

Chair
Ashley Northam, SLP

Vice-Chair
Alison Metcalf, AUD

Professional Members
Carol Clupny, SLP
Evan Evans, AUD
Mark Wax, MD

Public Members
Charles Murphy
Elisa Williams

Executive Director
Sandy Leybold

Admin Assistant
Tim Anderson

(971) 673-0220
fax (971) 673-0226
www.oregon.gov/bspa

FALL 2008

The Voice

News for Oregon-licensed Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

From Your Board Chair

Ashley Northam
Speech-Language Pathologist



I am honored to be following in the footsteps of Nancy Dunn. She is a very talented professional, and had such vast knowledge to share with the

Board regarding history and relevance to each profession served. I really enjoy serving on the Board. I am committed to providing the highest quality services to the clients we serve as well as upholding professional ethics.

In addition to serving on the Board, I am finishing up my year as president of the Oregon, Speech, Language, Hearing Association (OSHA). OSHA has a long history of working collabo-

ratively with the Board to advocate for our licensees regarding legislation that affects the clinical practice of speech-language pathology or audiology. My dual role has actually been very helpful as the role of SLPAs, the Au.D., and other professional issues have come forward. The Board is also well connected with the Oregon Audiology Academy (OAA) through the audiology members that serve on the board.

The SLPA Temporary Rule

The temporary rule that became effective 8/13/08 was a response to concerns voiced by various school districts and ESDs that employ SLPAs, but had not been successful in recruiting permanent SLPs.

These districts were trying to comply with the SLPA supervision rules, but needed creative solutions so that students could continue to receive services.

Continued on page 5

In This Issue

From Your Board Chair	Page 1
Dr. Alison Metcalf voted new Board Vice Chair	Page 2
“Thank You” to Nancy Dunn, But Not Goodbye	Page 2
Meet Your New Board Members	Page 2
Sandy Leybold Named Executive Director	Page 3
Brenda Carley, Executive Director, Retires	Page 3
Dr. Kim Completes Board Term in June	Page 3
Audits Stats 2006-2008 Licensing Period	Page 4
Recent Board Actions	Page 4
Measuring Our Customer Service	Page 4



Newsletter Suggestions?

This newsletter is a publication of the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, published annually or as needed.

The Board welcomes your suggestions for articles as well as news items. Neither the Board, nor its staff, are responsible for opinions published in this newsletter. The Board reserves the right to refuse or edit any article submitted.

Dr. Alison Metcalf Voted New Vice Chair



The Board voted Dr. Alison Metcalf new vice chair at their June 19th Board meeting. Dr. Metcalf is currently serving her first term on the Board as an audiologist member. Members are chosen for their education and dedication to their fields.

Dr. Metcalf has over 14 years experience in the field of audiology. She is a native of the Pacific Northwest and received her master's degree in audiology at Portland State University. Most recently, Alison obtained her doctorate degree in audiology from the Arizona School of

Health Sciences in Mesa, Arizona.

Because of her longstanding interests in medical and academic work environments, Dr. Metcalf held positions as an instructor of audiology in the department of surgery at Dartmouth Medical School in Lebanon, New Hampshire, and worked for the Veterans Administration Hospital in White River Junction, Vermont. In addition, Alison has worked at several ear, nose and throat clinics before taking her current position as clinical director and owner of Audiology Associates since 2003.

For the past few years, Alison has been involved in humanitarian pursuits. She is actively involved with the non-profit organization Healing The Children.

We look forward to Dr. Metcalf's service in her new leadership role. 📖

"Thank You" to Nancy Dunn, But Not Goodbye



After seven years on the Board, including three years as chair and four as vice chair, Nancy Dunn has completed her volunteer service to the Board. We want to honor and

acknowledge Nancy's work on the Board, and say a resounding, "THANK YOU!"

Nancy was a valued mentor to her fellow Board members and staff. As Alison Metcalf, audiologist and new vice chair, observes, "Nancy was so helpful when I first joined the Board. She made me feel welcome and taught me what I needed to know."

Both the public and the speech and hearing professions can be grateful to Nancy for her tireless work for the Board. Looking back over the last seven years, Nancy remembers some key Board accomplishments:

Rules and statute revisions:

- completely revised professional development rules

- revised SLPA rules
- added rules regulating hearing aid dispensing by audiologists

Streamlined license renewal:

- initiated online renewals in fall 2007
- linked PD audits to renewal applications

Professional behavior:

- cracked down on individuals advertising as audiologists who are not licensed by this board
- initiated action that resulted in a ruling by the attorney general that effectively prohibited use of the term "audioprosthologist" in Oregon.

Charles Murphy, one of the Board's public members, says Nancy "was the most astute, organized chair I've ever served under!! Her understanding of the issues facing the Board and her ability to solve those issues was fantastic. She was the kind of chair that members of the speech-language pathology and audiology professions rightly deserve." Elisa Williams, public member, echoes

Continued on page 3

Meet Your New Board Members

Mark Wax, M.D. Otolaryngologist Member



Dr. Mark K. Wax is the new otolaryngologist Board member. Dr. Wax is currently a professor of otolaryngology, head and neck surgery in the department at OHSU. He is also a professor in the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery and program director

for the department of otolaryngology.

Dr. Wax's interests in speech language pathology and audiology extend back to his private practice, where he dealt extensively with both areas. Since moving to Oregon, he has focused on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of patients who have had oncologic operations. He believes that the ability to allow patients to rehabilitate and become better at speech and swallowing is of paramount importance.

"Having seen patients that have been severely handicapped in speech, language, and hearing, I hope to provide a frame of reference that will benefit all Oregon citizens who

have issues with these important tissue defects."

Evan Evans, Ph.D. Audiologist Member



Evan (Butch) Evans joined the Board as an audiologist member in July of 2008. He brings many professional accomplishments to the Board including a combined 39 years of dedication to the fields

of speech pathology and audiology. Acquiring the majority of his experience in the public schools and private practice has allowed him to more effectively treat hearing impairments among children with special needs. Butch looks forward to maintaining the public's interests in his new role as Board member.

"I have been in the field of speech pathology and audiology since 1969. I want to stay active and continue the positive direction that the folks serving before me have taken. I would like to give back to my profession and hope to make a positive contribution."



Sandy Leybold Named Executive Director



Sandy Leybold, MPH, joined BSPA in late June as its new executive dDirector. Sandy holds a master of public health in hospital administration from U.C. Berkeley and a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University. Sandy has worked for over 25

years in hospital management, program planning and development, and healthcare policy in several states, including 13 years at OHSU.

Outside of her job, Sandy is involved in many community and civic activities. In Lake Oswego, Sandy has served as chair of the Citizens' Budget Committee, vice-chair of the Community Center Committee, member of the School District Program Committee, and founding president of the Talented and Gifted PTA. She remains active in volunteer work in support of schools and the community.

Sandy says, "now that I am in a regulatory agency, I have worked in just about every role in the health

care industry except for 'provider'! It is an honor and a challenge to serve the Board. While our Board is small, it has an important mission."

You can reach her at Sandy.Leybold@state.or.us or on her direct line, 971-673-0087. Sandy is part-time and is usually in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. 🗨️

Brenda Carley, Executive Director, Retires



Brenda Carley retired in May after twelve years as the Board's executive director. Brenda was hired in October 1996, and led the agency through many improvements during her tenure.

In retirement, Brenda plans to stay involved in *Zimba!*, a marimba band, and to pursue her fondness for gardening.

Thank you, Brenda, for your committed service and leadership!

Dr. Kim Completes Board Term in June



Dr. Kim joined the Board in July 2005 and rarely missed a meeting.

Dr. Kim says he was drawn to serve the Board since, "my practice let me see the vulnerability in those with communication difficulties in a world where communication is critical. Unfortunately, this vulnerability is often exploited by unscrupulous people. It falls in the Board's jurisdiction to protect these individuals."

Nancy Dunn expressed the Board's appreciation for Dr. Kim's practical insights into many issues decided by the Board.

Thank you, Dr. Kim, for all of your hard work and dedication! 🗨️

"Thank You" to Nancy Dunn ... Continued from page 1

that sentiment, adding that Nancy always received Board input with "her full attention and diplomacy".

During her Board tenure, Nancy took an active role in investigating complaints involving our licensees, applying high professional standards, a calm and non-judgmental demeanor, and her characteristic thoroughness to her work. Alison Metcalf comments, "Nancy cares passionately about our profession and is committed to her colleagues and most importantly, to the patients we all serve." Ashley Northam, our new chair, chimes in, "Nancy has an amazing amount of knowledge pertaining to the practice of both SLPs and audiologists. I always found her to be both fair and diligent in protecting the clients served as well as the professions who serve them."

Harold Kim, MD, who recently left the Board after serving three years with Nancy as chair, comments about what a great job Nancy did leading the Board: "When the Board was not unanimous, she and I were often standing at the opposite ends of opinion. I offered a different perspective as a physician and she was always very open to it. This was very refreshing. Though she always had an opinion, she always fostered a fair and full discussion, whether or not it concurred with her opinion. She also always kept us on time. I think those two factors made her a great chair. I have served on other boards, and found this combination to be rare."

The Board has contracted with Nancy as a consultant to help coordinate ongoing and new investigations. She will be paid a nominal hourly rate for a few hours a month. Nancy will support the executive director by providing her professional perspective to investigations, and help prepare evidence for consideration by the Board. Licensees and Board members will continue to provide peer review services on a volunteer basis as well.

Ashley sums up what seems to be a unanimous impression of her predecessor: "Nancy Dunn is an amazing person and has too many talents to list! We're so glad she's still around in some capacity!"

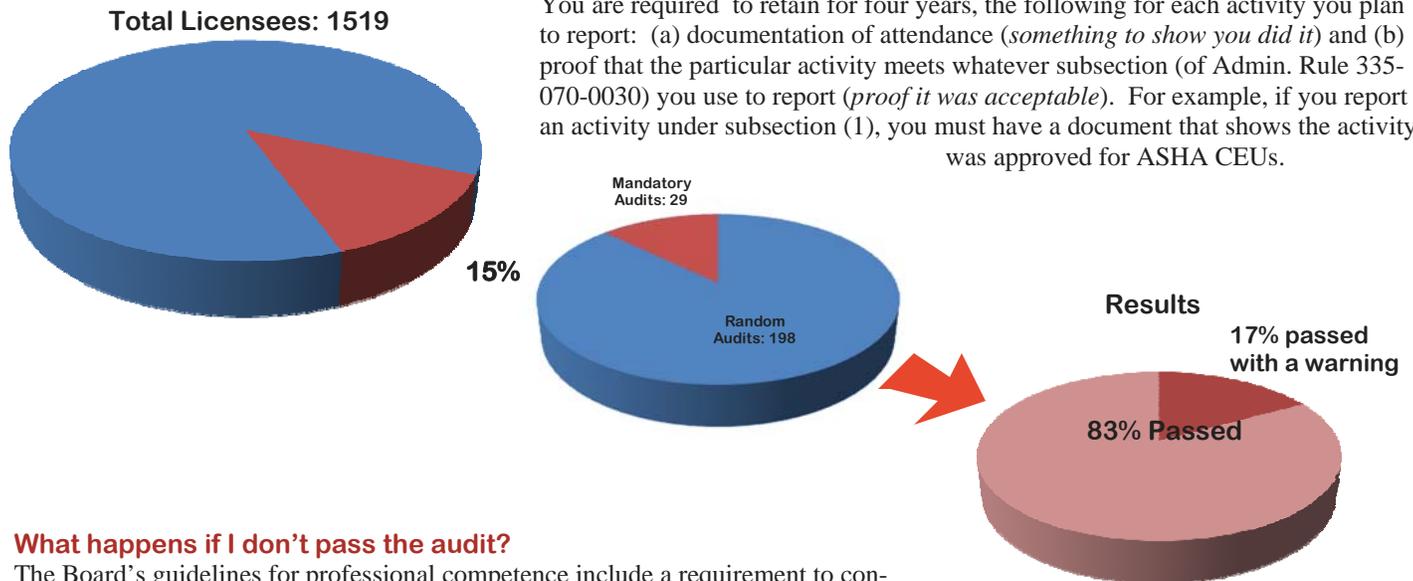
Nancy observes, "This has been a rewarding seven years for me, working with talented and dedicated board members and staff on evaluating, refining and enforcing the regulations that define who we are as professionals in Oregon. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the Board in my new consultant role."



Audit Stats 2006-2008 Licensing Period

This agency audits approximately 15% of its licensees for professional development at each renewal period. If you are selected for audit, your renewal notice will request that you provide documentation for the hours you are reporting. Please review our professional development rules at http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARs_300/OAR_335/335_070.html

You are required to retain for four years, the following for each activity you plan to report: (a) documentation of attendance (*something to show you did it*) and (b) proof that the particular activity meets whatever subsection (of Admin. Rule 335-070-0030) you use to report (*proof it was acceptable*). For example, if you report an activity under subsection (1), you must have a document that shows the activity was approved for ASHA CEUs.



What happens if I don't pass the audit?

The Board's guidelines for professional competence include a requirement to continue your professional development throughout your career (see [335-005-0020\(2\)](#)) through activities directly related to the performance and practice of slp or audiology clinical skills. If you do not pass the audit, you may be fined and/or subjected to other disciplinary action. You will also be placed on the mandatory audit list for the following renewal.

What is a pass with a warning?

A pass with a warning means that even though you had enough acceptable hours, you reported some hours that did not meet approval. Let's say you report 45 hours. If 40 of those hours were acceptable, but 5 were not, you would receive a pass with a warning.



Recent Board Actions

[Martin, Larry G, Audiology #20896
Order of Emergency Suspension issued November 10, 2008, amended December 1, 2008.
Violation: OAR335-005-015 (2) "individuals shall perform all services competently"
Clarification: Board determined licensee unable to perform audiology services with

due competence, based upon review of eight pediatric records in a blind audit, performed by two separate experts, of files provided to Board by licensee's employer.

Voluntary Limitation Consent Order issued December 8, 2008
Clarification: Licensee is limited to providing audiological services to persons aged 6 and older. Licensee retains right to provide hearing aid services to children under 6 who use hearing aids, including making ear molds and repairing hearing aids, but excluding aid fittings. Licensee is not limited from performing mass screening outside of his offices for persons of any age. "Screenings" means "otoscopic examination, tympanometry, and pure tone audiograms."



Measuring Our Customer Service

Performance measures are part of a system to track the progress of the each state agencies according to its stated mission / mandate. Every state agency is required to have a performance measure for customer service. The Board collects data from customer surveys following contact between the agency and our customers.

We have noticed few survey response submitted in 2008, and we want to be sure that we are providing high quality customer service.

If you have had contact with the Board in past year, please help us obtain data by going to bspa.oregonsurveys.com and completing the very brief anonymous survey.



From your Board Chair

Continued from page 1

In response, the Board created a temporary rule, exempting school districts and ESDs from certain SLPA supervision requirements, based on an application for a special exemption from the Board.

The Board was careful to require districts to submit a detailed supervision plan and other supporting documents so that this special exemption will only be granted where supervision does indeed need to be more flexible and where staff are required to travel significant distances to provide supervision.

Of course, as professionals we are well aware of the nationwide staff shortages. In rural areas, this can become severe, and I know of many districts and ESDs that are trying to recruit through “Grow your Own” programs among other options.

The Board has approved applications from Grant, Harney and Willowa county ESDs, and will evaluate the implementation of this temporary rule to determine the future of this exemption.

Responses to Licensee Questions

As I am out talking to people, I hear some points of confusion and maybe a complaint or two. I’d like to briefly respond to some points I’ve heard:

(1) There are many ways to collect Professional Development (PD) hours that do not involve going out of town to conferences. There are many local opportunities, online activities, and ways for professionals to organize their own activities to earn professional development credit.

(2) I also sometimes hear that the Board is “picky” about the activities accepted for professional development. Since I

have joined the Board, we have worked to make the rules clear and our intent is not to make hours difficult to accumulate.

When asked, I say, “Just as I wouldn’t want my cardiologist attending the allergist conference, I would hope that as SLPs, SLPAs, and audiologists, we would strive to accumulate professional development in areas to keep **our** clinical skills current and be aware of the latest research and clinical methods.”

Professional development hours should **DIRECTLY** relate to the scope of practice for your profession. If you would like to request PD credit for programs not specifically approved in the PD rules, a [Professional Development Special Approval Form](#) should be submitted prior to attending the activity.

(3) Supervision of SLPAs: Please read the rules for SLPA Supervision ([OAR 335-095-0050](#)) carefully. It is the responsibility of the SLPA to keep documentation of the supervision and make it available in case of audit.

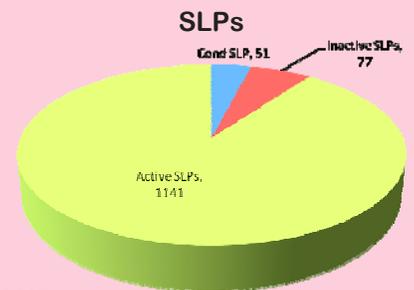
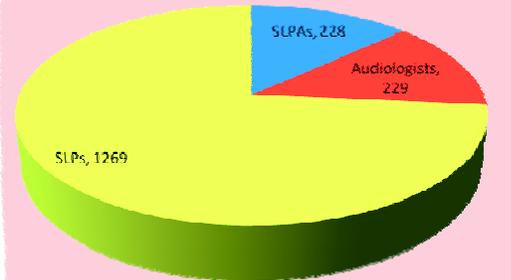
(4) As an SLP, maintaining a current license from this Board allows an individual to practice in **ALL** settings. This includes schools, ESDs, hospitals, clinics, and private practice. Some school districts require their SLPs to have TSPC licensure, but this is not required by law to practice in the schools. This is a district policy.

As always, if you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact the Board office or a member of the Board.

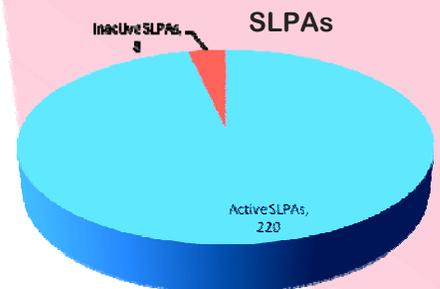
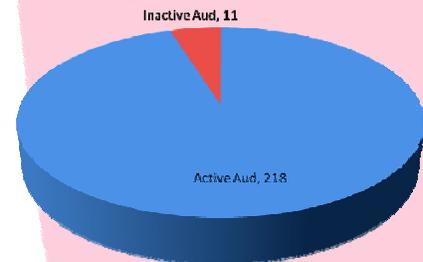
Licensing Stats

As of December 2008

Total Licensees: 1726



AUDs





Board of Examiners for SLP & Aud.
800 NE OREGON ST STE 407
PORTLAND OR 97232