Welcome to this edition of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professional Board’s eNewsletter. December can be a very busy time of year during the holiday season. This is a reminder that licenses will expire on December 31, 2018 for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and aides, and on January 30, 2019 for hearing aid dealers and fitters. Be sure to review our information about licensure renewal inside this edition and also on our website at: www.shp.ohio.gov.

(Continued on next page)
Message from the Board President
(continued from page 1)

January, the Board will mail new wall certificates with our new name and seal to all SLPs, AUDs, Duals, and Aides. Looking ahead to next year, we anticipate adopting and amending several administrative rules in order to align with statutory changes expected to pass the Ohio General Assembly by the end of December. These statutory changes primarily pertain to Chapter 4747 for hearing aid dealers and fitters and are described as “clean-up” in nature. The changes will help the Board better align its licensing processes under Chapters 4744, 4747, and 4753. I would also like to thank Lisa Froehlich, Ph.D., CCC-SLP for her service on the Board. Dr. Froehlich resigned on August 31, 2018 to accept a school-based supervisory position in Minnesota. I would like to introduce and welcome Ann M. Slone, M.A., CCC-SLP who will complete Dr. Froehlich’s remaining term ending March 22, 2020. I would like to congratulate Barbara Conrad, M.A., CCC-SLP on being selected by the National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (NCSB) as the 2018 Special Recognition Award recipient. Be sure to read more information about this inside this edition. As always, we appreciate your input and feedback. Please visit and bookmark our homepage at www.shp.ohio.gov for additional information regarding important licensure updates.

Thank you,

Tammy H. Brown, M.A., CCC-A
Board President

Message from the Executive Director
(continued from page 1)

We have important information about licensure renewal for the 2019-2020 practice period. The Board discontinued issuing pocket cards. You may verify a license from eLicense Ohio’s website at: https://elicense.ohio.gov/OH_HomePage. A “Printer Friendly” option is available to print a copy of your license verification and status for your records, employer, or insurance administrator.

There is also important information inside this edition about the Board’s meetings for 2019, a new continuing education rule for hearing aid fitters that took effect on December 10, 2018, the Related Service Personnel Shortage Workgroup under the Ohio Department of Education, and other information related to licensure issues.

We invite you to visit our new homepage at www.shp.ohio.gov, and also visit us on Facebook to stay updated throughout the year.

If you recently contacted the Board for services or information, please take a moment to complete our customer service survey and let us know your opinion about that experience.

Thank you,

Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.

Board’s Contact Information

Vern Riffe Center for Government & the Arts
77 South High Street, Suite 1659
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Important Information

Has your contact information changed?

Updating your contact information is now a self-service process in the new eLicense Ohio system. See the update inside this edition for details on how to register and access your license through your new eLicense Ohio dashboard.

All licensees are required to update any change of name, place of business, or mailing address within thirty days of said change.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

• Reminder: Board and Committee meetings are open to the public.
• Public comment is welcome at all Board meetings.
• Please visit our website at www.shp.ohio.gov for the latest updates and information.

Phone: 614-466-3145
Fax: 614-995-2286
E-mail: board@s hp.ohio.gov

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Board office is closed during observance of state holidays
License Renewal—Important Update

The Board mailed a renewal letter to all licensed aides, audiologists, hearing aid dealers and fitters, and speech-language pathologists. Licenses for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, dual licensees, and aides will expire at midnight on December 31, 2018. Licenses for hearing aid dealers and fitters will expire at midnight on January 30, 2019. All licenses must be renewed online through the State of Ohio’s eLicense Ohio license management system. The Board discontinued making paper renewal applications available on its website and no paper renewal applications will be available to download. eLicense Ohio will periodically send reminders via e-mail to anyone who has not yet renewed their license. The Board will also post reminders on its Facebook page. Be sure to “Like” our Facebook page in order to receive our updates. Licensure renewal information is also available on the Board’s home page at: www.shp.ohio.gov.

eLicense Ohio—Account Registration

Beginning August 16, 2018, the Board sent an e-mail to licensees who have not yet registered for their account with the eLicense Ohio license management system. This e-mail includes the board’s name and logo at the top, instructions, your security code, and a link to eLicense Ohio to create your account. You will be prompted to enter your Social Security Number, Security Code, Date of Birth, a valid email address and create a unique password. Note: to obtain your Security Code via e-mail, the e-mail address you enter on the account registration page must by the same as the e-mail address on file with the Board. You must create an account in order to renew your license, and make changes such as updating your mailing address, e-mail address, name change, requesting additional wall certificates, etc. If you registered for an account, but have not accessed your account in more than one year, you will be prompted to change your password when you login.

Current licensees with an "Active," "Inactive," or "Expired" license should visit the eLicense Ohio Home Page at: https://elicense.ohio.gov/OH_HomePage, and then choose the Login / Create an Account option. Choose the "I HAVE A LICENSE" button and follow the prompts to register for a new eLicense account as an existing licensee. After successfully registering, you will be directed to your online user Dashboard page and be able to select options to manage your license, including renewal of your license when the renewal period opens—see “License Renewal Updates” above for the renewal dates. Registration information is available on the Board’s homepage at www.shp.ohio.gov.

Web Browser Information: The eLicense Ohio license management system supports the following web browsers: Google Chrome (recommended), Mozilla Firefox, or Internet Explorer version 11.
Reminder—Board Consolidation Took Effect Jan. 21, 2018

We realize there have been many updates regarding the board consolidation and hopefully everyone has received an opportunity to be informed about this important change that took effect on January 21, 2018. In the interest of continuing our outreach to those who may just now be learning about the consolidation of the Ohio Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing Board and Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, we are providing this update in our final edition for 2018. If you have already received this information, we invite you to continue to the remaining content in this edition.

Am. Sub. H.B. Bill 49 was passed and signed into law on July 1, 2017, which consolidated the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (SPE) and Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing Board (HAD). Under this new law, both SPE and HAD were abolished on January 20, 2018, and combined into a single program agency called the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board (SHP) effective January 21, 2018. Even before this most recent merger in our state of Ohio, at least eight other states have combined licensure of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dealers and fitters under the same board. The following information will address the most common questions received regarding the transition.

**What changed?**
Effective January 21, 2018, pursuant to Am. Sub. H. B. 49, the responsibilities of the two Boards merged and were renamed the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board.

**What’s the impact?**
The new law did not change the underlying licensing standards for each professional groups. In other words, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, conditional speech-language pathologists, audiology aides and speech-language pathology aides are still licensed under Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes, and hearing aid dealers and fitters, trainees, anyone holding a conditional license for up to one year, and entities that engage in the merchandise of hearing aids are still licensed under Chapter 4747 of the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes. Most of the changes will be back office and administrative in nature. The new law does require all applicants for initial license to complete a criminal records check.

**What the new law doesn’t do:**
The new law does not eliminate or change educational, examination, licensing, or continuing education requirements for any group licensed under the new Board.

Because we use email as a cost-saving, efficient way to communicate, please be sure that we have your email address in our records. You can update your e-mail address and contact information by registering and/or logging in to your user account via the new eLicense Ohio system at: https://elicense.ohio.gov/OH_HomePage. Refer to this edition for complete details on registering and/or logging in to eLicense Ohio.

We look forward to working together to continue to serve you and the citizens of Ohio.
Barb Conrad, M.A., CCC-SLP, receives Special Recognition Award

The Board would like to congratulate Barb Conrad, M.A., CCC-SLP, for recently being selected by the National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (NCSB) as the 2018 Special Recognition Award recipient. The Board is also a charter member (since 1976) of NCSB. NCSB is a national association of state licensing boards that license and regulate the speech and hearing professions.

The NCSB Special Recognition Award is given to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary commitment and contribution(s) in the area of regulation at the state level, program development through an innovative and replicable design, extraordinary service and commendable contributions to a state licensure board, and/or recent advocacy activities leading to changes in regulation.

The Board nominated Ms. Conrad for her many contributions at the state level during her 38 years as a speech-language pathologist, most notably her collaborative work to address shortages in the school setting. She is currently the Supervisor of Speech-Language Therapy Services with the ESC of Lorain County. The NCSB Board of Directors presented Barb with the Special Recognition Award at their fall conference in Tysons Corner, Virginia on October 5, 2018. Speech and hearing professionals, licensing board administrators from across the country, and individuals from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the American Academy of Audiology were in attendance. They joined the Board’s Executive Director and Board President, along with Barb’s husband, Bryan Conrad, with a standing ovation after Barb’s nomination was read and she approached the podium to accept the award and make a few remarks. One of her first remarks was an acknowledgement that she was not the sole participant on the many projects she served. She noted that the workgroups that were formed to address school-based issues such as shortages were truly a team effort. Barb mentors both undergraduate and graduate students majoring in communications disorders, as well as supervising clinical fellows and conditional licensees. She willingly shares her knowledge and expertise through professional development activities at local, regional, state, and national conferences.

Board Appointment Update - Ann Slone, M.A., CCC-SLP

School-based and speech-language pathologist Lisa Froehlich, Ph.D., CCC-SLP resigned her position on the Board effective August 31, 2018 to accept a school-based supervisory position in Minnesota. Dr. Froehlich was appointed to the new board, and also served on the former Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology beginning in December 2013. She chaired the Investigative Review Group for several years, which is responsible for overseeing board investigations. She also chaired the Professional Competency Committee, served on statewide workgroups addressing school-based issues, and wrote articles on school-based topics, such as implementation of the workload determination process for the Board’s newsletter and website. The Board recognized Dr. Froehlich’s contributions and service at their meeting on December 5, 2018.

On December 7, 2018, Governor John R. Kasich announced the appointment of Ann M. Slone, M.A., CCC-SLP of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) to serve Dr. Froehlich’s remaining term ending March 22, 2020. Ms. Slone is a school-based practitioner. The Board is in the process of completing Ms. Slone’s board appointment, and we are excited to bring you more information about her experience and background in the next edition of our newsletter.
Ohio Department of Education Workgroup Issues Survey

In January 2018, the Ohio Department of Education formed a Related Services Workgroup to improve the coordination of state, school, and provider efforts to address the related services needs of students with disabilities. The Board was invited to serve on this Workgroup. The Workgroup also consists of members representing educational audiologists (board member Carrie Spangler, Au.D., CCC-A), occupational therapists, physical therapists, school nurses, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, representatives of school district superintendents, treasurers or business managers, and representatives of interested parties including state professional associations for related service providers, state agencies, including employees of the Ohio Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education. The Workgroup has met several times during 2018 under the guidance of Dr. Kim Monachino, Director of the Office for Exceptional Children and her staff.

The Workgroup will be sending out a very important survey to select practitioners, including related service providers, seeking their input and feedback to questions that will help to address shortages in related services personnel in the school setting. Your input is valuable to this discussion as the Workgroup develops recommendations. Both related service providers and non-related service providers will be invited to complete the survey.

Look for an e-mail with the subject – “Related Services Personnel Survey.” If you receive an e-mail, it will include the survey link and come from the following e-mail address: lewism5@ohio.edu, which is affiliated with Ohio University. The Board appreciates your acceptance of the invitation and taking a few minutes to answer questions pertaining to recruitment and retention. We value your opinion and would like to thank you in advance for completing the survey. Your survey responses will be anonymous. If you do not receive an e-mail, it means that you were not randomly selected to complete the survey. Look for more updates about the Workgroup’s progress in future newsletters.

Ohio Department of Health - Hearing Aid Assistance Program

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is pleased to announce The Ohio Hearing Aid Assistance Program (OHAAP) beginning August 2014. OHAAP is a temporary assistance program for families with permanently hearing impaired children from birth to age 21 for hearing aids.

Please share this information with any families that may be eligible for assistance or providers that may be interested. Contact Melissa McCoy at Melissa.Mccoy@odh.ohio.gov or (614) 466-1995 with any questions regarding the OHAAP program.

This program will assist families with incomes of between 200% and 400% of the federal poverty level with the purchase of hearing aids for children from birth to age 21. (Families with income of less than 200% of the FPL should be referred to Medicaid or BCMH for services.) Licensed Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters are eligible to serve as OHAAP providers with a signed agreement in place with the ODH and are able to assist with children eligible for the program.
On December 10, 2018, Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-11 (E) took effect allowing continuing education credit for hearing aid fitters serving as a volunteer when providing hearing care services to indigent and uninsured individuals. The Board was required to adopt this rule in accordance with HB 290, 131st GA. Under the new provision to the rule, up to one-third (three clock hours) of the continuing education requirements may be completed by a hearing aid fitter by providing volunteer services. To qualify under the rule, volunteer services shall:

1. Be provided at a free clinic or other non-profit organization that offers health care services based on eligibility screenings identifying the client as an "indigent and uninsured person" as that term is defined in division (A)(7) of section 2305.234 of the Revised Code;
2. Be documented in writing in the form of a certificate or a written statement on letterhead from an administrative official at the organization where services were rendered, specifying at a minimum the license holder's name, license number, date(s) of qualifying volunteer services, and number of hours of services.
3. Not be credited for license holders in a paid position at the organization at which the services are rendered;
4. Be provided without receiving any compensation or other form of remuneration;
5. Be specific to the licensee's area of license, such as specific to dealing in and/or fitting of hearing aids;
6. Be credited as one hour of continuing education for each sixty minutes spent providing services as a volunteer, not to exceed three hours of the total annual continuing education requirement; and
7. Not count toward the requirements of paragraph (C)(1) of this rule to complete one hour of continuing education in ethics or Ohio state law.

Note: a similar provision is in place under Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-4-01 (B) (10) for audiologists and speech-language pathologists required to complete 20 hours of continuing education, including 2 hours related to ethics.

**Continuing Education and Ethics Requirement Reminder**

*Continuing Education & Ethics Resources Available at: [http://shp.ohio.gov/ce-ethics]*

The Board would like to remind all licensees about their respective continuing education requirements.

**Requirements for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists**

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists are required to complete 20 hours of continuing education, including two hours related to ethics pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-4-01. Licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists required to complete continuing education have until December 31, 2018 to complete their hours.

**Requirements for Hearing Aid Fitters**

Hearing aid fitters are required to complete not less than ten hours of continuing education, including one hour in ethics or Ohio state law, each year preceding the licensee’s renewal application pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 4747.06(B) and Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-11(C). Licensed hearing aid fitters required to complete continuing education have until January 30, 2019 to complete their hours.
Board Sets Meeting Dates for 2019
The Board determined its board meeting dates for 2019 at its meeting on December 5, 2018.
January 30
March 6 and March 7
May 1
June 27
August 14
October 30
December 4
Please visit the board’s website to confirm the location and time. The meeting agenda will be posted to the Board’s website prior to the meeting.

OMNIE—UpCycling Speech and Language Guidelines

Just a reminder that the modules are still maintained and accessible on the Ohio Master’s Network Initiatives in Education (OMNIE) website at: https://omnie.ocali.org/.
The topics are maintained and updated by individuals regarded for their expertise, knowledge and experience over the subject areas addressed. The guidelines and resources support school based practitioners, including intervention specialists, teachers, administrators and parents.

Accessing the modules will require you to register for a free account which will only take a few minutes, and is highly encouraged to ensure that funding continues in order to maintain and develop additional modules.

CE Broker - Sign-up Today!
Please visit the Board’s website at: http://shp.ohio.gov/continuing-education to sign-up with CE Broker, the licensure board’s official continuing education tracking system and begin the easy process of reporting your CE hours. Over 5,000 licensees are signed-up and tracking their continuing education hours. CE Broker is available to licensees on a voluntary basis. Licensees may register for a free basic account. Additional information is also available from CE Broker’s website at: https://cebroker.com/oh/plans.

Benefits of reporting your continuing education to CE Broker
• Track your continuing education hours required to renew your Ohio license
• Know precisely how many hours you’ve completed and how many hours are remaining
• Exemption from a continuing education audit once your 20 hours are reported

Reminder—All Initial Applicants Required to Complete Criminal Background Checks
Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code sections 4747.051 and 4753.061, all applicants for initial license must complete a criminal records check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Instructions for Ohio residents and out-of-state residents are available to download from the Board’s website by clicking on the following link: Criminal Background Check Instruction.
Replacement Wall Certificates—Update

Due to the board consolidation in January 2018, all individuals licensed under Chapter 4753 (audiologists, speech-language pathologists, audiology aides, and speech-language pathology aides) who renew their license for the 2019-2020 practice period will be mailed one replacement wall certificate with the Board’s new name and state seal beginning January 1, 2019. Please allow up to 30 days to receive your replacement wall certificate. Your replacement wall certificate is permanent for as long as you maintain your license throughout your career and must be displayed in a conspicuous place. If you practice in multiple locations for the 2019-2020 practice period, you must order duplicate wall certificates after January 1, 2019. Go to your dashboard and select “Options,” under your license at eLicense.Ohio.gov and select “Duplicate Wall Certificate.” New wall certificates were issued to hearing aid dealers and fitters during their last annual license renewal.

Board Offers Call Center Support Provided By eLicense Ohio

Please note that reaching the Board by telephone has been streamlined. When calling the Board’s main line at (614) 466-3145, you will now have the option to press 1 to transfer to customer service for assistance with eLicense Ohio help, including login issues, account setup, and password resets. In order to reach a Board staff member, please press 2. The eLicense Ohio Call Center Support line will be very useful if licensees need assistance with setting up their user account registration during the license renewal period.

Board Discontinues Issuance of Pocket Cards—Reminder

The Board discontinued issuing pocket cards for all license types following approved renewals. Your license expiration will not appear on your replacement wall certificate. Verification of a license can be obtained from the eLicense Ohio “License Look-Up” page at the following link: https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh_verifylicense. Licensees are responsible for knowing their license expiration date and should visit the license look-up page to confirm their license status and expiration date. A “Printer Friendly Version” option is available if you wish to print your license verification information for your employer, insurance, or your records.

Conference Updates

The Board attended the Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Columbus from October 21-23, 2018. Audiology board member Carrie Spangler, Au.D., CCC-A and Executive Director Gregg Thornton, Esq. presented an ethics seminar each day of the conference to approximately 300 practitioners during the three day conference. They were also available at the Board’s exhibit table to answer any licensure questions.

The Board also attended the Ohio Academy of Audiology 9th Biennial Ohio Audiology Conference in Strongsville from October 26-27, 2018. Audiology board members Tammy Brown, M.A., CCC-A, and Karen Mitchell, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA, and Mr. Thornton represented the Board at this conference. There were many outstanding presenters during the event sharing their expertise on a wide range of professional topics. Dr. Gail Whitelaw, Au.D., with The Ohio State University presented an excellent ethics session entitled, “Fifty Shades of Audiology-Professional Ethics.”
Ohio Department of Health Offers Free Continuing Education

SAVE THE DATE

MetroHealth Hospital – September 5, 2018 (2 PM – 3:30 PM)
Toledo Hospital – October 11, 2018 (2:30 PM – 4 PM)
Dayton Children's Hospital – April 2, 2019 (2:30 PM – 4 PM)
Nationwide Children’s Hospital – April 29, 2019 (1 PM – 2:30 PM)
Akron Children's Hospital – June 11, 2019 (2:30 PM – 4 PM)
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center – June 18, 2019 (12 PM – 1:30 PM)

Free Continuing Education

Receive a free copy of the book “Comprehensive Handbook of Pediatric Audiology”

The Ohio Department of Health in partnership with Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board are pleased to offer web-based trainings compiled from the conference held last June of 2017 in Cincinnati, Ohio, “Early Hearing Loss Detection: Protocols for Diagnostic Audiological Assessment Follow-up to Newborn Hearing Screening.”

The 10 web-based presentations cover a variety of topics related to pediatric audiology, amplification, hearing instrument fittings and verification, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) and more. Presenters include Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, Patricia Roush, and Shane Moodie as well as several local area audiologists.

To prepare for viewing each presentation, participants will receive the book, Comprehensive Handbook of Pediatric Audiology and asked to read specific chapters containing relevant information prior to viewing the presentation.

Audiologists who view all 10 presentations, read specific chapters from the Comprehensive Handbook of Pediatric Audiology and join ODH in a 30-minute conference call, are eligible to keep the book and receive free continuing education hours.

Join us for a brief presentation and to receive your free book at any of the hosting sites. Click the link to register: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2P2QSN6
Will I receive a pocket card after I renew my license?
No, due to the new eLicense Ohio license management system, the Board discontinued mailing pocket cards effective December 2017. Information was included in all of the Board’s renewal communications on how to verify a license. Verification of a license can be obtained from the eLicense Ohio “License Look-Up” page at the following link:
https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh_verifylicense.
A “Printer Friendly Version” option is available if you wish to print your license verification information for your employer, insurance, or your records.