

More than secretarial help! More than an Educational Assistant!

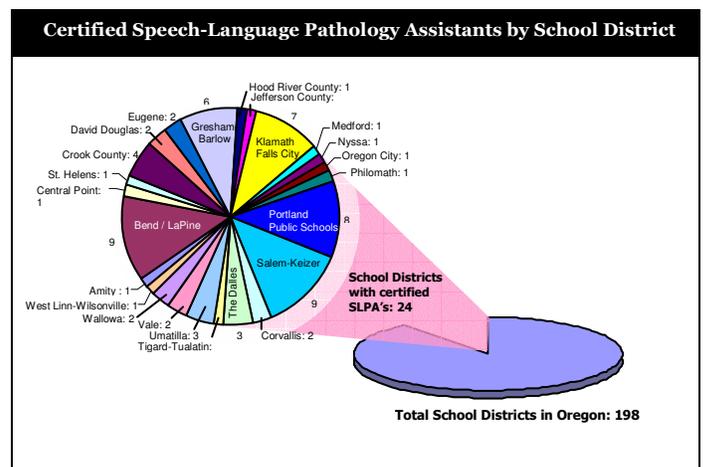
Finally, the licensed Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

Carol Clupny, MS CCC SLP
Program Director
Speech-Hearing-Autism
Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District

After a year of contemplating the competency checklist for licensure, the four speech-language support personnel employed by Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District have attained their SLPA licenses. The ESD Speech, Hearing, Autism Program has utilized assistants in a variety of roles for many years. We were lucky enough to have these four assistants who qualified for grandparenting into the SLPA certification. The concept of having highly qualified assistants providing direct intervention was attractive to our local school districts, and we were willing to provide additional training and supervision to assure the requirements of licensure were met. The application process was clearly outlined and materials were available on the Oregon Board of Examiner's for Speech Pathology and Audiology Website. Licenses arrived in a timely manner and we started the 03-04 school year with these assistants functioning in their expanded role.

Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District provides services to 12 tiny to moderately sized school districts across 5200 square miles in Eastern Oregon. Whereas many rural school districts experience a reduction in student enrollment due to a declining economy, several of our districts have exploded in growth. The need for qualified Speech Pathologists has increased and the funding levels have not. Recruitment and retention in rural areas continues to be a challenge. Although it has not been our intention to supplant the Speech Pathologists with Assistants, this licensure program has assisted us in meeting the increasing needs of our districts. It is a bonus to bill Medicaid for allowable SLPA services under the supervision of the Speech-Language Pathologist.

The committee formed by the Oregon Board of Examiner's for Speech Pathology and Audiology spent many hours in study and preparation to pass the legislation making this licensure possible. We are most appreciative of their efforts and the benefits the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant licensure has afforded Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District. ☺



One of the Board's goals for this biennium is to increase Oregon school district awareness of statutory requirement for certified Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs). People performing work of assisting SLPs were required to be certified as of January 1, 2003. The graph shows progress to 10/29/03. Only 24 of the 198 school districts in Oregon currently have one or more certified SLPA's.

Professional Development Hours Requirement Increases

Tim Anderson
Office Assistant
OBSLPA

Yes, it's true. You'll need to report 40 hours of professional development for the 2004-2006 licensing period. This is an increase of ten hours over the 2002-2004 requirement of 30 hours.

Speech-Language Pathology Assistants, I know you are panicking right now. Don't worry; the increase is for SLP's and Audiologists only. You will, however, be required to

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have 20 hours of professional development between January 31, 2004, and January 30, 2006.

You are, no doubt, asking yourself, *where can I get this plethora of hours?* There are a variety of preapproved types of activities listed under Oregon Administrative Rule 335-070-0030. (Read the rule on our website at www.bspa.state.or.us) Take a look there first, and if you have an activity in mind that applies to your practice but is not one of those types, you can always apply for special approval. If you opt to apply for special approval, you can find the form on the Board's website or we can fax/mail one to you.

In closing, the best piece of advice I have for you from the avalanche of phone calls I've received on professional development is **not to procrastinate** on making sure the activities are acceptable and that you will have enough to meet the requirement. If you wait until the last minute, you will not have any time to make up for hours that may not be accepted.



Three Board Seat Terms Expiring in 2004

Tim Anderson
Office Assistant
OBSLPA

The terms for one of the public member positions and two of the professional audiologist positions will be up on June 30, 2004.

Board members are appointed from interested applicants by the Governor's office. If you are interested in potentially becoming a board member, contact the Governor's office at (503) 378-4582 to request an Executive Interest Application form. If you are Internet-enabled, you can download the form at www.governor.state.or.us/exec_apnts.htm.

Chapter 973 of Oregon Law directs health-licensing agencies to "establish programs to increase the representation of people of color and bilingual people on the boards and in the professions that they regulate." In the interest of following this directive and to potentially improve the health outcomes of people of color and bilingual people in Oregon, the Board encourages people of color and bilingual people to apply for member positions. 

Notice of Proposed Rules

Brenda Felber
Executive Director
OBSLPA

Look for the Notice and Fiscal Impact statement in this newsletter for new proposed rules affecting audiologists. Board members have been working on drafting these rules to define accurate representation of an audiologist in the hearing aid business setting.

Other proposed rule changes affecting other Board licensees are listed on the Notice. A complete set of the proposed rules can be found on the Board website at www.bspa.state.or.us, or you may contact the Board office to request a hard copy. 

Questions and Answers about Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certification

John Tracy, Ph.D., ccc-SLP

As 2003 dawned, now nearly one year ago, the Oregon Administrative Rules governing speech-language pathology assistants (SLPA) became effective. These were developed under the authority of House Bill 3268 passed by the 2001 Oregon Legislature that revised Oregon Revised Statute 681. Although the law has been in effect for a little over 10 months, questions continue to arise about some specifics of the new regulations. Thus the purpose of this article is to specify the application of certain parts of the new law that has generated numerous inquiries. Those areas are differentiation of an educational and a speech-language pathology assistant, grandparenting, supervision, and professional development requirements.

At the outset, it is important to know that throughout the United States there is much inconsistency in the standards of training and practice for SLPA's. Since the Legislative Council of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association voted to eliminate the SLPA program within the Association last year, for now the national credential and accreditation of training programs is in limbo. (Continued on 3)

(Q and A on SLPA Cert. continued from 2)

However, Oregon continues to demonstrate a high quality, and well organized model. Nationally validated standards of training, practice, and supervision make up this state's certification laws governing SLPA's. The new laws focus on the development of a quality work force of SLPA's to serve Oregonians with communication disorders. One of the highlights of the new law is that an SLPA needs only to be certified by one entity (the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology) with a single set of standards, versus a speech-language pathologist, who may have licenses or certificates from as many as three different regulatory groups or agencies.

Finally, a training program for SLPA's has been established at Chemeketa Community College. In recognition of the need to provide statewide access to the curriculum, all of these courses, with the exception of the practicum, are offered on-line or in the video teleconferencing format. During the spring of 2003, the college introduced an Associate of Applied Science degree and a certificate both in SLPA. In August of this year, Ashley Northem, a speech-language pathologist was employed full-time by the school to teach in and coordinate this program. For a schedule of classes, and other information, Ashley can be contacted at nora@chemeketa.edu.

Two Types of Assistants

The language in the original bill failed to clearly differentiate between educational assistants (EA) and SLPA's. However, recent rules spell out the difference more clearly. An EA is someone that a speech-language pathologist can assign to clerical duties and the preparation of materials. However, contact with clients is reserved for the state-certified SLPA. An SLPA is someone who spends assigned hours in work tasks that are specific to the remediation of communication disorders.

Effective January 1, 2003, all individuals who perform SLPA duties must be certified as an SLPA by the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

Qualifications for the Certificate

Grandparenting procedures specified in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 335-095-0020 are available from the Board web site at www.bspa.state.or.us. Applicants are encouraged to use the most recently revised materials found on the website rather than the ones mailed to schools in August of 2002.

Qualification by grandparenting into the certification ends on January 1, 2005. At that point, anyone applying for the SLPA certificate must qualify under the education and training standards specified in OAR 335-095-0030. This includes training and supervised practicum experiences equivalent to 45 quarter or 30 semester credit hours of general education, and 45 quarter or 30 semester credit hours in the SLPA specialty area. Also, one must provide documentation of 100 clinical clock hours.

Supervision

The appropriate amount and effectiveness of supervision by a state Board licensed speech-language pathologist is one of the hallmarks of the quality of services provided by any program or practice employing SLPA's. Although grandparenting allows a speech-language pathologist (SLP) with either the state license in Speech-Language Pathology or certification in Speech-Language Pathology by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to verify a person's experience, only state Board licensed SLP's can supervise the practice of an SLPA.

An SLP must have a minimum of two years experience as an SLP before supervising SLPA's. Also, for the first 90 days of an SLPA's employment, 30% of client contact hours require supervision: 20 % direct and 10% indirect. Upon completion of this period, the time reduces to 20%:10% direct and 10% indirect. All supervisory contacts within the amounts noted must be documented. The use of some type of a log would be effective and efficient.

Professional Development

Once an SLPA is certified, in order to remain current with new models and trends, attainment of 20 professional development hours (PDH) every two years is specified in the new administrative rules. This requirement is another of the ingredients in improving the quality of services provided to those served by SLPA's. A major question is how can these hours be obtained? Inservices focused on improvement of practice offered by a public school, hospital or clinic, or related educational provider, like the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association, or a professional seminar company can be used. For those who have not completed all of the SLPA course work at Chemeketa Community College in Salem could consider taking one of the classes either on line or using video teleconferencing.

(Continued on 4)

(Q and A on SLPA Cert. continued from 3)

If a public school, hospital or clinic offers an inservice or workshop, some type of handout or certificate of completion must be requested to verify attendance. When deciding whether an inservice would meet the requirement for PDH, consider whether or not the content is specifically focused on strategies that would directly improve the quality of speech and language services the SLPA is providing.

Refer to the Oregon Administrative Rules, 335-070 for complete information on professional development requirements.

Conclusion

The revisions to Oregon Revised Statute 681 and the resulting administrative rules put in place specific guidelines for the certification, training, supervision, practice, and continual professional education of SLPA's. This article has addressed areas of the new laws that continue to elicit recurring inquiries about their application. Oregon has a model for the use of SLPA's that is fairly and equally applied. The goal in development of these new regulations has been the designation of a means for maintaining and continually improving the quality of services provided by SLPA's to Oregonians. ☺

Recent Board Actions

Letter of warning regarding practicing without a license sent to an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapist.

McEachern, Le'Anne, Audiology License # 20391

Consent order for violation of ORS 681.350(1)(b) unprofessional conduct and OAR 335-005-0015(1) provide all services competently. Licensee agrees to limit practice to providing audiological services to persons aged 6 years and older. Licensee shall create and maintain complete and accurate patient records.

McSpaden, Jay, Audiology License #20333

Notice of Proposed License Revocation alleging violations of ORS 681.350(1)(b) unprofessional conduct, OAR 335-005-0015(5) dispensing a product without reasonable expectation of benefit to patient, OAR 335-005-0015(10) misrepresentation, OAR 335-005-0015(1) provide all services competently, OAR 335-005-0025 misrepresentation, and OAR 335-005-0010(4) dishonest conduct involving a client. Board and Licensee entered into a consent order in which agreed to hold an inactive license and retire from providing audiological services effective 1/01/04.



The Board pauses for a well-deserved break.

(from left to right) Standing: Executive Officer Brenda Felber, Public member Raye Ann Gaskins, SLP Lezlie Pearce-Hopper, Public member Carolyn Dowd, ENT Dr. James Thomas.
Seated: SLP Chair Joanna Burk, Audiologist Gloria Schnell, and Audiologist Co-chair Nancy Dunn.

Secretary of State
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING HEARING*
A Statement of Need and Fiscal Impact accompanies this form.

Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology 335
Agency and Division Administrative Rules Chapter Number

Brenda Felber 503/731-4050
Rules Coordinator Telephone

800 NE Oregon St, Ste 407, Portland, Or 97232-2162
Address

Friday, January 30, 2004 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Room 445 Portland State Office
Building 800 NE Oregon St.
Hearing Date Time Location

Chair Joanna Burk
Hearings Officer

Are auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities available upon advance request? Yes No

RULEMAKING ACTION

ADOPT:
Secure approval of rule numbers with the Administrative Rules Unit prior to filing.

AMEND:
335-005-0025, 335-070-0030, 335-070-0060, 335-095-0020, 335-095-0030

REPEAL:

Renumber: Secure approval of rule numbers with the Administrative Rules Unit prior to filing.

Amend and Renumber: Secure approval of rule numbers with the Administrative Rules Unit prior to filing.

ORS Chapter 681.205, 681.340, 681.360, 681.370, 681.375, 681.420(5), 681.460
Stat. Auth. :ORS

ORS Chapter 681.250(1), 681.320, 681.340, 681.360, 681.370, 681.375, 681.460
Stats. Implemented: ORS

RULE SUMMARY

Amended rule in Division 5 defines the rules for accurate representation of an audiologist who works for a business that dispenses hearing aids. 335-070-0025 (12) (13) also clarifies documentation requirements for speech-language pathologists who supervise others. Amended rules in Division 70 clarifies that inservices are acceptable at public schools and clarifies the professional development requirements for new licensees. Amended rules in Division 95 delete a grandparenting qualification that no longer applies and clarifies how a person may qualify outside of grandparenting.

Last Day for Public Comment January 27, 2004

Signature and Date Brenda Felber

*The *Oregon Bulletin* is published on the 1st of each month and updates the rule text found in the Oregon Administrative Rules Compilation. Notice forms must be submitted to the Administrative Rules Unit, Oregon State Archives, 800 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310 by 5:00 pm on the 15th day of the preceding month unless this deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday when Notice forms are accepted until 5:00pm on the preceding workday.

Secretary of State
STATEMENT OF NEED AND FISCAL IMPACT
A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearing or a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking accompanies this form.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY 335
Agency and Division Administrative Rules Chapter Number

In the Matter of:
Amending Administrative Rules 335-005-0025, 335-070-0030, 335-070-0060, 335-095-0020, and 335-095-0030.

Statutory Authority: ORS 681.460

Other Authority:

Statutes Implemented: ORS 681

Need for the Rule(s):

Amended rule in Division 5 defines the rules for accurate representation of an audiologist who works for a business that dispenses hearing aids. Amended rules in Division 70 clarifies that inservices are acceptable at public schools and clarifies the professional development requirements for new licensees. Amended rules in Division 95 delete a grandparenting qualification that no longer applies and clarifies how a person may qualify outside of grandparenting.

Documents Relied Upon:

ORS Chapters 681

Fiscal and Economic Impact:

No fiscal impact for revisions to Divisions 70 and 95.
Fiscal impact for amended rules in Division 5 uncertain: insufficient information available.

Administrative Rule Advisory Committee consulted?:

Yes, the Board invited all practitioners to discuss the need for the revised rule in Division 5 at the Oregon Speech and Hearing Association meeting in October of 2002. Hearing Aid Specialists attended the meeting as well. The Board then followed with an invitation to participate in drafting the revised rule at the Oregon Speech and Hearing Association conference in October of 2003. Audiologists were invited to this meeting via email and on the Agency website.

Brenda Felber
Authorized Signer and Date

Administrative Rules Unit, Archives Division, Secretary of State, 800 Summer Street NE,
Salem, Oregon 97310. ARC 925-1997

**Oregon Board of Examiners For
Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology**
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“News for Oregon Licensees” 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, its members, nor its staff are responsible for factual statements or opinions published in this newsletter. The Board reserves the right to refuse or edit all articles submitted.

Contact the Board office for further information on how to submit a suggestion or article.

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