



AHS NEWS

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



Winter/Spring 2010

Renewal 2010

Renewal notices will be mailed on or about March 22, 2010 to all audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech-language pathology assistants that are eligible for renewal. Renewal notices will contain important information for the renewal process, including the on-line renewal and the paper-based process. On-line renewal of a license is strongly encouraged and recommended. Renewal notices will contain specific information regarding the renewal process and, if applicable, CEU audit requirements. Other relevant information including the renewal fee will be posted to the Board's website.

The renewal fee for a single license holder is \$143.00 not including the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) fee of \$26.00. The renewal fee for a dual license holder is \$102.00 for each license not including the MHCC fee of \$26.00.

Renewal—Tax and Insurance Obligations

State law prohibits the issuance of a renewal license unless all tax obligations and/or unemployment insurance contributions have been paid or otherwise been satisfied through a plan approved by the Comptroller's Office.

Payment of all tax obligations (personal and business) must be satisfactorily verified by the Office of the Comptroller prior to the Board's issuance of a renewal license. The Board can not release tax holds. The release of tax holds is solely the responsibility of the Office of the Comptroller. Licensees who have been informed by the Office of the Comptroller regarding unpaid taxes and unpaid unemployment insurance obligations must contact the Comptroller at 410-974-2432 to resolve these issues and/or make payment arrangements. Licensees who have been contacted by the Office of the Comptroller are encouraged to take action now to allow for the timely release of tax holds that would prohibit license renewal.

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Board Meeting Dates

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.

Child Support Enforcement

State law requires that all court-ordered child support payments be current; under current law, a license is subject to suspension if court-ordered child support payments are not current. The Board has cooperated with efforts taken by the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to ensure that DHR is able to identify individuals who owe child support that are licensed health care providers. If notified by DHR the Board would issue a notice to the license regarding the pending suspension of the license. The licensee would have 30 days to become current with child support payments or prove to the Board and DHR that they are not in arrears regarding court-ordered child support. The suspension would be a Consent Order that would be considered a public document. Unlike the delinquent tax reconciliation process which is handled during the renewal process, the disciplinary process related to child support enforcement is independent of the renewal process and can be initiated at any time by DHR.

Website Changes

The Board's website will be going through some changes in appearance over the next few months. The content of the website will remain the same.

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 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

Board Vacancies

There will be four vacancies on the Board later this year. There will be one Speech-Language Pathologist vacancy, one Hearing Aid Dispenser vacancy, and two otolaryngologist vacancies effective July 1, 2010. Generally, individuals interested in serving on the Board should contact their respective professional association: the Maryland Academy of Audiology, the Maryland Speech-Language and Hearing Association, the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, DC, and Delaware, or the Maryland Society of Otolaryngology (Med-Chi Society).

Specifically, for the upcoming vacancies, licensed Speech-Language Pathologists, licensed Hearing Aid Dispensers, and licensed otolaryngologists are encouraged to contact their respective professional associations to express their interest in serving on the Board. The professional associations, cooperating with the DHMH Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations, will determine the eligibility of the interested candidates and then contact the Governor's Office of Appointments. DHMH and the Governor's Office of Appointments are committed to geographic, gender, and ethnic diversity on the health occupation boards.

Disciplinary Matters

There have been no public disciplinary orders issued by the Board since the publication of the last AHS News in August 2009.

Disciplinary Actions Posted to Board's Website

All public disciplinary orders issued by the Board since 2000 have been posted to the Board's website. All subsequent public disciplinary orders issued by the Board will be posted to the Board's Public Orders page. Anyone may access this information from the "Disciplinary Orders" tab at the top of the Board's homepage.

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.

E-Mail Addresses

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 campbelly@dhmh.state.md.us for immediate updating in our records. Audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech-language pathology assistants may update their e-mail address utilizing the online renewal process.

Hearing Aid Dispensers – Notice Required

COMAR 10.41.08.09(B) requires that any individual holding a license or limited license as a Hearing Aid Dispenser in the State of Maryland submit to the Board notice of any place of business in Maryland that they provide hearing aid services. The regulation also requires that a notice of any change in place of business must be submitted to the Board within 30 days of the change. Accordingly, any individual holding a license or limited license as a Hearing Aid Dispenser must submit to the Board an official Place of Business form for each location in Maryland where hearing aid services are provided. The Place of Business form is on the Board's website in the Forms section. All licensees and limited licensees in Hearing Aid Dispensing must submit new Forms to the Board no later than June 30, 2010 and for any subsequent change. This regulation does not apply to an audiologist who dispenses hearing aids in Maryland.

E-Newsletter

Effective with the publication of the Winter/Spring 2010 AHS News 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 posting of the new newsletter via e-mail (the e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address on file with the Board). 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 Board-related news and information to licensees.

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.dhmf.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.

On-Line Verification of Licenses

Online verification of licenses issued by the Board has been available since Summer 2007. Recent improvements to the Board's licensing database now permit the online verification of SLP – Limited and AUD – Limited licensees.

Statistical Report

As of March 10, 2010 there were 2,885 Speech-Language Pathologists, 38 Speech-Language Pathology Assistants, 400 Audiologists, 114 Hearing Aid Dispensers with active licenses in Maryland. In addition to the active licensees, the Board has 146 Speech-Language Pathologist-Limited license, 38 Speech-Language Pathologist Assistants-Limited License, and 11 Hearing Aid Dispensers-Limited Licenses.

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Name

Address

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