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Inside this issue:

CE Requirements 2
for SLPs

Growth in 2
Licensure
Base

Updated 3
Website

Who Can Do 3
Hearing
Examinations?

Online 3
Verification
System

Board 4
Member
Requirements

Board of Examiners for AUD HAD SLP 4201 Patterson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Criminal History Records Check

The General Assembly has granted the Board the authority to require criminal background checks as a condition of holding a license. The authority is effective October 1, 2016 (Chapter Law 48 of 2016). This requirement is a step to ensure the safety of the consumer public. For more information:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2016RS/bills/sb/sb0109T.pdf>

All individuals submitting an application for a license will be required to submit proof of a criminal background check. All current licensees will be required to submit to a criminal history records check prior to the renewal after the effective date of the law.

The full cost of the criminal history records check must be borne by the applicant/licensee. There are no exceptions.

Failure to provide proof of the criminal history records check will result in a delay of the issuance of an initial license or a renewal license.

Full details will be provided at a later date on the process to submit proof of a criminal history records check.

Online Renewal System Open—Licenses Expiring on May 31, 2016

The online renewal system is open for individuals holding an audiology license, a speech-language pathology license or a speech-language pathology assistant license expiring on May 31, 2016.

The \$100.00 late fee is automatically assessed during the month of June 2016 after the expiration date of a full license.

If a licensee fails to submit a complete renewal application by June 30, 2016 the license status will be changed to non-renewed. To reinstate a non-renewed license an individual must submit \$341.00 along with a completed reinstatement application and documentation of all required continuing education. The reinstatement fee is \$200.00.

Please note that the total reinstatement fee will change over time due to changes to the renewal fee and MHCC fee.

Continuing Education Requirements—SLPs

Speech-language pathologists who have already renewed their licenses at least once are required to complete a minimum of 30.0 continuing education hours in the two calendars preceding the expiration date of the license. At least 20.0 hours must be in speech/communication disorders with not more than 10.0 hours in related areas.

SLPs with a license expiring on May 31, 2017 must complete at least 30.0 continuing education hours as described in the foregoing paragraph between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2016.

SLPs with a license expiring on May 31, 2018 must complete at least 30.0 continuing education hours between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2017.

Licensees with questions about the continuing education requirements are encouraged to e-mail the Board's Executive Director.

License Matters — Good to Know

Always ensure that a valid mailing address is on file with the Board at all times. This is a statutory requirement—please see § 2-311(c).

Always ensure that a valid e-mail address is on file with the Board at all times. The Board conducts the majority of its correspondence with licensees via e-mail.

When calling or e-mailing the Board please clearly indicate your name, profession, license number and the best way to contact you. This information will allow Board staff to assist you in the best manner possible.

Licensure Base Growth

Over the last ten years the Board has experienced significant growth in the licensure base. There are two main reasons for the growth in the licensure base.

First, the Board amended the license exemption language that required all new hires in the public school systems to obtain a license prior to practice—this law became effective on October 1, 2007.

Second, the State's Medicaid billing rule changes in 2009 essentially rendered the Board's license exemption language moot. The public schools systems required those individuals who were exempt from licensure to obtain a license as a condition of on-going employment.

As a result the Board has been able to reduce the renewal fee for each renewal cycle as the Board's expenditures have not changed significantly over the last decade.

At the time this newsletter was issued the number of licensees is over 4,600.

Online Verification System

From time to time the Board receives calls from licensees who do not know their license number or the expiration date of their license. To provide the best service, Board staff need the full name and license number of the individual calling.

Since 2008 the Board has had an online verification system which permits the public to view basic license information for each individual licensed by the Board. Licensees can utilize the online database. The online database displays for all audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and speech-language pathologists as well as speech-language pathology assistants that hold a full license.

If you do not know your license number and expiration date you are strongly encouraged to obtain it now: <https://mdbnc.dhmdh.md.gov/AUDVerification/Default.aspx>

Or, you may simply enter "Maryland audiology license verification" into a web browser and the top result should be this Board's online verification page.

Additionally, the online verification page is also accessible directly from the Board's website. Simply click on "License Verification" for direct access to the online verification page.

Hearing Examinations in Maryland-Authorized Individuals

Pursuant to Health Occupations Code § 2-301 "... an individual shall be licensed by the Board before the individual may practice audiology, hearing aid dispensing ...in this State."

The practice of audiology includes the application of "evaluation [and] testing" relating hearing development and disorders. See Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. 2-101(q)(1).

Further, the practice of hearing-aid dispensing includes "performing, conducting, and interpreting hearing assessment procedures." See Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. 2-101(h).

Accordingly, the only individuals authorized to conduct a hearing test in Maryland are those individuals that hold a full or limited license in audiology or hearing aid dispensing.

Any individual not duly licensed by the Board that is conducting a hearing examination is in violation of State law. See Md. Code Ann. Heal Occ. § 2-401.

Updated Website

All websites associated with State of Maryland, including all DHMH websites, have been updated to a new format. Recently all of the health occupations boards launched their updated websites.

The main benefits of the updated websites are easier navigation and better display of information on mobile devices. Licensees may refer to the Board's website for information on board meeting dates, announcements, continuing education requirements, renewal requirements, how to request a verification letter, how to file a complaint with the Board, all forms, current and past newsletters, information on the Board's responsibilities and members, and frequently asked questions.

Board of AUD HAD SLP

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The mission of the Maryland Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists is to enhance the quality of the hearing and speech health care provided to the citizens of Maryland by ensuring qualified and competent audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and speech-language pathologists are licensed to practice in the State of Maryland.

The Board's Home Page:

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/boardsahs/>

Board Membership

From time to time the Board needs new members to ensure the board is in full compliance with statutory requirements. A board with a full membership will have the acumen and expertise to make prudent, effective and efficient decisions.

A board member must meet the following general criteria:

Be a resident of Maryland;

Currently practicing their profession in Maryland; and

Have at least 5 years paid work in the profession.

Other criteria may apply.

Professional associations are responsible for nominating qualified individuals to the Office of the Governor. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board please contact the appropriate professional association to express your interest.

If you have questions about the responsibilities and time commitments of being a board member please contact the Board at 410-764-4723 for more information.