



Winter eNewsletter

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Board Members:

Board President:

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

Board Secretary:

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

Lisa Dodge Burton, Public Member

Steven M. Griffin, M.A., CCC-SLP

Nancy L. Mills, Au.D.

Michael R. Pratt, H.A.S.

Carrie Spangler, Au.D., CCC-A

Matthew Starner, H.A.S.

Message from the Board President

I am wishing everyone receiving this edition of our eNewsletter a Warm Welcome and Seasons' Greetings. I hope all are staying safe and healthy as we continue to serve our clients, patients, and students during the pandemic. I'm reminded often that we inherently are a group of professionals who care about people and each other. This Board cares about you and your consumers and we appreciate you. There is finally light at the end of this tunnel with recent deployments of a vaccine. In collaboration with the Governor's Office, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education, and other agencies, we have been sharing press releases and other resources covering Ohio's preparedness during the pandemic. I invite you to

visit our website and our Facebook page to receive the latest information as we move forward into the much-anticipated new year. Hopefully 2021 will find us in recovery from the pandemic. I look forward to seeing its end and building on foundations we have relied on while incorporating resilience and positive changes we have seen through the pandemic.

There are several important licensure updates inside this edition. The General Assembly recently extended the license renewal deadline until July 1, 2021. There is information about the Board's requirements for appropriate hearing test procedures that we are providing once again, as we continue
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Message from the Executive Director

I would like to welcome everyone to this edition of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professional Board's eNewsletter. We have important updates and information inside this edition, such as the extension of the licensure renewal deadline and board

meeting dates for 2021. We are also once again including telehealth guidelines issued by the Ohio Department of Education for school-based practitioners. Due to the pandemic, the Board is maintaining operations
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Message from the Board President

(continued from page 1)

to hear of companies offering to sell hearing aids to consumers online without regard to the testing requirements that are in place in Ohio. Licensed audiologists and hearing aid fitters should follow the Board's rules on appropriate hearing test procedures when dispensing and selling hearing aids to consumers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Steve Griffin, M.A., and Nancy Mills, Au.D. to the Board and congratulate them both on their recent board member appointments. Mr. Griffin brings experience in the school setting as a licensed speech-language pathologist. As a licensed audiologist, Dr. Mills brings experience overseeing both speech and hearing departments in a community non-profit center. Both of them bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in their respective areas of license, and we look forward to their service on the Board. Please be sure to check out more information about them inside this edition, along with our appreciation to Ann Slone, M.A., CCC-SLP, and Karen Mitchell, Au.D. for their dedicated service on the Board.

Finally, with the holiday season upon us, on behalf of the licensure board, I would like to say thank you to all of our licensees for everything that each of you are doing to ensure that the health and welfare of your patients, clients, and students are being met during this challenging time. Effective communication has been essential to our consumers navigating this pandemic. There is much to look forward to in the coming year. I am so optimistic that we will soon be able to return to visiting face-to-face with our family, friends and co-workers. (Continued on page 4)

Message from the Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

remotely in support of Governor Mike DeWine's initiatives to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you have a question, issue, or concern, please do not hesitate to contact us. We remain committed to providing the highest level of service to all of our constituents during this national health emergency.

As a reminder, we are posting regular updates about Ohio's preparedness to the pandemic on our website as well as our Facebook page. This will be one of the best ways to stay informed as Ohio implements its vaccine distribution plan. The Board is aware that our practitioners provide services to vulnerable populations in a variety of work settings and has been in communication with appropriate entities who are prioritizing distribution of the vaccine. We will continue to share information and links from other state agencies that may impact our professions, such as the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health, etc.

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.

Best Regards and Happy Holidays,
Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.
Executive Director

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@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

Licensure Renewal Update - Renewal Deadline Extended Until July 1, 2021

For Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Aides, Hearing Aid Dealers, and Hearing Aid Fitters

House Bill 404 was signed by Governor Mike DeWine on November 23, 2020. Please note the following provisions related to the license renewal extension due to the COVID-19 emergency. Additional information may be found on the Board's license renewal page at www.shp.ohio.gov/renewal. If you have already renewed your license and completed your required continuing education hours for the 2019-2020 practice period, no further action is required on your part, and your license will remain valid until your next renewal on or before December 31, 2022.

- Pursuant to House Bill 404, Ohio Speech and Hearing Professional Board licensees whose licenses will expire during the period of emergency (March 27, 2020 – April 1, 2021) now have until July 1, 2021 to renew their license and complete any required continuing education hours for the 2019-2020 practice period.
- If you have already renewed your license and completed your required continuing education hours, no further action is required on your part, and your license will remain valid until your next renewal on or before December 31, 2022.
- If you renew your license between January 1, 2021 and July 1, 2021, your next renewal expiration will remain on or before December 31, 2022.

Even though you have a renewal extension, you still may renew your license by December 31, 2020. The benefits for renewing your license on or before December 31, 2020 are:

1. There is no risk of failing to renew your license and practicing with an expired license that may result in disciplinary action for practicing under an expired license.
2. Staying on the same renewal cycle timeline to which you are accustomed. **Whether you renew now or on or before July 1, 2021 your next license renewal date will not change.** For example, if your license is due to expire on December 31, 2020, and you opt to renew after this date but before July 1, 2021, your next renewal deadline will be on December 31, 2022, regardless of when you renew during this extension period.

If you renew after December 31, 2020 and need the extension until July 1, 2021 to complete your required hours of continuing
(Continued on next page)

Licensure Statistics

As of December 7, 2020

Audiologists:	1094
Audiology Aides:	98
Conditional SLPs:	399
Dual-Aud. & SLP	32
Hearing Aid Dealers:	233
Hearing Aid Satellites:	401
Hearing Aid Fitters:	456
Inactive Audiology:	61
Inactive Speech-Language Path.:	330
Speech-Language Pathologists:	8070
SLP Aides:	5
Trainee Permit Holders	50
Total Licenses:	11,229

OSHPB Staff:

Executive Director:

Gregg B. Thornton, Esq.
gregg.thornton@shp.ohio.gov

Investigator:

Connie J. Allen
connie.allen@shp.ohio.gov

Licensing Administrator:

Brandy R. Thomas
brandy.thomas@shp.ohio.gov

Administrative Professional:

Amanda Townsend
amanda.townsend@shp.ohio.gov

Principal Assistant Attorney General:

Cheryl R. Hawkinson, Esq.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Licensure Renewal Update - Renewal Deadline Extended Until July 1, 2021

For Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Aides, Hearing Aid Dealers, and Hearing Aid Fitters

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education for the 2019-2020 practice period, any continuing education you complete during the extension period for the 2019-2020 practice period will only be counted towards the 2019-2020 renewal cycle. Thus, you will have less time to complete your continuing education hours for the 2021-2022 renewal. If you completed all of the required continuing education hours for the 2019-2020 practice period between January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020 and renew your license during the extension period, any hours you complete after January 1, 2021 will be counted towards meeting your continuing education requirements for the 2021-2022 practice period.

Additionally, under House Bill 404 Ohio Speech and Hearing Professional Board hearings and meetings can continue to be conducted electronically until July 1, 2021. Please feel free to contact us at Board@shp.ohio.gov if you have any questions or need any assistance during the renewal process.

Board Meeting Dates for 2021

At its meeting on December 7, 2020, the Board scheduled meetings for 2021 as follows:

January 27th at 9:30 a.m.

March 15th at 9:00 a.m.

May 12th at 9:30 a.m.

June 21st at 9:30 a.m.

August 4th at 9:30 a.m.

October 20th at 9:30 a.m.

December 6th at 9:30 a.m.

The meetings scheduled between January through June will be conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The format for the remaining meetings will be determined at a later time period. Additionally, Tammy Brown was elected to serve as board president and Carrie Spangler was elected to 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.

President's Comments - (Continued from page 2)

Although I appreciate the technology that allows us all to stay connected with each other virtually, nothing can substitute the connection we all share when we're together in-person.

I remain resolved in my belief that we will get through this challenging time and be a stronger community of professionals and collaborators for healthy consumers.

Sincerely,

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

Board Certified in Audiology

Board President

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Hearing Test Procedures During COVID-19 - Important Reminder



With Ohio's Stay-At-Home order now lifted, Ohioans, including businesses, governmental entities, and schools, are implementing responsible restart plans to resume daily activities and services. During the Stay-At-Home order that went into effect on March 23 and expired on May 29, 2020, certain exceptions allowed individuals to leave their residence to work for or obtain essential services. This exception included all individuals licensed under our Board's Ohio Revised and Administrative Code Chapters 4744, 4747, and 4753. The Board received inquiries

regarding whether or not in-person testing requirements for the dispensing of hearing aids were waived due to Ohio's Stay-At-Home order issued in response to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). The Board addressed this question in its special edition eNewsletter released in May, clarifying that the measurement and testing of human hearing is a requirement for the fitting and sale of a hearing aid.

Even though the Stay-At-Home order is lifted, the Board would like to remind licensees that appropriate test procedures must continue to be followed. In Ohio, for an audiologist, the measurement and testing of human hearing by means of an audiometer or by any other means is a requirement for the purpose of selecting, adapting, and selling a hearing aid to any person. Best practice would include an otoscopic examination. For a hearing aid fitter, the rules specifically state the required hearing tests that shall be completed before recommending, selling or fitting of a hearing aid. A screening for hearing loss does not meet the Board's rules/requirements for selecting, adapting, and selling of a hearing aid.

Ohio Department of Education Issues Telehealth Guidelines For Service Providers

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) issued telehealth guidelines for service providers, which includes school-based speech-language pathologists and educational audiologists. As ODE noted, "One of Ohio's top priorities is to support the mental health and well-being of all Ohio's students." The Board's school-based practitioners must hold an ODE Pupil Service License in order to deliver appropriate services to students with disabilities. During the spring 2020 ordered school-building closure period as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, schools remotely supported continued learning and related services virtually when feasible. As schools reopen, whether remote, in-person, or using a hybrid approach, school-based practitioners will face important considerations when providing related services via telehealth to meet students' needs. The Board addresses telehealth communication for audiologists and speech-language pathologists under [Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4753-2](#). ODE's telehealth guidelines addresses other important considerations for school-based practitioners, such as permission forms, telehealth platforms, privacy and confidentiality considerations, to name just a few. ODE has addressed these considerations in the form of FAQs, which the Board urges all school-based practitioners to review at the following link: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Reset-and-Restart/Telehealth-Guidelines-for-Service-Providers>. You will also find related resources addressing [Students with Disabilities Guidance](#), [Additional Considerations for Special Education](#), and [Students with Disabilities Compendium of Resources](#).

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Board Operations During COVID-19 - Update



Board Operations

All staff and operations of the licensure board continue without interruption and will be available remotely. Licensure applications will continue to be processed as usual and complaints will continue to be investigated. Board staff will be available to answer telephone calls and e-mails during our normal business hours, e.g., Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Board members are accessible when necessary to assist staff with responding to any questions. You can contact the Board at (614) 466-3145 (select option #2) or via e-mail at: board@shp.ohio.gov.

Update for Summer and Winter Graduates

ETS - Praxis Exam

Individuals graduating from the university programs, who intend to practice in Ohio, should submit their application to the Board approximately 4-6 weeks prior to their graduation date. ETS has resumed the PRAXIS exam; however depending on the situation due to COVID-19, candidates may be offered alternative options to take the exam remotely. Applicants should contact ETS directly for more information at: <https://www.ets.org/>.

Written and Practical Exams for Hearing Aid Fitters

The Board has resumed administering its written and practical exam for hearing aid fitters and is following all health and safety protocols. Candidates will be contacted by the Board's Licensing Administrator and be provided with appropriate information when scheduling their exam.

Criminal Background Checks

The Ohio Attorney General's Office oversees the FBI and BCI criminal background check that is required for initial licensure. Web-check entities, such as police departments, county sheriff's office, and authorized web-check entities are not closed, but operating under greatly reduced hours due to COVID-19. We recommend that applicants visit the Ohio Attorney General's website for information on locating an authorized web-check vendor in their area at: <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Business/Services-for-Business/WebCheck/Webcheck-Community-Listing>. The Attorney General's Office is recommending that applicants call ahead before traveling to any location to verify they are providing fingerprinting services at this time. Many web-check locations are open but observing limited hours and have specific restrictions in order to adhere to social distancing requirements. If you cannot find a location in your county, you may find better results by calling an authorized web-check entity in a surrounding county.

Service Requests

Until further notice, the Board will process service requests in eLicense for wall certificates and license verification letters electronically. Anyone submitting these requests will receive an e-mail with the item(s) attached.

Complaints

During this period, the Board requests that complaints not be sent via mail to the board office. Complaints should be submitted through the complaint portal in the eLicense Ohio license management system at: https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh_filecomplaint.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Board Operations During COVID-19 - Update (continued)



Mail

The Board is requesting that any correspondence be sent to its e-mail address at: board@shp.ohio.gov. If it is necessary to send correspondence to the Board's mailing address, it should be sent via regular mail and not require a signature. Staff members will not be in the office as frequently to sign for packages and letters that require a signature for delivery.

Board Welcomes New Board Members

Please join us in welcoming Steven M. Griffin, M.A., CCC-SLP and Dr. Nancy L. Mills, Au.D., who were recently appointed to the Board by Governor Mike DeWine. Mr. Griffin was appointed to replace Ann Slone and Dr. Mills will be replacing Dr. Karen Mitchell. Mr. Griffin resides in Lewis Center, Ohio and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the school setting. Mr. Griffin has been licensed as a speech-language pathologist since 1999 and is currently the Literacy Director at Marysville Exempted Village School District. He also served as an adjunct professor at The Ohio State University's Department of Speech and Hearing Science for fifteen years. Dr. Mills resides in Cincinnati, Ohio and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in her area of license. She has been licensed as an audiologist since 1997. She is the Clinical Services Director at the Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center located in Cincinnati. Board President, Tammy Brown, welcomed Mr. Griffin at his first board meeting on December 7, 2020, and looks forward to having Dr. Mills on the Board beginning January 1, 2021. Her first board meeting will be on January 27, 2021.



Steven Griffin



Nancy Mills



Ann Slone



Karen Mitchell

The Board would also like to thank Ann Slone, M.A., CCC-SLP, and Dr. Karen Mitchell, Au.D., CCC-A for their service. Ms. Slone was appointed in 2019 and practiced in a school setting. She served on the Professional Competency Committee and provided expertise in a variety of professional areas, especially in the school setting. She represented the Board at a statewide stakeholders workgroup facilitated by the Ohio Department of Education and provided feedback on proposed changes to the operating standards for special services to children with disabilities in the schools. Dr. Mitchell served on the former Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology for two terms and served as the Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, as well as chairing several board committees, including the Investigative Review Group, which oversees all complaints and investigations. Dr. Mitchell was appointed to the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board in January 2018, at the very beginning of the board consolidation. Her contributions while serving on both boards facilitated with the Board's smooth transition. Dr. Mitchell and Ms. Slone also represented the Board at numerous state conferences and presented on licensure topics. The Board appreciates their public service and contributions to the citizens of the State of Ohio and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. The Board looks forward to working with both Mr. Griffin and Dr. Mills and congratulate them once again on their appointment. Their appointments will be for three years ending on March 22, 2023.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

COVID-19 Updates and Resources

Visit: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/> for the latest information and updates about Ohio's preparedness to COVID-19.



Stay Updated and Informed - Ohio's Preparedness to COVID-19

In addition to visiting coronavirus.ohio.gov or calling 1-833-4-ASK-ODH, you may also visit the Board's website and Facebook page to stay updated with the latest information about Ohio's preparedness to COVID-19, including orders issued by Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health.

- Board website: <https://shp.ohio.gov/>
- Board's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OhioSpeechandHearingProfessionalsBoard/> (Be sure to "Like" our Facebook page to receive notifications when posted.)

Mental Health and Substance Use Benefits Public Service Announcement

In collaboration with the Ohio Department of Insurance, the Board is disseminating the following information at their request and ask our licensees to help spread this important public service announcement with your patients and clients.

The Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI) has been front and center educating Ohioans on [how to access the mental health and substance use disorder benefits](#) that may be in their health plan.

ODI recently rolled out a statewide [Mental Health and Substance Use Benefits public service announcement](#) consisting of radio, television, and digital ads aimed at educating Ohioans about the possibility of having mental health benefits in their plan, as well as encouraging them to call ODI with questions or when gathering insurance-related information.

We encourage you, as a trusted partner, to help us spread the word! Follow ODI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and share or re-tweet posts related to mental health and substance use disorder or if you are interested in or an engagement partnership, please contact Molly Mottram at Molly.Mottram@insurance.ohio.gov.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

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 twenty hours of continuing education, including two hours related to ethics pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code section 4753-4-01. At least ten hours of continuing education must be specific to the clinical practice in the area the person is licensed. A licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the first renewal. Licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists required to complete continuing education have until July 1, 2021 to complete their hours due to the extension granted by HB 404.

Requirements for Hearing Aid Fitters

Hearing aid fitters are now required to complete twenty hours of continuing education, including two hours related to ethics pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code section 4747-1-11. Continuing education clock hours must be acquired in subjects related to hearing aid fitting or audiology. A licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the first renewal. Licensed hearing aid fitters required to complete continuing education have until July 1, 2021 to complete their hours due to the extension granted by HB 404.

Continuing Education Resources

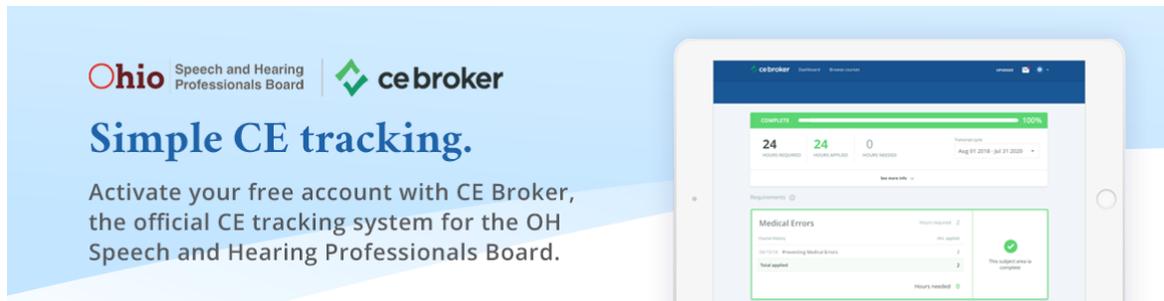
The Board would like to remind licensees that there are many opportunities to obtain continuing education hours virtually, with many providers offering content for free or at discounted rates. All twenty of the required continuing education hours, including the two hours related to ethics, can be obtained virtually/online as long as there is a post-test component for the program. Up to ten hours may be completed virtually/online without a post-test component. You can visit the Board's [website](#) for a list of continuing education resources. Please note that the Board does not endorse or is affiliated with any continuing education provider or maintain the websites posted on this page.

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Continuing Education and Ethics Requirement Reminder

(Continued from previous page)

CE Broker - Sign-up Today!



[CE Broker](https://shp.ohio.gov/continuing-education) is the official CE tracking system of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board. You will never have to pay for a CE Broker Basic Account. However, licensees do have the option to subscribe to an upgraded account, which offers additional CE tracking tools. Please visit the Board's website at <https://shp.ohio.gov/continuing-education> to learn more.

HOW TO ACTIVATE YOUR FREE CE BROKER ACCOUNT?

1. Visit www.cebroke.com/oh/plans
2. Select the Basic Account option
3. Enter your license number and get started tracking your continuing education!

Comprehensive Course Search

The [CE Broker Course Search](https://courses.cebroke.com/search/oh) helps you find every course you need to complete your license renewal. To find courses, visit courses.cebroke.com/search/oh and select your profession.

Helpful Support Center

CE Broker's dedicated support center is available 8AM-8PM ET Monday - Friday with a team of experts trained on the rules and regulations of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board. Reach them by phone at 877-434-6323 or via [email and live chat](#).

Benefits of using 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
- Bring CE compliance wherever you go with the CE Broker mobile app. Available on iPhone and Android from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

OSHPB WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR—2021



December 1
December 7
December 15
December 25
December 31

Application Review and Approval
Board and Committee Meetings
Application and Review Approval
State Holiday - Christmas Day - Board Office Closed
Licenses Do Not Expire at midnight due to HB 404



January 4
January 15
January 18
January 27
February 1
February 15

Application Review and Approval
Application Review and Approval
State Holiday - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Board Office Closed
Board and Committee Meetings
Application Review and Approval
State Holiday - Presidents' Day - Board Office Closed



February 16
March 1
March 15
March 15

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



April 1
April 15
May 1
May 12
May 31

Application Review and Approval
Application Review and Approval
Application Review and Approval
Board and Committee Meetings
State Holiday - Memorial Day - Board Office Closed

Reminder—licenses covered under HB 404 will now expire on July 1, 2021.

Please visit the Board’s website at 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.



What is the best way to receive information from the Board during the pandemic emergency?

The best way to stay informed is to visit our board website at: <https://www.shp.ohio.gov> or “Like” us on our Facebook page. We are posting updates on Ohio’s preparedness to COVID-19 on a regular basis from Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education, and other state agencies as their information is received.



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.