Session</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Open Board &amp; Rule Advisory Positions</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>PD Concerns</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>SLP Scholarship Program</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Recent Board Actions</b>	<b>Page 4</b>

# Message From the Executive Director

by Erin K. Haag

Ensuring that all clients, students and patients in Oregon have access to quality speech-language pathology and audiology services is central to the Board's mission and regulatory charge from the legislature. The Board supports opportunities like the ODE scholarship program (page 3) in order to increase the number of qualified practitioners available to serve Oregonians.

I have the honor of serving on the National Compact Licensure Advisory Committee, which is sponsored by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), the Council on State Governments, and the National Council of Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (NCSB). The committee has completed its initial work and sent criteria to a drafting committee. Oregon's Board of Examiners is supportive of this and all efforts to increase the number of SLPs and Audiologists available to work with Oregon patients, but will not take a specific position on the Compact until the work is completed and can be reviewed by the Governor. For more information, follow this link at the ASHA site: <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/state/Speech-Language-hearing-Interstate-Compact/>

We recently completed the biennial license renewals and are pleased to announce that we have a record number of licensees. As of February 1, 2018, 1,871 SLPs had renewed as opposed to 1,633 on February 1, 2016, representing a 14.57% increase in the number of licensed SLPs in Oregon. The number of licensed audiologists went from 275 to 290, a 5.45% increase, while the number of SLPAs went down slightly, from 256 to 244.

Unfortunately, the Board continues to have cases of unlicensed practice because people have failed to renew. In some cases this is because the licensee did not let the Board know of their new address as required by rule, so

they never received their renewal notices that were sent by mail and email. This cycle approximately 5% of renewal notices came back to the office as undeliverable.

The renewal process took a little longer for our licensees this cycle due to the mandatory requirement to obtain Workforce Data for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). We feel this data is going to be very useful to employers and others as it will give an overall snapshot of the professionals, their work settings, demographic information and other very useful data that will be shared in a future newsletter. Collection of this workforce data is now a statutory requirement of all health professional regulatory boards and the cost to the Boards is approximately \$4 per licensee. I am pleased that our Board included that cost in our biennial budget rather than passing it along to licensees during the renewal process.

A number of the new SLP licensees live out of state due to their ability to offer services via telepractice. The Board has almost completed its telepractice rulemaking, you can find the latest copy here: "[Draft Telepractice Rules](#)". If you have comments, please send them to David Linn at the Board before June 8<sup>th</sup> via email: [SpeechAud.Board@state.or.us](mailto:SpeechAud.Board@state.or.us).

The Board is not proposing any legislative concepts for the upcoming 2019 session. We are proposing a "current service level" budget, meaning we do not plan to increase the number of staff positions or raise licensure fees. The Board has been asked by the American Academy of Audiology to accept for licensure doctoral programs which are approved by the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education. The Board has authority in statute and rule to make this change and as such is not seeking legislation.

## Legislation Passed at February 2018 Session

Here is some legislation that passed the February 2018 Session that affects Board Licensees:

- SB 1533—Changed zoning requirements to facilitate equine therapy by PTs, OT, & SLPs in areas zoned for exclusive farm use.
- HB 4044—Directs Chief Education Office to conduct study on recruitment, retention, mentoring and professional development of educators who serve students from student groups that may be at risk for experiencing achievement gap. Includes students enrolled in early childhood special education services.
- HB 4067—Expands definition of term "child with a disability" for purposes of special education to include children who have developmental delays and are in third grade or lower.
- HB 4104—Modified requirements for health benefit plan coverage of hearing loss treatments. The bill expanded coverage of cochlear implants and "Hearing assistive technology systems."

# Board and SLPA Rulemaking Advisory Positions Open

The Board is seeking applicants for three positions that are open as of June 30. We look for diversity including representation from both urban and rural areas of the state. The Board also looks for a balance of professionals across work settings including schools, ESDs, hospitals, private clinics and nursing homes. The Board has seven members including two public members, two speech-language pathologists, two audiologists and one Otolaryngologist (ENT physician). We are currently recruiting for an Otolaryngologist and a member of the public to serve a three year term, and for a speech-language pathologist to serve a two year term. The SLP should have experience that includes, but is not limited to, educational settings. Successful candidates will be required to pass a fingerprint background check (past criminal history is not an automatic disqualifier). These terms commence on July 1, 2018 and the first meeting for new members will be the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you have questions, please contact Director Haag via email at: [Erin.Haag@state.or.us](mailto:Erin.Haag@state.or.us). All Board members are appointed by the Governor and affirmed by the Legislature, which requires the candidate to appear in Salem (or via teleconference if needed). Applicants should apply before June 30<sup>th</sup> for consideration at the August committee session. If you are interested, please apply through Governor Brown's office at this link: <http://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/Pages/Boards-and-Commissions.aspx>

Board Chair Swanstrom is also appointing an advisory committee to review rules and consider potential changes relating to speech-language therapy assistants (SLPAs). Again, we are seeking a well-balanced committee that reflects Oregon including urban, rural, educational and healthcare settings. If you are interested, please send an email to Erin Haag, Executive Director by June 8: [Erin.Haag@state.or.us](mailto:Erin.Haag@state.or.us).

## Professional Development Documentation Concerns

The Board office has been receiving certificates that are deficient in one or more ways and if submitted for professional development audit, they would be rejected. Some certificates have been submitted blank or are missing a required part.

Every certificate of attendance for professional development activities must contain the following:

- Name of licensee
- Title of Activity
- Date of Activity
- Hours awarded (must be in quarter hours)
- Organization sponsoring the event.

If any certificate of attendance does not contain those items, we suggest that you return it to the activity sponsor for correction.

# Speech-Language Pathology Scholarship Program

The Oregon Department of Education Speech-Language Pathology Scholarship Program seeks to address the critical shortage of qualified speech-language pathologists available to serve students in Oregon's rural school districts, Education Service Districts (ESD), and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Programs (EI/ECSE).

In 2007, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 3141 to address the personnel shortage that included speech-language pathologists. This bill provided funding for the Speech Language Pathology Scholarship program.

The Oregon Department of Education seeks to recruit scholarship applicants. Students completing a Master's Degree program in Speech Language Pathology/Communication Disorders and Sciences are encouraged to apply to the Speech-Language Pathology Scholarship Program.

For more information, please contact:

**Lisa Bateman**

Education Specialist

Oregon Department of Education

Office of Student Services

503.947.5655

[lisa.bateman@ode.state.or.us](mailto:lisa.bateman@ode.state.or.us)

### Scholarship Participants Receive:

One-time \$10,000 scholarship upon completion of service obligation.  
Supervision for their Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY)

### Participating Programs Receive:

Two-year service agreement with a qualified Speech-Language Pathologist (CFY plus one year)  
One-time \$400 stipend for providing CFY supervision



## RECENT BOARD ACTIONS

**3/12/18**

**Reese, Carol, SLP**

**Outcome:** Final Order by Default

**Violation:** A Final Order by Default was issued 3/12/18 imposing license suspension with possibility of reinstatement after 1/30/19. Reese was initially licensed on 6/26/1992. For the license renewal cycle ending 12/31/2015, Respondent disclosed on that date that she was found guilty of child abuse in January, 2015. Licensee waited a year to report this information to the Board, which is a violation of OAR 335-005-0010(2)(n) which requires licensees to immediately report to the Board any adverse action by a state or federal agency. During the course of the investigation, Respondent did not fully cooperate and made misleading statements in violation of OAR 335-005-0010(2)(a). This order is made pursuant to ORS 681.350(1)(b), (c), and (d), which authorizes the Board to enter a suspension order when it finds that a licensee violated any ethical standards of practice. Respondent may apply for reinstatement after 1/30/19 if she can demonstrate her competence, fitness and ability to practice in accordance with licensing law and professional standards.

**12/5/17**

**Andersen, Heather M., SLP #12479**

**Outcome:** Consent Order

**Violation:** A Consent Order was issued on 12/5/17 imposing a civil penalty of \$300 for unlicensed practice. Andersen was initially licensed on 9/11/2012. On 1/31/16, Andersen's license expired due to non-renewal. On 3/9/16 the Board received a license reactivation application. Andersen was employed by Portland Public Schools for approximately 37 days without holding a valid license in violation of ORS 681.250(2) and OAR 335-005-0025(1). Andersen failed to apply for renewal of her license in a timely basis in violation of ORS 681.320(1), ORS 681.320(3) and OAR 335-060-0030(3). The Board reactivated Andersen's license on 3/9/16.

**11/15/17**

**Bishop (Parsons) Michelle, Audiologist #23064**

**Outcome:** Final Order by Default

**Violation:** A Final Order by Default was issued 11/15/17 imposing license revocation and a \$7,220 civil penalty. Bishop was initially licensed as an Audiologist by the Board on May 1, 2008 and her license expired on 1/30/16. On 7/6/17, the Board received an inquiry from the credentialing department of UnitedHealthcare asking if Bishop held a valid Oregon license. The email included a copy of the license that Bishop had submitted to

CAQH, a national credentialing organization, which showed an expiration date of January 30, 2018 and a "transaction code" of "5054043-5054043-0901" which is the same code that appeared on her license that expired in 2016. It is impossible for a license that expired on January 30, 2016 to have the exact same transaction number as a license that expires in 2018. The Board concludes that Bishop created a false copy of her license in violation of ORS 681.250(2) and OAR 335-005-0025(8). The Board also finds that Bishop practiced without a license for at least 22 months in violation of ORS 681.250(2). Bishop is in default for failing to timely request a hearing.

### 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)