



AHS NEWS

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



Fall 2010/Winter 2011

AUD, SLP, SLP-A 2010 Renewal Review

A grand total of 2,446 audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech-language pathology assistants completed the online renewal process. This represents a 5% increase over the first online renewal process in 2008. More than 94% of online renewal applications paid via credit card; this represents a 4% increase over the 2008 renewal process. An additional 112 licensees completed the process entirely by paper.

Board regulations require that ten percent of renewal applications to be audited for compliance with the CEU requirements. Approximately 87% of the licensees selected for audit submitted CE documents and were subsequently issued a license.

Non-renew notices were sent to the 43 audiologists, 296 speech-language pathologists, and 16 speech-language pathology assistants that did not renew their licenses.

The Board has reviewed the evaluation comments during the renewal process – additional improvements to the online process may be forthcoming if the Board's IT partner can implement the changes. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to licensees who completed the process in a timely manner.

Hearing Aid Dispenser 2011 Renewal

The Board mailed renewal notices and online renewal instructions to Hearing Aid Dispensers on November 23, 2010. A paper-based renewal process is available. The renewal fee is \$143.00 and the Health Care Commission fee is \$26.00. A late fee will be automatically assessed between February 1, 2011 and March 3, 2011. Renewal applicants must complete 20 CEUs within the 2 year renewal period. Beginning March 4, 2011 the reinstatement process begins—the reinstatement process must be completed by paper renewal.

HAD licensees may call the Board at 410-764-4725 for assistance during the renewal process.

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Board Meeting Dates 2011

- January 20, 2011
- February 17, 2011
- March 17, 2011
- April 21, 2011
- May 19, 2011
- June 16, 2011
- July 21, 2011
- September 15, 2011
- October 20, 2011

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

State Furloughs – Board Offices Closed

The Board will be affected by five mandated furloughs days in fiscal year 2011. All State offices including the Board's office will be closed on September 3rd, 2010, November 24th, 2010, December 23rd, 2010, December 30th, 2010, and May 27th, 2011. These days precede regular State holidays and are intended to minimize impact on normal State business. In addition to the mandated State closure days Board staff and its essential support personnel 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.

2010 Legislative Highlights

During the 2010 legislative session there were no bills that would have altered this Board's governing statute. However, Chapter Law 534 (HB 114/SB 291) was enacted and requires administrative and notice changes of all health occupation licensing boards no later than December 31, 2011. This Board was in compliance with many of the new law's requirements prior to the bill's introduction. All remaining specified requirements in the bill will be implemented by the deadline date.

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. Mail all correspondence to Board of AUD, HAD, S-LP at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215-2299 or you may fax the documents to 410-358-0273.

The Board and Board Staff

Audiologists

Lisa Nelson, Au.D, Board 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

Cassandra Peters-Johnson, Ph.D, Board Co-Chair
(term expires 6/30/11)
Princess Evans, M.S.
(term expires 6/30/12)
John Sloan, M.S.
(term expires 6/30/14)

Hearing Aid Dispensers

Kenneth Needle, Board Co-Chair
(term expires 6/30/12)
C. Kirk Payne
(term expires 6/30/12)
Billie Jo O'Donovan
(term expires 6/30/14)

Consumer Members

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

Otolaryngologists

Stacey Ishman, M.D. (term expires 6/30/14)
Scott D. London, M.D. (term expires 6/30/14)

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 Yolanda Campbell, Office Secretary
Delia Turano Schadt, Board Counsel

New Board Members

Four vacancies on the Board were filled recently. John Sloan, Speech-Language Pathologist, Billie Jo O'Donovan, Hearing Aid Dispenser, Stacey Ishman, M.D., otolaryngologist, and Scott D. London, M.D., otolaryngologist have been appointed to fill the Board's vacancies effective November 2010. The Board welcomes its newest members and appreciates their dedication to protecting the consumer public.

The Board wishes to thank the professional associations and the cooperation of the DHMH Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations for the dialogue and cooperation during the nomination and appointment processes.

Continuing Education Deadline for SLPs

The continuing education deadline for speech-language pathologists is December 31 of the year preceding the renewal year – details were provided in the e-mail sent to all SLP licensees in November 2010. For the 2012 renewal period all SLPs must complete the minimum 20 CE hours between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011; new licensees subject to the prorated CE requirements must complete the required CE hours in the same timeframe. The revised CE deadline will be formalized in regulations as expeditiously as possible.

Questions regarding the continuing education deadline for SLPs should be directed to Christopher Kelter, Executive Director, via phone at 410-764-4723 or via e-mail at kelterc@dhhm.state.md.us.

Continuing Education Proposal

The Board has proposed an increase in the minimum continuing education hours from 20 to 30 hours each renewal period. The proposal affects all three professions with full licenses excluding SLP-Assistants. The Board's rationale for the proposal is based on the observation that more than half the states licensing the three professions already require a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education as a condition of renewal in addition to strengthening the core purpose of licensure, to protect the consumer public. Do not send any comments regarding this proposal to the Board at this time; notification of the public comment period and related instructions will be sent to all affected licensees via e-mail. Any one providing comments regarding the proposal will receive an official response from the Board.

Communication Via E-Mail

The Board has selected the use of trusted e-Company to assist the Board in meeting its mass communication needs. The use of this provider will allow the Board to use e-mail to advise licensees of the issuance of newsletters, substantive changes to the Board's website, etc. and other important news (e.g., cancellation of Board meetings and other news bulletins of importance that cannot wait for newsletters). This will allow the Board to save a significant amount of funds by reducing mailing costs. The Board is committed to the use of e-mail for mass communication needs. Accordingly, it has never been more important to maintain a current e-mail address with the Board. Changes in e-mail address may be sent to kelterc@dhhm.state.md.us for immediate updating in the Board's records.

Laws and Regulations Posted to the Board's Website

As a cost savings measure the Board will no longer print laws and regulations books as it has done approximately every five years. The relevant laws and regulations affecting the audiology, hearing aid dispensing, and speech-language pathology professions have been posted to the Board's website. This will allow for any future changes to the laws and regulations to be immediately updated once the change is effective.

Disciplinary Matters

Lauren Pasekoff-Russ, Speech-Language Pathologist, Order Lifting Probation issued July 15, 2010. Probation lifted and license restored without restrictions or conditions.

Carin Bea Feldman, Speech-Language Pathologist, Pre-Charge Consent Order issued November 18, 2010 for practicing without a license. Licensee reprimanded and ordered to pay \$1,000 fine.

FAQ—Practicing Without A License

Scenario: A recent graduate who had completed their CFY as a fourth-year doctoral student was advised by their CFY supervisor that there is a grace period of 30 days in which a recent graduate may continue to work after graduation prior to obtaining a license.

Reality: There is no provision of Maryland law or regulations that permits a graduate to continue to practice their profession for any length of time without a license issued by this Board. Accordingly, any recent graduate that continues to practice their profession without a license issued by this Board is in violation of the Health Occupations Article, § 2-301 which states that “an individual shall be licensed by the Board before the individual may practice audiology, hearing aid dispensing, speech-language pathology, or assist in the practice of speech-language pathology” except under limited, specified situations. An individual that practices without a license may be subject to disciplinary action; an unlicensed individual also jeopardizes the licenses of those that they work with while unlicensed.

Cultural Competency

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene supports cultural competency of health care providers in Maryland. DHMH's Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities provides a wealth of information at the following site: <http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/hd/>

This website contains facts, reports, resource materials, grant funding information, and much more. Take some time to avail the resources at your disposal.

Statistical Report

As of December 17, 2010 there were 2,924 Speech-Language Pathologists, 30 Speech-Language Pathology Assistants, 391 Audiologists, 123 Hearing Aid Dispensers with active licenses in Maryland. In addition to the active licensees, the Board has 148 Speech-Language Pathologist-Limited Licensees, 19 Speech-Language Pathologist Assistants-Limited Licensees, and 13 Hearing Aid Dispensers-Limited Licensees.

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