



AHS NEWS

A Publication of the Maryland Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists



Fall 2009

New Board Administrator

On July 8, 2009 Christopher Kelter was appointed the Administrator of the Board. Mr. Kelter's previous position was the Deputy Director for the Maryland Board of Chiropractic & Massage Therapy Examiners overseeing and managing the Massage Therapy Program in addition to other administrative and licensing functions. He held that position for three years and is well-versed in the tasks related to the licensing of health care professionals in Maryland.

Since 1993 Mr. Kelter has held various positions in State of Maryland government including extensive stints at the Department of Housing & Community Development and the General Assembly's Department of Legislative Services. Other assignments included the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Department of Business & Economic Development. Throughout his professional career each position involved increasing responsibilities and challenges.

Mr. Kelter is looking forward to working with the Board, Board staff, licensees, prospective applicants, and the professional organizations representing the Board's licensees.

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Cultural Competency Update

The Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities (MHHD) of the Maryland DHMH is charged with promoting programs to eliminate health disparities in racial and ethnic minority groups in Maryland. MHHD states that cultural competency, workforce diversity, and the elimination of health disparities are important to improving the health of all Marylanders. MHHD encourages all health care practitioners to undertake self-directed activities to improve their knowledge of issues affecting their practices. For more information visit: <http://mdhealthdisparities.org>.

Board Meeting Dates – 2010

- January 21, 2010
- February 18, 2010
- March 18, 2010
- April 15, 2010
- May 20, 2010
- June 17, 2010
- July 15, 2010
- September 16, 2010
- October 21, 2010
- November 18, 2010

The Board meets at 4:00 p.m. at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215. The Regular Session is open to the public and the Administrative Session is closed to the public.

Change of Address Forms

It is the responsibility of the licensee to report to the Board any change of name or address to the Board within 30 days after that change. The change of address form will no longer be printed on newsletters—the change of address form is available on the Board’s website in the “Forms” section. To change your name you must mail a copy of the official document with your correspondence. If you request a new license reflecting the name and/or address change you must submit a \$5.00 fee for each license printed.

Revised Laws and Regulations Books Distributed

In August 2009 laws and regulation books were distributed to all active licensees. The revised laws and regulations books are the culmination of years of hard work in amending the statute and implementing regulations for the three professions governed by the Board. The Board would like to take this opportunity to remind licensees that it is their responsibility to know and understand the laws and regulations governing their profession. Questions regarding the laws and regulations governing the three professions may directed to the Board staff. Board staff may require an individual to submit a written petition to the Board for clarification of any inquiry.

H1N1 Update

All health care practitioners have an obligation to ensure the health of their patients and clients with the practice of good personal and workplace hygiene. This includes this year’s effort to contain the H1N1 (swine) virus. The Maryland DHMH has encouraged everyone, including all health care practitioners, to assist in broad-based efforts to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus. Health practitioners should redouble their efforts to ensure a clean work environment for the benefit of patients, clients, and staff. Guidance on the subject of containing the H1N1 virus changes often as more is learned about this particular virus strain every day. DHMH encourages health care practitioners to take a moment each day to stay abreast of the latest information in this challenging public health issue.

The Board and Board Staff

Audiologists

Lisa Nelson, Au.D, Board Co-Chair
(term expires 6/30/11)
Charlotte Godfrey, Au.D
(term expires 6/30/12)
Ronald Kaplan, Au.D
(term expires 6/30/13)

Speech Language Pathologists

M. Cara Erskine, Board Co-Chair
(term expires 6/30/10)
Cassandra Peters-Johnson, Ph.D
(term expires 6/30/11)
Princess Evans
(term expires 6/30/12)

Hearing Aid Dispensers

Paul Siegmund, Board Chair
(term expires 6/30/10)
Kenneth Needle
(term expires 6/30/12)
C. Kirk Payne
(term expires 6/30/12)

Consumer Members

Arlinda Harris (term expires 6/30/11)
Rebecca L. Conley- Hartman (term expires 6/30/13)

Otolaryngologists

Milton G. Yoder, M.D. (term expires 6/30/10)
David Eisenmann, M.D. (term expires 6/30/10)

The Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists has thirteen members. There are 3 audiologists, 3 hearing aid dispensers, 3 speech-language pathologists, 2 otolaryngologists, and 2 consumer members. The Board is supported by an Executive Director, a License Coordinator, an Office Secretary, an Investigator, and Board Counsel.

Board Staff

Christopher J. Kelter, Executive Director
Zoann Mouzone, License Coordinator
Delia Turano Schadt, Board Counsel
Yolanda Campbell, Office Secretary
Rob Thomas, Board Investigator

Renewal 2010

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists may renew their licenses in April/May 2010. Renewal notices will be mailed in March 2010. On-line renewal will once again be available as an effective, timely means to renew a license. On-line renewal of a license is strongly encouraged and recommended. Renewal notices will contain specific information regarding the renewal process, renewal fees, CEU audit requirements, and other relevant information.

Renewal—Back Taxes and Child Support

State law prohibits the Board from issuing a renewal license unless all back taxes are paid or a plan is in place to pay back taxes. Additionally, State law requires that all court-ordered child support payments be current; in fact, a license is subject to suspension if court-ordered child support payments are not current. The Board is cooperating with efforts taken by Social Service departments to ensure that all court ordered payments are current.

Important Continuing Education Information

Although this information appeared in the Spring/Summer 2009 AHS News it is repeated here due to its impact on audiologists and speech-language pathologists qualifying for renewal.

Effective June 1, 2008 CEUs must be earned on a calendar year basis. For the current license renewal period of June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2010 licensees with a single license in audiology or speech pathology must earn at least 15 CEUs by December 31, 2009; the Board had determined that at least 10 CEUs must be earned in the area of licensure and at least 5 CEUs must be earned in related subjects.

Licensees with dual licensure in audiology and speech-language pathology must earn at least 25 CEUs by December 31, 2009; the Board has determined that at least 10 CEUs must be earned in each area of licensure and at least 5 CEUs must be earned in related subjects in either discipline.

For this renewal cycle only the Board has reduced the number of CEUs required to qualify for renewal to accommodate the shortened timeframe to earn CEUs to qualify for renewal. Please note that licenses will continue to expire every two years on May 31 of even numbered years as is currently done.

In subsequent licensure periods licensees with one license must earn at least 20 CEUs and licensees with two licenses must earn at least 30 CEUs.

Licensees who were issued their initial license from June 2008 to November 2009 are subject to the prorated CEU requirements. For more information regarding the prorated CEU requirements and the specific number of CEUs required please see page 4 of this newsletter. New licensees should review the prorated CEU requirements to be earned to qualify for renewal and plan accordingly. New licensees may utilize the on-line license verification feature to determine when their license was issued to determine the number of CEUs that must be completed to qualify for renewal.

Licensees who are issued a license during December 2009 through May 2010 are exempt from the CEU requirements to qualify for renewal.

Prorated CEU Requirement for 2010 Renewal for New Audiology and New Speech-Language Pathology Licensees

The following chart indicates the number of CEU hours to be completed by Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology licensees with licenses issued from June 2008 through November 2009.

Single License		Dual License	
Month Initial License Issued	Number of CEUs Required	Month Initial License Issued	Number of CEUs Required
June 2008	15	June 2008	25
July 2008	14	July 2008	24
August 2008	13	August 2008	22
September 2008	13	September 2008	21
October 2008	12	October 2008	19
November 2008	11	November 2008	18
December 2008	10	December 2008	17
January 2009	9	January 2009	15
February 2009	8	February 2009	14
March 2009	8	March 2009	13
April 2009	7	April 2009	11
May 2009	6	May 2009	10
June 2009	5	June 2009	8
July 2009	4	July 2009	7
August 2009	3	August 2009	6
September 2009	3	September 2009	4
October 2009	2	October 2009	3
November 2009	1	November 2009	1

Single License applies to an individual holding an Audiology license or a Speech-Language Pathology license originally issued in the months listed. Dual License applies to an individual holding an Audiology license and a Speech-Language Pathology license if both of those licenses were originally issued in the months listed.

Individuals who have a single license and were originally issued their initial license during or after December 2009 are exempt from the CEU requirements to qualify for renewal in 2010.

Individuals who have a single license issued during May 2008 or earlier are required to complete the full 15 CEUs to qualify for renewal for the 2010 - 2012 cycle.

Individuals who have dual licensure with at least one license issued during May 2008 or earlier are required to complete the full 25 CEUs.

All CEUs must be completed by December 31, 2009 to qualify for renewal in 2010. To qualify for renewal in 2012 all licenses must meet the CEU requirements specified in COMAR 10.41.03.06.

Disciplinary Matters

Beth Ciangiulli, Speech-Language Pathologist, Order Lifting Probation issued May 21, 2009. License restored without restrictions or conditions.

Mitchell Stein, Hearing Aid Dispenser, Order Lifting Probation issued June 21, 2009. License restored without restrictions or conditions.

Asher Elkayam, Hearing Aid Dispenser, Consent Order issued August 7, 2009. License suspended for one year, stayed; probation for two years with conditions.

E-Newsletter

Due to budget cutting measures at the State level that have affected all units of government the Board has voted to produce and distribute electronic newsletters. Newsletters will be posted to the Board's website and licensees will be notified of the new newsletter via e-mail (the e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address on file with the Board). For this newsletter only an abbreviated, courtesy black & white hardcopy was sent only to those active licensees that have not yet submitted a valid e-mail address to the Board. All subsequent newsletters will only be posted to the Board's website with an e-mail sent to each licensee to inform the licensee of the new newsletter. The Board advises that it is the licensee's responsibility to keep the Board informed of any change to e-mail addresses. E-mail addresses will not be shared with any individual/group or used for any other purpose than to communicate relevant news and information to licensees.

State Furloughs

The Board will be affected by furloughs in fiscal year 2010; the Board was also previously affected by furloughs in fiscal year 2009. Board staff and the personnel that provide essential support functions (legal, regulatory, fiscal, and information technology) are affected by the new furloughs imposed in FY 2010. However, unlike the furloughs imposed in FY 2009, the funds saved by the furloughs in FY 2010 will be transferred to the General Fund. In addition to traditional holidays the Board's offices will also be closed on the following days: November 25, 2009, December 24, 2009, December 31, 2009, and May 28, 2010 – these days precede regular State holidays and are intended to minimize impact on conducting State business. In addition to the mandated State closure days Board staff will be required to take other furlough days according to their compensation level. Board staff will endeavor to minimize the negative impact of the loss of transferred funds and the impact the mandated furlough days on the Board's daily operations. The State's anticipated budget deficit of \$2 billion in FY 2011 will most likely impact and affect State business and activities next year as well.

Statistical Report

As of October 1, 2009 there were 2,813 Speech-Language Pathologists, 36 Speech-Language Pathology Assistants, 395 Audiologists, 114 Hearing Aid Dispensers with active licenses in Maryland. In addition to the active licensees, the Board has 113 Speech-Language Pathologist–Limited license, 36 Speech-Language Pathologist Assistants-Limited License, and 3 Hearing Aid Dispensers-Limited Licenses.

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