

AHS NEWS

FALL 2008 EDITION



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2009 Board Meetings

January 15, 2009

February 19, 2009

March 19, 2009

April 16, 2009

May 21, 2009

June 18, 2009

July 16, 2009

September 17, 2009

October 15, 2009

November 19, 2009

The meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 4201 Patterson Avenue at 4:00 p.m.

Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists

4201 Patterson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

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www.mdboardaudhadsplp.org

2008-2009 BOARD ELECTION AND APPOINTMENTS

After serving 8 years on the Board of Examiners, Mr. Richard Robinson, Speech-Language Pathologist and Dr. Sharon Sorensen, Audiologist are retiring. Both Dr. Sorensen and Mr. Robinson have served in the positions of Board Chair and Co-Chair for their respective professions. Dr. Sorensen will continue to serve until a successor is appointed. Mr. Michael Canary, Hearing Aid Dispenser, began his tenure in June 2004. He also served as HAD Co-Chair. Mr. Canary did not seek reappointment to the Board in June 2008 due to family commitments. Mr. Robinson, Dr. Sorensen and Mr. Michael Canary worked for several years and many hours toward the final passage of House Bill 326, which became effective in the law in October 2007. For the last year, all three worked diligently to update the wording of the regulations to be consistent with the revised statute. After serving on the Board for 2½ years, Dr. Jay Lucker, Audiologist, has reluctantly resigned, as his schedule did not allow him sufficient time to devote to the Board. The Board appreciates the dedication and hard work of Dr. Sorensen, Mr. Michael Canary, Mr. Richard Robinson and Dr. Jay Locker and we wish them success in future endeavors.

Governor Martin O'Malley appointed two Board members on August 25, 2008 to serve a four year term starting July 1, 2008. Ms. Princess Evans, Speech-Language Pathologist, resides in Beltsville, Maryland and practices in Montgomery County Public Schools as well as a rehabilitation center in Laurel, Maryland. Mr. C. Kirk Payne, Hearing Aid Dispenser, resides and practices in Pasadena, Maryland. Ms. Rebecca-Conley-Hartman was appointed as a consumer member on August 25, 2008 to serve the remainder of a term of four years from July 1, 2005. Ms. Conley-Hartman's term expires June 30, 2009. Ms. Conley-Hartman is active in numerous community organizations in Howard County.

After the appointment of two Audiologists, the Board will have a full Board of thirteen members.



Richard Robinson and Sharon Sorensen served on the Board from 2000- 2008.

Audiologists

Lisa Nelson- term expires 6/30/11

vacancy

vacancy

Speech-Language Pathologists

M. Cara Erskine- term expires 6/30/10

Cassandra Peters-Johnson- term expires 6/30/11

Princess Evans- term expires 6/30/12

6/30/12

Otolaryngologists

Milton Yoder- term expires 6/30/10

David Eisenman -term expires 6/30/10

Hearing Aid Dispensers

Paul Siegmund- term expires 6/30/10

Kenneth Needle- term expires 6/30/12

Charles K. Payne- term expires

Consumers

Arlinda Harris- term expires 6/30/11

Rebecca Conley-Hartman -term expires 6/30/09

The Board of AUD/HAD/SLP has thirteen members. There are 3 Audiologists, 3 Hearing Aid Dispensers, 3 Speech-Language Pathologists, 2 Otolaryngologists and 2 Consumer Members

Board Officers 2008-2009

Chair M. Cara Erskine

Co- Chair- Lisa Nelson

Co-Chair- Paul Siegmund

Treasurer - Cassandra Peters- Johnson

ONLINE RENEWAL IN 2008

March 26, 2008 was the date the first licensee completed an online renewal application. As of June 30, 2008, the last day to renew online, 2,389 licensees completed a renewal application. One hundred and fifty licensees requested a paper renewal.

Eight hundred licensees completed the online evaluation summary. The majority of the people surveyed indicated that the instructions were clear; the website was easy to navigate, the process was efficient and it took approximately 15 minutes to complete the online application. Ninety percent of the licensees paid by credit card and 10% mailed checks to the Board.

There were glitches with the system. The most noted problem was the password link. It was suggested that the link should ask for the last 4 digits of the social security number. Also, the CEU screen should have had an edit button. Both of these points were noted by other Boards. The IT staff will make the requested edits before the Board's renewal in 2010.

Many licensees did not read the red font statement on page one that clearly stated you were randomly selected for an audit and must submit the CEU document before your license is issued. Consequently, the issuance of their license was delayed. The same oversight occurred when the audiologists did not

read the statement explaining to submit the calibration certificate(s) before a license is issued. The requirements to submit CEU if audited and calibration certificates are not new. Refer to COMAR 10.41.03.06E(4)-Continuing Education Audit Procedures. COMAR 10.41.08.08E Testing Procedures pertains to an audiologist that uses an audiometer.

The Board has decided to revise the audiologist and hearing aid dispenser online applications and include a statement which will allow the licensee to include the calibration information and not have to submit copies. **All licensees audited will have to mail copies of the CEU and calibration documents.**

IMPORTANT CHANGE REGARDING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SLP AND AUD LICENSURE RENEWAL

Effective June 1, 2008, CEUs must be earned on a calendar year basis. For the current license renewal period 6/1/08 through 5/31/10, licensees with a single license in audiology or speech-language pathology must earn 15 CEUs (at least 10 in area licensure and up to 5 in related) by 12/31/09. Licensees with dual licensure in audiology and speech-language pathology must earn 25 CEUs (at least 10 in each area of licensure and up to 5 related) by 12/31/09. The Board has reduced the number of CEUs for this period only in order to accommodate the shortened CEU earning cycle.

For the subsequent licensure period, 6/1/10 through 5/31/12, licensees with a single license must earn 20 CEUs (at least 10 in area of licensure and up to 10 in related) from 1/1/10 through 12/31/11. In the future, subsequent licensure periods and CEU earning cycles shall follow in this same manner.

It is important to note that the Board of Examiners has not changed the licensure renewal period. *Licenses will continue to expire on 5/31 every 2 years with a spring renewal as is currently done.* The only change is that the CEUs must be completed by December 31st of the year before the license expires. If you have any questions, contact the Board at 410-764-4725.

Maryland Health Care Commission increased the user fee from \$29.50 to \$32.00 effective July 1, 2008. To get more details go to www.mhcc.state.md.us or call 410-764-3581.



You can verify the licensure status of an audiologist, hearing aid dispenser, speech-language pathologist and speech-language pathology assistant on the Board's website at www.mdboardaudhadspl.org. Click the license verification link on the home page and enter either the last name or license number. To verify if an individual has a limited SLP, SLP-A or AUD license you will need to call the office. Limited hearing aid dispenser licenses can be verified online by entering the last name or license number.

§2-311.Display of licenses (a) requires each licensee to display the license conspicuously in the office or place of employment of the licensee. A licensee working in a nursing home, school, hospital or any setting where the license would not be seen by the patient should post their license in the office space identified by the employer. A licensee shall identify and represent themselves by profession and degree earned.

Regulations Changed in 2008

The following regulations became effective on January 28, 2008:

COMAR 10.41.02.02 Establish fees for license verification, returned checks and roster

COMAR 10.41.01.04 Will exempt current licensees from paying the verification fee

COMAR 10.41.03.06 Continuing Education was revised by changing the date for completion of the continuing education June 1 of the renewal year to any time within the 2-year renewal period.

The following Regulations were amended as an emergency provision effective January 11, 2008 and amended permanently effective May 19, 2008:

COMAR 10.41.03 Licensure and Continuing Education was amended to reflect the current practices in audiology and speech-language pathology

COMAR 10.41.11.02 and .03 Clarify the supervision requirements for speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

The following Regulations became effective on October 20, 2008

COMAR COMAR 10.41.03.02 and .03 Define oral competency and made a condition of licensure;

COMAR 10.41.06 Telehealth Communication standards were adopted

COMAR 10.41.08.02.03.05 and .06 Requires the completion of an international hearing aid course as a condition of eligibility in order to take the hearing aid dispenser exam

COMAR 10.41.09 Increase the administrative monetary penalty from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00

COMAR 10.41.12 Establish procedures for licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists supervising students enrolled in an audiology or speech-language pathology graduate program.

To read the Regulation go to the Board's Website at www.mdboardaudhadsplp.org. Click the Regulation Link and Subtitle 41

The renewal fee was increased in May 2004 from \$150.00 to \$225.00. Effective November 24, 2008 the RENWAL fee will be reduced from \$225.00 to \$143.00 for audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and speech-language pathologists.

HEARING AID DISPENSERS RENEW ONLINE HAD licenses expire on January 31, 2009. You will receive written instructions no later than November 30, 2008.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 the Board received 19 complaints.



FAQ

Q- What's the difference between "direct" and "indirect" supervision for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants ?

A- "Direct" is defined as on-site, in-view, observation and guidance by a supervising speech-language pathologist while on an assigned activity. "Indirect supervision" means those activities other than direct observation and guidance such as review of charts, attendance at meetings; and phone contact. Refer to COMAR 10.41.11.06 and .07 to review the scope of practice and supervision requirements.

Q-Will the Board approve my license at the next Board meeting?

A- All applications are reviewed and a license is issued as soon all the required documents are received by the Board. ***APPLICATIONS ARE NOT APPROVED AT THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS.***

Q How do I know if a CEU program is approved by the Board?

A- Programs sponsored by ASHA, MSHA, AAA, MAA, IHS and MD-DC-DE Hearing Society are approved. Programs approved by ASHA, AAA and IHS are approved by the Board in most instances. If in doubt, request prior approval of the program. before registering.

BOARD OUTREACH

The Board recognizes the importance of communicating with licensees, applicants, universities and employers regarding licensing questions.

Board members and staff attended a meeting with the MSDE SLP Steering Committee on March 7, 2008, the Towson University Roundtable on March 13, 2008 and the MSHA Conference on March 28-29, 2008.

Three Board members attended the Maryland Academy of Audiology Annual Conference held September 11-12, 2008 and shared information about the new regulations.

**NUMBERS
TELL THE
STORY**

STATISTICAL
INFORMATION
AS OF

OCTOBER 27, 2008

FULL LICENSEES	SLP 2486	AUD 360	HAD 125	SLP-A 16
LIMITED LICENSEES	SLP 151	AUD 2	HAD 4	SLP-A 22

It is the responsibility of the licensee to report any change of name or address to the Board within 30 days after the change.

I _____ submit that my official mailing address is changed to:

Street

City/State

Zip code

The address change was /is effective on: _____

Signature

AUD.HAD.SLP LICENSE #

Date

E-mail address _____

Telephone _____

To change your name you must mail a copy of the official document with your correspondence. Mail all changes to the Board AUD/HAD/SLP, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215 FAX to 410-358-0273 or E-mail cosbyz@dhmh.state.md.us. To request a license with the new name, please include the \$5.00 duplicate license fee. All checks are payable to the Board AUD/HAD/SLP.