

Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

(ABESPA)
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www.abespa.alabama.gov

Information on Interstate Compacts from the Chairman

Florence D. Cuneo, Au.D

As a member of the advisory committee on Interstate Compacts for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, I want to take this opportunity to address some of the information presented to the drafting team.

An Interstate Compact is an agreement between states, which creates a pathway for licensure to qualified audiologists and speech language pathologists who wish to practice in multiple states. Interstate Compacts date back to 1662. An Interstate Compact is a mechanism for states to jointly problem solve, often avoiding federal intervention.

Congress has been comprehensively reviewing ways to expand appropriate use of telehealth services to alleviate current and future provider shortages. Should a federal mandate occur, speech language pathologists and audiologists would not be allowed to design the legislation and Alabama would be required to fund it. An Interstate Compact allows the states to maintain their sovereignty.

The Interstate Compact will serve to lessen the burden of those serving patients in multiple states by allowing them to have one license for multi-state practice. This will benefit those using other modes of practice such as teletherapy as well.

There are 215 Interstate Compacts presently. Physicians in Alabama joined the Interstate Compact last year. Psychologists, Nurses and Physical Therapists all participate in Interstate Compacts.

I appreciate all who completed the questionnaire distributed during the ABESPA forum at SHAA this year. 150 surveys were distributed and 78 were returned (52%). Sixty four percent of the professionals stated that they could foresee participating in the Interstate Compact. The majority of those responding reported that they would be in favor of Alabama participating in an Interstate Compact.

The process for development of an Interstate Compact is usually phased over 3-4 years. The drafting team presently is utilizing recommendations made from the advisory committee. ABESPA with SHAA's support will be needed to undergo the legislative changes required to implement an Interstate Compact.

For additional information on this topic, please visit CSG.org; www.asha.org/Advocacy/state/Interstate-Compact-FAQs/; Interstatecompact.org and a YouTube video titled "Compacts 101 for Health Care"

SUMMER 2018

Volume XXIII

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Yvonne Saxon, J.D.

Assistant Attorney General

New Website Address

You've Mastered the Master's- Now What?

Lana Langley, M.S., CCC-SLP



I am pleased to represent District 4 and serve as the Vice-Chair and ABESPA Liaison to SHAA. I currently work as a Speech Language Pathologist for Children's Rehabilitation Service covering the Tuscaloosa/Selma district.

This year at the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama's annual conference, I, along with Gary Copeland had the honor of presenting on the Student Track. We spoke to graduate students from across the state on continuing education and the licensing process of CF/4th Year Registration.

During our presentation, we discussed the differences between licensing requirements by ASHA and ABESPA. The ABESPA website was used to provide an overview of ABESPA. We also demonstrated how to locate information for Congressional districts, Continuing Education, Rules and Regulations, and the forms needed for application and completion of CF 4th Year Registration. We were able to go over each part of the required forms to insure a seamless process. It was fun to interact with future professionals.

The slides for this presentation can be found on the SHAA website.

<https://www.alabamashaa.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3491>

Required form for registration and completion of the licensure process can be found on the ABESPA website:

CF 4th Year Registration:

<http://abespa.alabama.gov/files/2015/CFYform4-29-15.pdf>

Completion of Licensure Application

<http://abespa.alabama.gov/files/COMAPP.pdf>

If you have questions about CF/4th Year Registration or Continuing Education, please contact the ABESPA office at the address below:

ABESPA

400 South Union Street', Suite 435

PO Box 304760

Montgomery AL

36130-4760

abespa@abespa.alabama.gov

NEW! NEW! NEW!

*New Website Address: abespa.alabama.gov
New Email Address: abespa@abespa.alabama.gov*

Continuing Education FAQ's

Mary S. Parker, Continuing Education Committee



Do I have to get ABESPA's permission to attend a conference?

Do I need preapproval of every continuing education activity that I want to attend?

Can I only attend ABESPA-approved continuing education activities?

No, No, and No

Licensees are referred to the section of the Alabama Administrative Code 870-X-4-.08 entitled "Mandatory Continuing Education". This section of the Code gives the Continuing Education Requirements for license renewal.

Reminders-

Twelve (12) hours must be in compliance with the content area requirements. Twenty-four (24) hours are required for dual licenses.

A minimum of ten (10) hours must improve professional **clinical** competency (Content Area I). *Ethics falls under this Content Area and is highly recommended.*

A maximum of two (2) hours can be in an area related to the area of licensure but must improve professional competency (Content Area II).

The licensee should possess the professional ability to identify the continuing education activities which will improve his/her own level of clinical competency. Verification of attendance at these continuing education activities is the responsibility of the attendee and documentation would be included for audit purposes.

If there is a question about the Content Area and the licensee wants preapproval **prior** to attending the event, an application can be submitted to the Board. See the ABESPA website for the preapproval application form.

Remember-Continuing education improves clinical competency and benefits the consumer of these services.

Credential Review

Deana Berube, Au.D., CCC-A

The Credential Review Committee is charged with investigating complaints of possible violations of the Alabama law governing speech-language pathology and audiology licensure. The committee monitors correspondence from the complainant and licensee. The Assistant Attorney General oversees the steps in the investigation.

If you know that someone has violated the Rules and Regulations and/or the Code of Alabama; or has engaged in illegal practice; or provided services which place the consumer at risk, a complaint can be filed to the Board. The complaint form is located on the ABESPA website under downloadable forms.

The ABESPA Board offers an Ethics seminar for continuing education credit annually at the SHAA Convention. Address any questions you have concerning this subject to the Board office.

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Application Review Committee Report

Claire Edwards, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

I represent District 6 and Chair the Applications Review and Website Committees for ABESPA. I am an associate professor in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Montevallo and also serve as the graduate program coordinator there.

The role of the Applications Committee is to review and determine the status for the following application categories:

- ✓ Annual audited SLP and AUD license renewals
- ✓ New licensees either applying from out-of-state or completing SLP-CF/4th Year AUD placements
- ✓ SLP-CF/4th Year AUD Intern registration
- ✓ SLP-A registration

The Board only reviews applications at each monthly meeting, so it is important for licensees to renew licenses promptly between October and December 31st each year.

Annual report for 2016-17:

- | | |
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| ✓ Number of applications reviewed: | 357 |
| ✓ Number of applicants licensed: | 195 |
| ✓ Applications approved for CF/4 th Year Intern | 93 |

Website Committee Report

Claire Edwards, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

As Chair of the Website Committee, I reviewed the current ABESPA.org website and made recommendations for updating content and overhauling the site. The main goal of the update is for the website to be more user friendly to licensees and consumers. I am pleased to report that the project is underway and the new website should be available before the renewal period begins in October.

Currently, online you can:

- ✓ Renew your license (unless you are audited)
- ✓ Print off applications to mail to the Board
- ✓ Check licensure verification
- ✓ Review Board Rules and Regulations (which is important to do!)
- ✓ Download application forms
- ✓ Check Board meeting dates
- ✓ File a complaint
- ✓ Read current and past newsletters
- ✓ Recommend Consumer Information
- ✓ Review CE rules and approvals

Rules and Regulations Committee Report

Mark R. Carroll, M.S., CCC-A, F-AAA, Committee Chair

The Rules and Regulations Committee reviews current rules and regulations in order to keep our standards current as our respective fields evolve. The primary mission of this board is to safeguard the services being provided to the consumers of the state. This requires periodic changes to maintain appropriate regulatory authority over practicing professionals so that the consumers are adequately served.

While the board attempts to keep current with the changing landscape of regulatory guidelines, we also appreciate the input of our dedicated professionals. If any licensee knows of an area where we might have a need to improve our rules and regulations, we certainly invite and appreciate the input in order to maintain a relevant code of practice. The ABESPA phone number is 334-269-1434 and the email address is now abespa@abespa.alabama.gov.

The most recent rule change proposed to our Rules and Regulations concerns the timely reporting of actions of another licensure board of criminal activity convictions against a licensed member. The new regulation will be added to Rule 870-X-2-.02 as Item 6 as follows.

Rule 870-X-2-.02

(6): Each licensee shall notify the board in writing by certified mail within 30 days after he/she receives notice of :

- a. A disciplinary action by another licensure board in another jurisdiction; or
- b. Any criminal conviction, misdemeanors, or felonies from the State of Alabama or another jurisdiction. Failure to notify the board of such will result in disciplinary action as stated in Section 870-X-5-.01, est. seq. of the ABESPA Rules and Regulations.

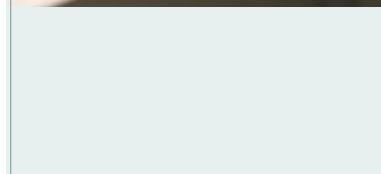
The proposed rule change will be submitted to the Alabama Administrative Monthly prior to the June 20th deadline for June 29th publication. The Public Hearing will tentatively be scheduled for August 10th and tentatively effective October 5th.

THE CONSUMER

Mickey D. Ezell

This is my second year to post in the newsletter. My role is to represent consumers on the ABESPA Board. I have had a significant hearing loss for over 20 years. I depend upon my audiologist to test my hearing and prescribe the best hearing aids so I can function normally. My audiologist is very professional and is licensed by the Board. It is the function of the board to maintain standards that protect consumers. The great majority of these professionals work hard to provide great services.

In board meetings, I listen to the discussions of issues and standards with the consumer in mind and vote accordingly. All Board members vote with the consumer in mind. If you, the consumer of speech and hearing services have a concern, you can contact the board and your concern will be heard. You can also contact via the Board email address at abespa@abespa.alabama.gov.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: August 10, 2018

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

**PLACE: 400 South Union Street
4th Floor Conference Room
Montgomery, AL 36104**

If you would like to attend the Public Hearing on Rules & Regulations changes, please contact the ABESPA office by telephone at (334) 269-1434 or email at abespa@abespa.alabama.gov to have your name placed on the agenda. If you are unable to attend the hearing, send any comments to ABESPA, POB 304760, Montgomery, AL 36130-4760.

*Technology & Ethical Issues for SLP & AuD:
Questions & Answers on Telepractice in Alabama*
Assistant Attorney General Yvonne Saxon



What is the law in Alabama on Telepractice?

ABESPA Rules & Regulations § 870-X-2-.01(j):

“Any practitioner who does not meet the exemptions stated above must hold an Alabama license. **This shall be required for all individuals providing services for consumers in Alabama via in-office practice as well as Telepractice or any other electronic means.**”

Note:

- All licensure provisions (face-to-face) apply to Telepractice procedures.
- Check the provider/insurance requirement for the proper procedure when billing for services.

Can a person, who is not licensed, perform speech-language pathology or audiology services via Telepractice? *Answer: It depends on if the practitioner works in an exempt setting or receives special permission ...*

ABESPA Rules & Regulations § 870-X-2-.01(d): Exempt Setting

- The activities and services of a person who holds a valid and current credential as a speech and/or hearing specialist issued by the Department of Education of this State or
- A person, who is employed as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist by the Government of the United States.
- **If such person performs speech-language pathology and audiology services solely within the confines or under the jurisdiction of the organization by which he/she is employed.**

***EXEMPTION APPLIES ONLY IF THE DUTIES ARE PERFORMED SOLELY WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE JURISDICTION BY WHICH HE/SHE IS EMPLOYED.**

****This provision DOES NOT exempt persons who perform speech-language pathology and audiology services outside the confines or jurisdiction of the Department of Education of this state or the Government of the United States.**

*****The exempt person can only share research or provide lectures outside of duties without being licensed. THEY CANNOT PROVIDE CLINICAL DIAGNOIS OUTSIDE OF WORK SETTING WITHOUT BEING LICENSED.**

ABESPA Rules & Regulations § 870-X-2-.01(g-h): Special Permission

- Sections (g) and (h) provide for an exemption for practitioners, who do not reside in Alabama, to receive a limited clearance to provide speech-language pathology or audiology service with the association of a licensed Alabama SLP or AuD.
- Section (i) requires mandatory notification of ABESPA for anyone seeking to provide speech-language or audiology services pursuant to the limited exemptions provide in sections (g) & (h).
- The out-of-state practitioner **MUST** complete the Telepractice Form for limited practice. The form is available on ABESPA’s website: <http://abespa.alabama.gov> .

When using Telepractice for speech-language pathology or audiology services, consider the following:

- Ensure computer connection is available;
- Ensure that the patient is clear on the service provided;
- Receive waivers for privacy, if needed;
- Make sure that the HIPPA/IEP documentation are current and allow Telepractice treatment
- Receive clearance from health care provider that the Telepractice service will be covered by insurance or paid by the patient
- Determine how you will deliver the Telepractice service, via computer, telephone, or hybrid.

UPCOMING ABESPA EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
JUNE 8, 2018	BOARD MEETING	MONTGOMEY, AL
JULY 13, 2018	BOARD MEETING	MONTGOMEY, AL
AUGUST 10, 2018	BOARD MEETING	MONTGOMEY, AL
SEPTEMBER 14, 2018	BOARD MEETING	MONTGOMEY, AL
OCTOBER 1, 2018	2018-19 RENEWAL BEGINS	ONLINE/US MAIL
OCTOBER 12, 2018	BOARD MEETING	MONTGOMEY, AL
NOVEMBER 9, 2018	BOARD MEETING	MONTGOMEY, AL
DECEMBER 14, 2018	BOARD MEETING	MONTGOMEY, AL
DECEMBER 31, 2018	11:59 PM RENEWAL CLOSES	ONLINE (ONLY)

“It’s a beautiful thing when a career and a passion come together.”

Just In Case You Missed It...

ABESPA has a new website & new email address:

Website: abespa.alabama.gov

Email: abespa@abespa.gov