



# Winter Newsletter

## Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

### Board Members:

#### Board President:

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

#### Board Secretary:

Carrie Spangler, Au.D., CCC-A

Lisa Dodge Burton, Public Member

Helen L. Mayle, Public Member

Karen Mitchell, Au.D., CCC-A

Barbara L. Prakup, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Michael R. Pratt, H.A.S.

Ann M. Slone, M.A., CCC-SLP

Matthew Starner, H.A.S.

### Message from the Board President

I would like to wish everyone Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year as 2019 draws to an end. I realize this can be a very busy time of year with winter breaks, holiday gatherings, and final year-end planning. We appreciate you taking a moment to review information and important updates inside this edition of our eNewsletter. I am also pleased to announce that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has released its report and recommendations from the Related Services Workgroup, which Dr. Spangler and our Executive Director, Gregg Thornton were invited to serve on representing our Board along with other individuals from across the state to identify and evaluate

causes and solutions for the shortage of related services personnel in the school setting. ODE will be forwarding the workgroup's final report and recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly. Please also see the update regarding Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids as we await the much anticipated guidelines from the United States Food and Drug Administration. Our speech-language pathology board member, Dr. Barbara Prakup, has prepared an update on continuing education audits, including information about our practitioners' responsibility to complete the required continuing education hours to maintain their licenses and professional competency.

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### Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to this edition of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professional Board's eNewsletter. We appreciate you taking time to review our information and important licensure updates. With the recent rules clean-up that went into effect in August and

reported on in our last [eNewsletter](#), this is a reminder that the following licenses do not expire until December 31, 2020: audiologists, hearing aid dealers, hearing aid fitters, speech-language pathologists, and aides. Additional information regarding the 2020 licensure renewal can be found

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## Message from the Board President

(continued from page 1)

We had a very productive year in 2019 completing a major rules clean-up to streamline licensure renewals for hearing aid dealers and fitters. As a reminder, all licenses for audiologists, hearing aid dealers and fitters, speech-language pathologists, and aides will not expire until December 31, 2020.

As the 2019 draws to an end, I urge all practitioners to check the status of their continuing education hours, including two hours related to ethics, and plan to complete any hours needed prior to the renewal deadline next year. We have information inside this edition about CE Broker, the Board's official continuing education tracking system, and how practitioners can sign-up for a free basic account to self-report and track their continuing education hours.

Please bookmark and visit our new homepage at [www.shp.ohio.gov](http://www.shp.ohio.gov) throughout the year for additional information regarding important licensure matters. You can also visit us on Facebook.

Thank you,  
Tammy H. Brown, M.A., CCC-A, FAAA  
Board Certified in Audiology  
Board President

## Message from the Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

We would also like to take this opportunity to promote the upcoming Census 2020, through the State of Ohio's Census 2020 / Be Counted Ohio Campaign. Through Governor Mike DeWine's Executive Order [2019-13D](#), Ohio is ready to implement strategies for the most complete and accurate count of Ohioans. Governor DeWine's Executive Order underscores the importance of ensuring Ohio has a complete and accurate count of its population. Data from the Census is used by state and federal governments to distribute billions of dollars in funding to essential programs, including education, health care and human services—areas that involve all of our practitioners. We urge everyone to promote awareness about Ohio's Census 2020 / Be Counted Ohio Campaign. You can download an informational sheet about Census 2020 from our website at - [Census 2020](#).

We invite you to visit our homepage at [www.shp.ohio.gov](http://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.

We hope you have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Thank you,  
Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.

## 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

### 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](http://www.shp.ohio.gov) for the latest updates and information.

### Board's Contact Information

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

Phone: 614-466-3145  
Fax: 614-995-2286  
E-mail: [board@shp.ohio.gov](mailto:board@shp.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

## Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

### Why is Continuing Education Important for Speech and Hearing Professionals?

Barbara Prakup, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Competent professional practice requires ongoing professional development which enhances current competency and addresses competency for new and emerging issues within a given profession. With public expectations of competent performance and credentialing activities to insure such, professionals are aware that they must maintain high levels of competence. Continuing education is one of the means by which professionals maintain and increase their level of competence. Health care practitioners are regulated by state regulatory boards with the purpose of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. When a practitioner is initially licensed, they are deemed by the state to have met minimal competency standards. Thereafter, practitioners are responsible for maintaining and developing their competency throughout their practice career. The Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board (Board), in addition to its function as a licensing body, is focused on consumer protection by auditing practitioners' continuing education hours.

Practitioners are urged to review and understand the continuing education requirements for their area of license. For hearing aid fitters, the requirements are addressed under Ohio Revised Code [section 4747.06](#) and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) [section 4747-1-11](#). For audiologists and speech-language pathologists, the requirements are addressed under R.C. [section 4753.09](#) and OAC [section 4753-4-01](#). In addition to Continuing Education, professional ethics requires practitioners to continue their professional development to enhance their professional competence and expertise throughout their careers - see OAC [section 4747-1-23\(C\)\(3\)\(a\)](#) and OAC [section 4753-9-01\(C\)\(3\)\(a\)](#). Licensees are reminded that not completing the required continuing education hours by the renewal deadline of 12/31/2020 is a violation of the state practice act and can result in the Board taking disciplinary action against the license. For instance, in calendar year 2019, the board investigated 68 instances of violation of the continuing education requirement, with at least one license being revoked.

The options for obtaining continuing education hours are numerous and include online courses, in-person courses and seminars (including state and national conventions), to name just a few. The Board maintains resources for the ethics requirement at: <https://shp.ohio.gov/ce-ethics>. In addition, [CE Broker](#) is an excellent resource to assist with tracking continuing education through a free basic account. We also encourage you to call or e-mail the board office if you have questions about continuing education or any other area of licensure. We can be reached at (614) 466-3145-Voice, (614) 995-2286-Fax, or e-mail at

<b>Licensure Statistics</b>	
As of December 4, 2019	
Audiologists:	1055
Audiology Aides:	84
Conditional SLPs:	379
Dual-Aud. & SLP	33
Hearing Aid Dealers:	221
Hearing Aid Satellites:	379
Hearing Aid Fitters:	440
Inactive Audiology:	54
Inactive Speech-Language Path.::	303
Speech-Language Pathologists:	7667
SLP Aides:	3
Trainee Permit Holders	39
<b>Total Licenses:</b>	<b>10,657</b>

<b>OSHPB Staff:</b>
<b>Executive Director:</b>
Gregg B. Thornton, Esq. gregg.thornton@shp.ohio.gov
<b>Investigator:</b>
Connie J. Allen connie.allen@shp.ohio.gov
<b>Licensing Administrator:</b>
Brandy R. Thomas brandy.thomas@shp.ohio.gov
<b>Administrative Professional:</b>
Amanda Townsend amanda.townsend@shp.ohio.gov
<b>Principal Assistant Attorney General:</b>
Cheryl R. Hawkinson, Esq.

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## Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

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### **ODE Related Service Workgroup—Final Report Released**

In January 2018, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) convened the first meeting of the Related Service Workgroup. The workgroup consisted of representatives of the related service personnel in the school setting, such as audiologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, and psychologists. The workgroup also included representatives of school district superintendents, treasurers or business managers, and other school business officials. Representatives of interested parties included various state associations such as the Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition, Ohio Speech-Language Hearing Association, Ohio School Psychologists Association, and the Ohio Educational Service Center Association. In addition, employees of ODE, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, and our licensure board were invited to serve on the workgroup.

The workgroup's purpose was to improve the coordination of state, school and provider efforts to address the related services needs of students with disabilities. The workgroup's charge was to identify and evaluate causes and solutions for the shortage of related service personnel in the school setting. The charge included evaluating the long-term sustainability of potential solutions and establish short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals to address the shortage of related services personnel in the state and monitor progress on those goals.

The workgroup met eight times from January 2018 through February 2019. In November 2019, the workgroup published a report of their work and recommendations that focused on its purpose. A letter from Superintendent of Public Instruction, Paolo DeMaria is available from ODE's website [here](#). The Related Services Workgroup report is available [here](#). ODE reported that the report will be shared with the Ohio legislature.

In addition to the report, as part of addressing short-term solutions, a series of informational videos were made about the roles and responsibilities of related services providers. You can view these informational videos [here](#), which includes wonderful videos from Rachel Wright Karem, M.A., CCC-SLP on the role and responsibilities of the school-based speech-language pathologist and Jessica Hoefler, Au.D., CCC-A on the roles and responsibilities of the educational audiologist.

Board President, Tammy Brown, commended ODE and the workgroup on their hard work and the release of the report which identifies recommendations for short-term, medium-term, and long-term solutions to improve the coordination of state, school and provider efforts to address the needs to students with disabilities. The Board appreciated the opportunity to be part of this workgroup.

### **Over the Counter Hearing Aids—Update on FDA Guidelines**

In 2017, the FDA Reauthorization Act was approved by Congress and signed into law. Under this law the FDA is required to create a new category of hearing devices called over-the-counter hearing aids, sometimes referred to as OTCs. OTCs cannot be advertised and sold to consumers until the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves the federal agency-level regulations that may address areas such as advertisement for these devices, labeling and instructions, e.g., warnings and safety information to consumers, intended use, disclaimers, etc. The FDA's proposed guidelines are not expected until early 2020,

## Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

### Board Welcomes Amanda Townsend



The Board would like to welcome Amanda Townsend as a member of the board staff. Amanda joined the team in July as an Administrative Professional after Darlene Young retired from the board staff earlier in the year. “Amanda has been a great addition to our team,” said Executive Director, Gregg Thornton. He added, “When anyone contacts the board office, Amanda will most likely be the first person our consumers and licensees will interact with, and her passion in providing exceptional customer service is shining through.” Amanda’s passion outside of work is her family. “Family is one of the most important things to me,” she shared for this article. She spent the last three years in the healthcare field where she gained knowledge about patience, efficiency and most of all customer service. “Customer service has always been something I’ve been professionally passionate about and helping and connecting with people are two things that give me pride in my work,” she noted. She added that she is excited and thankful to get this opportunity to further her career and can’t wait to see what the future holds. All of us at the Board are excited to have Amanda on our team.



### 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. Several thousand licensees are now 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*

### Board Meetings for 2020

At its meeting on December 4, 2019, the Board scheduled meetings for 2020 as follows:

February 12

March 18 & 19

May 11

June 22

August 5

October 7

December 7

Additionally, Tammy Brown was elected to serve as board president and Barbara Prakup will serve as board secretary. Please visit the Board’s website approximately one week prior to the meeting date to confirm the time, location, and agenda.

## OSHPB WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR—2020



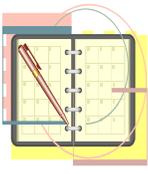
**January 1**  
January 2  
January 15  
**January 20**  
February 3

**State Holiday—New Years Day - Board Office Closed**  
Application Review and Approval  
Application Review and Approval  
**State Holiday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Board Office Closed**  
Application Review and Approval



**February 12**  
**February 17**  
February 18  
March 2  
March 16

**Board & Committee Meetings**  
**State Holiday - Presidents' Day - Board Office Closed**  
Application Review and Approval  
Application Review and Approval  
Application Review and Approval



**March 18-19**  
April 1  
April 15  
May 1  
**May 11**  
May 15

**Board and Committee Meetings**  
Application Review and Approval  
Application Review and Approval  
Application Review and Approval  
**Board and Committee Meetings**  
Application Review and Approval



**Reminder - Please note the board office will be closed on December 25, 2019 for the Christmas Day holiday. Also, 2019 is not a license renewal year; licenses for audiologists, hearing aid dealers and fitters, speech-language pathologists and aides do not expire until December 31, 2020.**

Please visit the Board’s website at [www.shp.ohio.gov](http://www.shp.ohio.gov) for the specific time and location of the Board and committee meetings. In addition, you may also download the Board’s agenda and meeting minutes.

Please note that this calendar is subject to change without notice.



### Ask the Board:

#### Regular Feature

Frequently asked questions will appear in each quarterly newsletter.



#### **Will my hearing aid dealers or hearing aid fitters license expire on January 30, 2020?**

No, due to new statute and rule changes under Chapters 4747, the license renewal expiration date was changed to December 31, 2020 to align with the expiration date of other license types issued by the board to maximize efficiencies and board operations. The continuing education requirements for hearing aid fitters has changed to 20 clock hours, which includes 2 hours related to ethics and must be completed between January 1, 2019 through December 31,

2020. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the licensure board at



The Board is on Facebook. Please visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/OhioSpeechandHearingProfessionals-Board/> or by clicking on the icon above and “Like” us to receive our notifications and information.