

# OHIO BOARD OF SPEECH- LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

OSSPEAC Chat Room Discussion  
October 24, 2011  
Overview of Role of Board

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## Presented By:

- ▶ **Loretta T. Embry, M.A., SLP**  
**Board Member & Vice-Chairperson**
- ▶ **Patricia L. Leppla, M.A., CCC-SLP**  
**Board Member**
- ▶ **Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.**  
**Executive Director**

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## Board History

- ▶ The Board was created in 1975 with passage of House Bill 79 which became Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- ▶ Over the years, the law has been amended to add board members, change licensing requirements, and incorporate legislative dictates of the legislature.
- ▶ Recent legislative changes:
  - ▶ 2006 – amendment requiring Au.D. for audiology license
  - ▶ 2007 – new law for student permits
  - ▶ 2010 – new law for inactive license

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### Vision Statement

- Our vision is for Ohioans to possess maximum communication skills in order to achieve social and vocational independence.
  - *Adopted at the board strategic planning meeting on January 12, 2010*

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### Mission Statement

- The Mission of the Ohio Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology is to regulate the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology by establishing, promoting, and enforcing practice standards and professional competency among licensees pursuant to Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code.
  - *Updated at the board strategic planning meeting on January 12, 2010*

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### Value Statement

- The Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and its employees share a set of core values, which are reflected in licensing, investigations, policy-making, and public relations; these values include: accountability, accuracy, fairness, integrity, leadership/role model, professionalism, respect, responsiveness, and transparency.
  - *Adopted at the board strategic planning meeting on January 12, 2010*

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## Chapters 4753 Ohio Revised & Administrative Code

- ▶ Establishes statutory authority to regulate audiology and speech pathology professions.
- ▶ Focus is consumer protection.
- ▶ Rules (Administrative Code 4753) are detailed procedures for administering Chapter 4753.
- ▶ Rules are generally amended on a yearly basis, or with a change in Chapter 4753

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## Powers & Duties under R.C. 4753.05

- make reasonable rules to ensure ethical standards;
- determine the nature and scope of examinations and evaluate the qualifications of all applicants;
- publish the licensure and permit standards;
- submit to the governor a report of all its official actions with any recommendations and findings to improve the professions;
- investigate all alleged irregularities in the practices by persons and any violations of this chapter or rules;
- conduct hearings and keep such records and minutes as are necessary to carry out this chapter;
- adopt a seal by which it shall authenticate its proceedings.

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## The Board

- ▶ Eight members appointed by the Governor
- ▶ Three Audiologists
- ▶ Three Speech–Language Pathologists
- ▶ Two Public Members; one must be at least 60 yrs.
- ▶ Three year term with optional second term
- ▶ Meets approximately seven times a year
- ▶ Usually meets in the Riffe Center in Columbus from 9 AM to 3 PM on meeting dates

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## Board Member Qualifications

- Qualifications – AUD and SLP Board Members
- ▶ Have been licensed and engaged in the practice, teaching, administration, or research in the area of appointment for at least five years prior to the dates of their appointment.
  - ▶ At all times one of the audiologists serving on the board must be an audiologist engaged in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids.

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## Board Member Qualifications

- Qualifications – Public Board Members
- ▶ Must be representatives of the general public.
  - ▶ Neither shall be a speech-language pathologist or audiologist or a person licensed under Chapter 4753.
  - ▶ At least one of the members representing the general public shall be at least sixty years of age.

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## Current Board Members

- ▶ Three Audiologists
  - Helene Levenfus, Au.D., Chairperson – Beachwood (2013–2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Jane Kukula, Au.D. – Euclid (Term expires September 26, 2011)
  - Karen Mitchell, Au.D. – Columbus (2013)
- ▶ Three Speech–Language Pathologists
  - Loretta Embry, SLP, Vice Chairperson – Lyndhurst (2013–2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Patricia Leppla, CCC–SLP – Germantown (2012)
  - Amy Thorpe, CCC–SLP – Maumee (2012)
- ▶ Two Public Members
  - Malcolm Porter – Columbus (2013–2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Elizabeth Tracy – New Albany (2013)

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## Board Member Composition

- ▶ Residency and practice throughout the state
  - Northwest, Northeast, Central, and Southern Ohio
- ▶ Experienced
  - Four serving second terms
  - Active in the professions
- ▶ Diverse practice settings
  - private practice, community center, hospital, schools, university, skilled nursing facility, industry, rehabilitation center, home health agency
- ▶ Board members are state officials who are dedicated to public service and consumer protection
  - Active on board committees; board members spend a great deal of time reviewing voluminous documentation to prepare for board meetings.

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## Board Staff

- ▶ Executive Director: oversees Board operations and represents Board
  - Gregg Thornton – Mar. 2009
- ▶ Licensing Administrator: manages licensing for the Board
  - Michelle Cunningham – Dec. 2009
- ▶ Investigator: investigates complaints and reviews continuing education requirements
  - Connie Stansberry – Feb. 2006
- ▶ Administrative Assistant: manages business functions and files of the Board
  - Darlene Young – Nov. 2010

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## What is the role of the Board?

- ▶ Law establishes statutory authority to regulate audiology and speech–language pathology professions.
- ▶ Focus is consumer protection.
  - Assurance that licensure requirements are met;
  - Professional competency is maintained; and
  - Complaints investigated.

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## Role of the Board

Key differences between role of licensure board and professional association

<u>Licensure Board</u>	<u>Prof. Association</u>
Consumer Protection	Advocacy
Mandatory Licensure	Voluntary Membership
Governmental Agency	Private Organization

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## Role of the Board

Key differences between role of licensure board and professional association

### Functional Differences

<u>Licensure Board</u>	<u>Prof. Association</u>
Licensure Fees	Membership fees
Law & Rules	Articles of Incorporation
Policies & Procedures	Bi-Laws
Public Meetings	Closed Meetings

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## Licensure Statistics

As of October 6, 2011

› Speech–Language Pathology	6148
› Conditional SLP	337
› Speech Pathology Aide	10
› Audiology	935
› Audiology Aides	64
› Permits	47
› Inactives	132
◦ AUD – 25	
◦ SLP – 107	
› <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7673</b>

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## Licensure Statistics – Trends

	2011 Oct.	2010 Dec.	2009 Dec.	2008 Dec.
› Speech-Language Path.	6148	6155	5884	5870
› Audiologist	935	976	931	950
› Inactive <i>(25-AUD/107-SLP)</i>	132	0	0	0
› Conditional SLP	337	356	300	225
› Permit Holders	47	41	50	35
› SLP-Aide	10	19	17	23
› AUD-Aide	64	65	66	75
› <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7673</b>	<b>7612</b>	<b>7248</b>	<b>7178</b>

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## Disciplinary Actions

- › Result from complaints or from internal board review
- › Investigations are confidential.
- › Disciplinary actions are public information
- › Board can reprimand, suspend or revoke a license
- › Most disciplinary actions are for unlicensed practice.

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## Investigative Statistics

	2010	2009	2008
Unlicensed practice	12	15	8
Unprofessional conduct	4	2	9
Falsification of application	0	0	0
Susp. license from other state	0	0	0
Requirements not met for appl.	4	1	2
Misrepresentation	2	4	1
App. lacking CEUs for renewal	6	0	4
Unethical practice	2	2	1
Fraud/Falsifying documents	2	2	3
Arrest Record	0	0	0
Other Boards' Complaints	0	1	0

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## Board Updates

- ▶ Licensure Renewal Period – Licenses must be renewed by December 31, 2012
- ▶ Renewal fee expected to increase
- ▶ Continuing education requirements: 20 hrs.
- ▶ Inactive license status available during renewal
- ▶ Ohio Department of Education – caseload ratio project
- ▶ Board reviewing changes to continuing education requirements
- ▶ New requirements for individuals out of practice more than five years, applying for reinstatement or relicensure

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## Discussion /Question 1

- ▶ How would web-based supervision or telepractice assist or affect SLPs practicing in the school setting?

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## Discussion /Question 2

- ▶ What impact is the current student/SLP caseload ratio having on you in your practice setting?

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### Discussion /Question 3

- ▶ How are you affected by SLP shortages in your school district, and what resources would you like to see the Board provide to address this issue?

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### Discussion /Question 4

- ▶ What resources can the Board provide to SLP supervisors to ensure adequate supervision of Conditional Licensees and Student Permit holders? What has been your experience as a supervisor of a Conditional Licensee or Student Permit holder?

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### Discussion /Question 5

- ▶ How can the Board facilitate better collaboration among school SLPs, teachers, school administrators, parents, and other school professionals (school nurses, counselors/psychologists, physical therapists, etc.) during the development of Individualized Education Plans for students who require speech–language pathology and audiology services in the school setting?

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## Discussion /Question 6

- ▶ Is there any question or issue that you would like to see the Board address in the future?

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## Questions

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## Board Contact Information

- ▶ Ohio Board of Speech–Language Pathology and Audiology
- ▶ 77 South High Street, Suite 1659
- ▶ Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108
  
- ▶ E-Mail: [Board@slpaud.ohio.gov](mailto:Board@slpaud.ohio.gov)
- ▶ Website: [www.slpaud.ohio.gov](http://www.slpaud.ohio.gov)
- ▶ Telephone: 614-466-3145
- ▶ Fax: 614-995-2286
- ▶ Hours: M-F; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except state holidays)

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