



BOARD SPONSORED FREE CEU SEMINAR ON MAY 16, 2009

The Board sponsored a free continuing education seminar for the first 150 **active** licensees to register. The six hour program was held on Saturday, May 16, 2009 on the University of Maryland Baltimore County Campus in the University Center Ballroom.

Lynne C. Brady Wagner, MA,CCC-SLP was the presenter for the 4 hour ethics training. Ms. Wagner is a speech-language pathologist, the Program Director of Stroke/Neurology and the co-chair of the Ethics Advisory Committee at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston,

Massachusetts. After earning a master's degree

in Speech-Language Pathology from Saint Louise University, Lynne began her career in Chicago and worked at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago where she became the Resource Clinician for Adult Dysphagia. She has a graduate certificate in Health Care Ethics from Rush University Medical School and is a former member of ASHA's Board of Ethics. She is an instructor at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute for Health Professions where she teaches Healthcare Ethics.

In addition to the ethics presentation, former Board members Mr. Richard Robinson, and Dr. Sharon Sorensen and current Board Chair,

Ms. M. Cara Erskine and HAD Board member, Mr. Kenneth Needle, facilitated a 2 hour session on the revised Board Law and Regulations. Each attendee received 2 hours of continuing education for the afternoon session.

Towson University, the sponsoring agency, is approved by the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to sponsor CEUs. ASHA and AAA awarded .6 CEUs for the seminar.

BOARD RENEWAL AND MHCC FEES REDUCED

Effective November 24, 2008 the renewal fee for audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and speech-language pathologists was reduced from \$225.00 to \$143.00.

Starting July 1, 2009 in fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2011, the annual Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) user fee will be \$13.00 and biennial renewals will be \$26.00. The current user fee for biennial renewal is \$32.00. All licensees will pay \$6.00 less to renew in fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2011.

New Board Appointments

Governor Martin O'Malley appointed two audiologist Board members on December 16, 2008. Ronald Kaplan, Au.D., resides in Baltimore, Maryland and practices in Columbia, Maryland. Dr. Kaplan is serving the remainder of a four year term that expires June 30, 2009. Dr. Kaplan's reappointment to serve a four year term is pending with the Governor's Office.

Charlotte Godfrey, Au.D. resides in

Columbia, Maryland, practices in Baltimore City and has served twice as the president of the Maryland Academy of Audiology. Dr. Godfrey's 4 year term expires on June 30, 2012.

The Board has the mandated thirteen members which include 3 audiologists, 3 hearing aid dispensers, 3 speech-language pathologists, 2 consumer members and 2 otolaryngologists.

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2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HOUSE BILL 1275– Health Occupations Boards– Revision was introduced after the Final Report of the Task Force on Discipline of Health Care Professionals and Improved Patient Care was completed on January 28, 2009. The 18 member Task Force, created by HB 811 and appointed by Governor O'Malley began its work on September 26, 2008. The recommendations in the Task Force Report covered Fairness in Process, Fairness in Outcome, Timeliness, Data Collection, and Communication/Public Information.

HB 1275 included more than the recommendations of the Task Force. The bill required the Health Occupation Boards to provide notification to licensees of Board vacancies; develop cultural competency training for new

Board members; collect racial and ethnic data; ensure diversity among Board members; limit the scope of subpoenas; establish disciplinary subcommittees; adopt sanctioning guidelines; and post final disciplinary orders on Board websites. The Senate Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee did not pass the Bill. The House Health and Government Operations did pass the Bill. Both the Senate and the House must pass a Bill in order for it to become law.

HOUSE BILL 101 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2009 proposed to alter or repeal certain required appropriations relating to the financing of State government. Section 5 had a provision which stated on or before June 30, 2010, the Governor may transfer



\$100,000 of the funds of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists fund from the special fund to the general fund. When the Board reduced the renewal fee on November 24, 2008, the projected revenue for FY'10 was reduced. Transferring \$100,000 would result in insufficient funds for the Board to operate through FY'12. The House Appropriations and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committees voted to strike the provision from the Bill and the State will not transfer money from the Board's special fund to the State's general fund. The Board has a sufficient fund balance to operate.

HEARING AID SALES AND THE TELEHEALTH REGULATIONS

The Board has jurisdiction only over Maryland audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and speech-language pathologists. The Board does not regulate Internet sales of hearing aids. A licensee may choose to do business with a company that sells hearing aids and is located outside of Maryland. This alone is not grounds for discipline against a licensee. A Maryland licensee may be liable for any refund that might be due to the consumer in the course of transaction, depending upon the terms of the licensee's agreement with the third-party seller and the ap-

applicable Maryland law. The Board recommends that you seek competent legal counsel before entering into any contract.

The AHS News Fall 2008 Edition included an insert, **HOW DOES TELEHEALTH AFFECT INTERNET HEARING AID SALES**. The Board determined that the information in the article was unclear and believes the revised statement will eliminate any indecisiveness that resulted because of the article.

"The Board does not regulate Internet sales of hearing aids. This is a contractual issue and not related to COMAR 10.41.06-Telehealth Communication"

HEARING AID DISPENSERS ONLINE RENEWAL UPDATE

On November 24, 2009, Hearing Aid Dispensers were able to log online and complete a renewal application. Between November 24, 2008 and February 28, 2009, eighty-six licensees renewed online. In the online group, 15 individuals paid with a check and 71 used a credit card for payment. A total of 17 licensees requested a paper renewal application.

The system allowed the licensees to enter the audiometer (s) serial number(s) and calibration certificate(s) expiration date. Unless the licensee was audited, they did not have to mail the calibration certificates. The Board will continue to make technological changes to the online system to make the renewal process more efficient.

IMPORTANT CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

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 of 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. It is important to note that the Board has not changed the licensure renewal period. ***Licenses will continue to expire 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. For subsequent licensure periods licensees with one license will earn 20 CEUs. Licensees with two licenses will earn 30 CEUs.***

Publication of 2009 edition of Laws and Regulations Concerning Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists

Effective October 1, 2007 the Board Statute changed to comply with the statutory changes. The Board submitted regulatory changes to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Office of Regulations and Policy Coordination. On March 23, 2009, the last revised regulations became effective which means the "green books" printed January 2005 are not current. To read all the laws and regulations, go to the Board's web site and use the Law and Regulations Links.

The 2009 books will be printed and delivered to the Board office by August 2009. Copies will be mailed to all active licensees and newly licensed individuals starting in August 2009. There are approximately 3,211 licensees and each licensee will receive a copy via regular mail. It is important that you have a current address on file with the Board to receive a copy. (**refer to page 4- Address Change Form**)



Executive Director Retired June 30, 2009

Ms. Gwendolyn Wheatley started in State Service on July 10, 1972. She was appointed the Board's Executive Director on January 11, 2006. Under Ms. Wheatley's leadership the Board statute changed and numerous regulations were revised. After several years of planning, in March 2008 the online renewal was implemented. The Board continued community outreach with students, professional organizations, universities and other interested parties. Ms. Wheatley had the opportunity to travel around the country to discuss the trends in the profession with other Board administrators and members. The overall efficiency of the office was enhanced because of numerous technological changes that were implemented during Ms. Wheatley's tenure with the Board.

Ms. Wheatley wants to thank the Board members and the staff for their commitment, service and dedication to ensure that the Maryland Board of AUD/HAD/SLP is one of the best in the country.

2008-2009 Board Members Officers

M. Cara Erskine, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, Chair
Lisa Nelson Au.D., Co-Chair
Paul Siegmund, Hearing Aid Dispenser, Co-Chair
Cassandra Peters-Johnson, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, Treasurer.

Rebecca Conley-Hartman, Consumer
David Eisenman, M.D.
Princess Evans, MS, CCC-SLP
Charlotte Godfrey, Au.D.
Arlinda Harris, Consumer
Ronald Kaplan, Au.D.
Kenneth Needle, Hearing Aid Dispenser
C. Kirk Payne, Hearing Aid Dispenser
Milton G. Yoder, M.D.

Dr. David Eisenman's, Dr. Milton Yoder's,
Ms. M.Cara Erskine's and Mr. Paul Siegmund's terms
expire on June 30, 2010 and **the Board will have four
vacancies.**

2009 Board Meetings

July 16, 2009
September 17, 2009
October 15, 2009
November 19, 2009

**Board meetings are held the third Thursday of the
month at 4201 Patterson Avenue at
4:00 p.m. The Regular Session is open to the public
and the Administrative Session is closed to the
public.**

Are You An Expert?

If the Board refers a complaint to the Attorney General's Office for charges, it is because the Board has determined that there is probably cause to believe that the licensee has violated one or more provisions of the Board's statute.

The Administrative Prosecutor assigned to the case in the Attorney General's Office may ask that the Board assign an "expert witness" to assist the Prosecutor with the case. The expert witness reviews records and charts and provides the professional expertise the prosecutor needs to fully understand the case.

Although many cases are settled prior to a full hearing, the expert will be called upon to testify if the case comes to a hearing before the Board or before the Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings.

When an expert witness is selected for a case, the Board signs a contract with the expert witness for \$75.00 an hour for the time spent on the case. The Board's statute provides immunity from liability described under § 5-703 of the Courts and Judicial Proceeding Article for anyone giving information to the Board or otherwise participating in its activities.

If you are interested in serving as an expert witness, please send a short resume to the Board noting particularly any specific area of expertise in your profession and whether you have had previous experience as an expert witness. If interested, you may send your resume to the Board AUD/HAD/SLP, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215.

Fiscal Year 2009 Disciplinary Orders

Timothy Rooney, Hearing Aid Dispenser, Acceptance of Public Letter of Surrender of his license on September 25, 2008.

Tonya Horton, Audiologist, Acceptance of Public Letter of Surrender of her license on January 9, 2009.

Patricia Tschiderer petitioned the Board to lift the two year probationary period ordered by the Board on May 31, 2007. At its April 16, 2009 meeting, the Board voted that effective May 31, 2009 Ms. Tschiderer is no longer on probationary status and her license is restored without restrictions or conditions.

From July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, the Board received 16 complaints.

L I C E N S U R E F A C T S

Only two states, South Dakota and Colorado do not currently regulate the profession of **Speech-Language Pathology**. The District of Columbia now regulates speech-language pathologists.

Audiology is regulated in all fifty states and the District of Columbia.

Hearing Aid Dispensing is regulated throughout the United States. All states and the District of Columbia require either a license or registration to dispense hearing aids.

Unit 99
Board AUD/HAD/SLP
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

STATISTICAL REPORT as of June 16, 2009. In addition to the active licensees, the Board has 150 Speech-language pathologists ,33 speech-language pathology assistants and 7 hearing aid dispensers with limited licenses. Other places of employment include federal government/ military; home health; physicians' office; rehab agency clinic, university or college clinical practice / research and retail establishment.

Active Licensees	Hospital	Nursing Home	Practitioner's Office	School System	Teaching/College
SLP- 2693	254	189	214	1098	26
AUD- 381	39	1	97	36	9
HAD- 111			52		
SLP-A- 26				5	

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 to the Board AUD/HAD/SLP, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299, fax to 410-358-0273 or E-mail to cosbyz@dhhm.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.