



Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

NEWSLETTER

Volume XV

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The purpose of ABESPA is to serve as a regulatory board to protect the consuming public

A Word From The Chair

Florence Cuneo, M. A., AUD

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of Senate Bill 26 and companion House Bill 98. The effort to change the statute has been more than a two-year process. The Senate Bill 26 passed in March of this year. The terminology referring to clinical fellowship year and clinical fellow had to be amended so that the national educational requirements for Audiology would be recognized. As of January 1, 2007, all Audiology graduates will have a Doctorate of Audiology (Au.D.) degree. Senator H.E. Myers and Representative Laura Hall were gracious and sponsored this bill for the past two years. It finally passed. Thank you, Senator Myers and Representative Hall.

The ABESPA Board has diligently worked to get the bill passed. In addition to the regular responsibilities of each committee chair, each member had to assist in the legislative process. Once the law passed, the committee chairs have worked on reviewing the Rules and Regulations so that they are consistent with the law. ABESPA's mission is to protect the consumer and the changes recommended in the Administrative Code (located within this newsletter) exemplify that.

I want to thank each Board member present and past, who have participated in this endeavor to make it a success. The present board members are Dr. Barbara Cady, Mrs. Roan Frederick, Dr. Margaret Hemm, Mrs. Ada Holyfield and Dr. Carmen Taylor. Past board members include Mrs. Pam Vautier and Mr. Paul Stephens. The Board has received excellent direction from the Assistant Attorney General, Mrs. Yvonne Saxon. The Board has also received expert opinions from the SHAA liaisons, Dr. Richard Cornell and Dr. Keith Ergle. Last but certainly not least, Mrs. Wanda Rawlinson, executive secretary and her assistant, Ms. Shemicka Williams have always organized our monthly responsibilities so that Board meetings are efficient and timely.

The Board is anxiously waiting on appointments from the Governor to fill the vacancies for District 2 and District 5. Dr. Cady has been gracious to continue serving on the Board through this interim period which has lasted 9 months.

Please read in this newsletter the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations. The public hearing will be in Montgomery on September 8. Please join us to discuss these changes.



Committee on Licensure, CFY Registration & Assistant Registration

Margaret M. Hemm, Ed.D, CCC-SLP

Changes are being made this year to provide a 30 day extended period from the date of completion of the Clinical Fellowship Year (or Fourth Year Internship—Audiologist, 2007) in order to allow registrants time to submit a Completion of Licensure Application Process form to the Board for approval.

In the past, the registration certificate issued to clinical fellows noted the period of time it was valid up to the last day of the clinical experience. This change will extend this period for 30 days and thus indicate to the public legal compliance with Board rules and regulations until the registrant's application for licensure can be reviewed. All new registration certificates will now follow this protocol.

Key issues this past year with incomplete CFY and license applications have been due to not having a notarized letter from the supervisor and not having official transcripts verifying the degree obtained.

Rules and Regulations

Roan Frederick, CCC-SLP

The ABESPA Board members have spent many hours researching Rules and Regulations from other states, consulting trends from National Council of State Boards and many hours reviewing and discussing our current Rules and Regulations. This time and effort was necessary because of the successful passage of S.B.26 which allows for licensure recognition of the Au.D.

You will find in this newsletter a copy of the proposed Rules and Regulations and some information explaining how we came to the wording. One of the most important steps in changing, adding to, or adjusting Rules and Regulations is the responsibility of the Board to follow the Law and the next most important step is to have the SHAA membership and any interested party in our State review the proposed Rules and Regulations and comment. Your comment period begins July 31st and must be completed by September 6th.

A Public Hearing will be held on September 8th at 12:00 noon. Your attendance is welcome; if you wish to comment, you are welcome; however, your comment must be in writing. The ABESPA Board thanks you in advance for your participation in this task.

On-Line Renewal
Margaret M. Hemm, Ed.D., CCC-SLP

Just a reminder that on-line renewal will continue to be available to licensees this year at www.abespa.org beginning October 1, 2006. An ABESPA CEH is equal to fifty (50) minutes of contact. A minimum of 600 minutes will be required to meet the required CEHs this year.



Important Changes to the ABESPA Administrative Code for Audiologists are being proposed in 2007.

Margaret M. Hemm, Ed.D., CCC-SLP

With changes to our law, proposed changes are being made to the Administrative Code with respect to Fourth-Year Internship registration. Persons fulfilling the Fourth Year Internship are required to register with the Board within 30 days of the initiation of this process. A license will not be granted until the applicant has successfully registered with the Board and the supervised clinical experience is completed.

For the Fourth-Year Internship, the acquisition of a total of 1820 hours (that includes hours obtained prior to the commencement of the Fourth-Year Internship) is required.



Registration of Assistants in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology

Margaret M. Hemm, Ed.D., CCC-SLP

Persons applying for application to the Board to assist in the practice of Speech-Language Pathology and/or Audiology must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent in communication disorders or related field. Under supervision of a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist, assistants may:

- Conduct speech-language hearing screenings
- Implement documented treatment plans or protocols as prescribed by the supervising clinician
- Document patient/client progress as prescribed by the supervising clinician
- Assist during assessment
- Assist with informal documentation, prepare charts, record graphs, or otherwise display data
- Perform checks & maintenance of equipment.
- Participate in research projects, in service training, and public relations programs.

The licensed supervisor must document direct observation of at least ten percent (10%) of all clinical services provided by the assistant.

What's New with Credentials Review?

Ada Holyfield, Consumer Member

As the Consumer Member, one of the committees I oversee is the Credentials Review Committee. Since my term began in October 2004, we have had various complaints such as: misrepresentation of licensure, verbally threatening a patient, referral negligence, fraudulent charting, and faulty billing practices. In an effort to reduce the number of complaints that violate ABESPA's Administrative Code, Section 870-X-6, Code of Ethics, ABESPA will allow CEUs for ethical related courses (effective January 2007).

The process to file a complaint with ABESPA remains unchanged. Any member of the public can submit a complaint, which must be in writing and sent to: Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, P.O. Box 304760, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4760. Each complaint is assigned a case number that protects the anonymity of the complainant and the person being reported. Only the Executive Secretary, the Assistant Attorney General, and I know the identities of the involved parties.

Once the complaint has been thoroughly investigated, the board members make a ruling (only the three speech pathologists, three audiologists and the consumer member have voting privileges). The entire process of a complaint can be completed within a couple of months or may take much longer depending upon the unique circumstances and complexities of each case. The outcomes for each case can range from, but are not limited to, closing the file with no action from the board to imposing fines. However, the more serious offenses could result in a hearing before the board with consequences that could include license suspension, reprimand issuance, or revocation of licensure.

Clinically Relevant

Carmen Taylor, Ph. D., AUD

As all licensees know, over the past year, the ABESPA Board has been working diligently to clarify the language of "clinically relevant" Continuing Education requirements. As part of re-evaluating the rules and regulations, the entire Continuing Education requirements were compared with requirements from other states. This process revealed a need for ABESPA to make the CEU requirements more comprehensive and clear.

Therefore, as a part of the approval process for the new rules and regulations, ABESPA has rewritten the CEU requirements and is presenting those proposed changes in this newsletter and in an open forum for Friday, September 8, 2006, at noon in the Bailey Building in Montgomery.

The major changes can be summarized by the following:

1. The CEU minutes required will increase by requiring 1 clock hour to equal 60 minutes. The requirement will remain at 12 Continuing Education hours annually.
2. CEUs approved will fall into one of two content areas. The CEU requirements will have a minimum requirement in Content Area I and a maximum requirement in Content Area II.
3. Clarification is provided for CEUs in non-traditional venues such as distance education, university courses, etc.

Please take the opportunity to provide feedback about specifics. Please come to the Public Hearing in September.

Ethics and Third Party Billing

Yvonne A. H. Saxon, Assistant Attorney General

“If I give my license number to a school system so that they can proceed with Medicaid billing for health related services in the schools and I am told to back bill without adequate documentation, instruction or attendance records and I am encouraged to comply under the pressure of losing my job, am I held accountable for the ABESPA ethics or is the LEA responsible? If I am not able to use my professional judgment, how can I be accountable?”

The short answer to your questions is you remain accountable for your actions as a licensee of the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA).

Although you work in an exempt setting and employed by the Alabama Department of Education, you are responsible for your actions as a licensee. The responsibility arises out of the need for a license to bill Medicaid for your services. If you were not licensed by ABESPA, you could still be employed by the Department of Education in an exempt status as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, but you could not bill Medicaid for your services.

The actions you describe, “back bill without adequate documentation, instruction or attendance records”, are deemed a violation of Alabama Code Section 34-28A-26(a),(2), and (4) (1975). This Code section provides:

(a) The license of any licensee under this chapter may be suspended or revoked, or a reprimand may be issued by the board, upon a finding of the board that the licensee has committed any of, but not limited to, the following acts:

(2) Has been guilty of fraud or deceit in connection with his or her services rendered as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

(4) Has been guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by the rules established by the board or has violated the code of ethics made and published by the board.”

Additionally, the Code of Ethics of ABESPA that address your questions provide:

“870-X-6-.02 Principles of Ethics I.

(1) Individuals shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally.

(h) Individuals shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered and products dispensed, and shall allow access to these records when appropriately authorized.

(j) Individuals shall not charge for services not rendered, nor shall they misrepresent, in any fashion, services rendered or products dispensed.”

“870-X-6-.04 Principles of Ethics III.

(1) Individuals shall honor their responsibility to the public understanding of the professions, by supporting the development of services designed to fulfill the unmet needs of the public, and by providing accurate information in all communications involving any aspect of the profession.

(c) Individuals shall not misrepresent diagnostic information, services rendered, or products dispensed or engage in any scheme or artifice to defraud in connection with obtaining payment or reimbursement for such services or products.”

The above provisions prohibit an ABESPA licensee, whether working in an exempt status or not, from engaging in the actions you describe. If a licensee participates in the actions you question, their actions would be in direct violation of the law and the rules and regulations of ABESPA. Violations of ABESPA’s laws and rules and regulations, if proven, can cause a licensee’s license to be revoked, suspended, or reprimanded. **Therefore, you are advised not to allow your license to be used for false undocumented billing to Medicaid, when you were not the speech-language pathologist or audiologist who treated the student/child/patient.**



PROPOSED CHANGES TO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Amending the Rules and Regulations to read as follows:

870-X-1-.01 Definition of Terms

(1) **“Audiologist,”** any person that engages in the practice of audiology and who meets the qualifications set forth in Alabama Code § 34-28A-21 (1975). A person represents oneself to be an audiologist if that person holds out to the public that he/she practices audiology, by any means, or by any service or function performed, directly or indirectly, or by using the terms audiological, audiologist, audiology, audiometrics, audiometrist, aural rehabilitationist, balance center, hearing aid audiologist, hearing and balance center, hearing and balance specialist, vestibular specialist, hearing center, hearing clinic, hearing clinician, hearing conservation, hearing conservationist, hearing therapist, hearing therapy, or any variation or synonym which expresses, employs, or implies these terms or functions.

(2) **“Audiology”**

(a) The application of principles, methods, and procedures related to the development and disorders of the human auditory-vestibular system, which disorders shall include any and all conditions whether of organic or functional origin, including, but not limited to, disorders of hearing, balance, tinnitus, auditory processing and other neural functions, as those principles, methods and procedures are taught in doctoral programs in audiology in accredited programs.

(b) Such principles, methods or procedures include, without limitation, those of diagnosis, assessment, measurement, testing, appraisal, evaluation, rehabilitation, treatment, prevention, conservation, identification, consultation, counseling, intervention, management, interpretation, instruction or research related to hearing, vestibular function, balance and fall prevention, and associated neural systems, or any abnormal condition related to tinnitus, auditory sensitivity, acuity, function or processing, speech, language or other aberrant behavior resulting from hearing loss, for the purpose of diagnosing, designing, and implementing audiological management and treatment or other programs for the amelioration of such disorders and conditions. Management and treatment shall include but not be limited to the activities described in subsection (c) below.

(c) Engaging in the practice of prescribing, selecting, specifying, evaluating, assisting in the adjustment to, and dispensing of prosthetic devices for hearing loss, including hearing aids, and hearing assistive devices by means of specialized audiometric equipment or by any other means accepted by the Board.

(3) **“Audiology Assistant,”** or any variation, synonym or coinage of the term, is defined as an individual who meets minimum qualifications established by the Board, which are less than those established by Alabama Code §34-28A-21 (1975) as necessary for licensing as an audiologist; does not act independently; and works under the direction and supervision of an audiologist licensed under Section 34-28A-21.

(4) **“Board,”** the Alabama State Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA).

(5) **“Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY),”** required practical experience following successful completion of a master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology at an accredited university or equivalent as determined by the Board.

(6) **“Doctor of Audiology,”** an individual who holds a doctorate of audiology degree (Au.D.) from an accredited program, or the equivalent as determined by the Board.

(7) **“Fourth-Year Internship,”** required practical experience following successful completion of educational requirements for the doctorate of audiology degree (Au.D.) at an accredited university or equivalent as determined by the Board.

- (8) **“License,”** any license issued by the Board to practice audiology or speech-language pathology.
- (9) **“Licensee,”** a person holding a license to practice audiology or speech language pathology issued pursuant to this chapter, but not including the participants of CFY or Fourth-Year Internship.
- (10) **“Person,”** any individual, group, association, limited or general partnership, corporation, or any other business entity.
- (11) **“Preceptor,”** any person who is licensed and has the responsibility of supervising or overseeing the training or activities of assistants, students, externs, participants of CFY or Fourth-Year Internship and others providing audiological or speech language pathology services without full licenses.
- (12) **“Speech-Language Pathologist,”** any person who engages in the practice of speech-language pathology and who meets the qualifications set forth in Alabama Code §34-28A-21 (1975). A person represents oneself to be a speech-language pathologist when he/she holds oneself out to the public by any means, or by any service or function performed, directly or indirectly, or by using the terms “speech pathology,” “speech pathologist,” “speech therapy,” “speech therapist,” “speech teacher,” “speech correction,” “speech correctionist,” “speech clinic,” “speech clinician,” “language therapy,” “language therapist,” “language pathology,” “language pathologist,” “logopedics,” “logopedist,” “communicology,” “communicologist,” “aphasiology,” “aphasiologist,” “phoniatrist,” or any variation, synonym, coinage or other word that expresses, employs or implies these terms, names or functions.
- (13) **“Speech-Language Pathology,”** the application of principles, methods and procedures related to the development, disorders and effectiveness of human communication and related functions including but not limited to providing prevention, screening, consultation, assessment and diagnosis, treatment, intervention, management, counseling and follow-up services for disorders of speech (i.e. articulation, fluency, resonance and voice), language (i.e., phonology, morphology, syntax, pre-literacy and language-based literacy skills), swallowing or other upper aerodigestive functions; and cognitive aspects of communication (i.e. attention, memory, problem solving). The practice of speech-language pathology also includes establishing augmentative and alternative communication techniques and strategies; including developing, selecting and prescribing of such systems and devices (e.g., speech generating devices); providing services to individuals with hearing loss and their families (e.g., auditory training, speech-reading, speech and language intervention secondary to hearing loss); screening hearing of individuals who can participate in conventional pure-tone air conduction methods and screening middle ear pathology through screening tympanometry for the purpose of referral for further evaluation; using instrumentation (e.g., videofluoroscopy) to observe, collect data and measure parameters of communication and swallowing; selecting, fitting and establishing effective use of prosthetic/adaptive devices for communication, swallowing or other upper aerodigestive functions (does not include sensory devices used by individuals with hearing loss); and providing services to modify or enhance communication performance.
- (14) **“Speech-Language Pathology Assistant,”** or any variation, synonym or coinage of the term is defined as an individual who meets minimum qualifications established by the Board, which are less than those established by Alabama Code §34-28A-21 (1975) as necessary for licensing as a speech-language pathologist; does not act independently; and works under the direction and supervision of a speech-language pathologist licensed under Section 34-28A-21.

870-X-1-.07 Scheduling Of Meetings The Board **should** meet monthly to ensure that applications for licensure, Clinical Fellowship Year, Fourth-Year Internship, and registration of assistants may be reviewed in a timely manner, but the Board **shall** meet no less than once every two months. Mandatory meetings include: an organizational meeting in October, a meeting at the annual convention of the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama and another general meeting before the end of the fiscal year. Meetings shall be held at the permanent office of the Board or such other places as the Chair shall prescribe. Meetings shall be open to the public, and all business of the Board shall be conducted in accordance with the current Open Meetings Act (OMA).

870-X-2-.02 (2) Application For Licensure

(2) Applications must be accompanied by a \$200.00 application fee, which can in no case be refunded. Applications should be submitted prior to the initiation of practice in Alabama. However, those holding a valid Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) and/or an equivalent certification including an active license in Audiology or Speech-Language Pathology in another state may practice during the interim period between submission of the licensure application form and Board action on the application. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete.

870-X-2-.03 Requirements For Licensure

(1) Upon receipt of the licensure application and payment of the licensing fee, the Board may grant licensure to any person certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that is holding a currently valid Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) or an equivalent certification from an accrediting Association or Academy in the area for which licensure is applied. A license may be granted in either speech-language pathology or audiology. Licenses in both speech-language pathology and audiology may be granted to an applicant who requests both licenses and who are certified in both areas. The fee will be twice that of a license in a single area.

(2) Persons without the CCC (not holding a currently valid Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) or an equivalent certification from another accrediting Association or Academy must meet the following:

(a) Education Requirements. Submit official transcripts from one or more accredited colleges or universities approved by the Board, showing evidence of possession of at least a Master's degree, the completion of academic requirements preceding the Fourth-Year Internship in Au.D. programs or the equivalent in speech-language pathology or audiology. The word "equivalent" as stated in the Code of Ala. 1975, §34-28A-1 is defined in these Rules and Regulations as being equal to or greater than requirements for the Master's degree or Doctorate of Audiology degree.

(b) Practicum Requirements. Provide documentation from the director of the training program that the individual meets the clinical requirements commensurate with the training program and degree (specifically defined in the document). The practical experience was obtained under the qualified supervision within the training institution or one of its cooperative training programs.

870-X-2-.05 Clinical Fellowship Year Registration or Fourth-Year Internship Registration and Requirements

(1) Persons fulfilling the clinical experience (Clinical Fellowship Year or Fourth-Year Internship) are required to register with the Board within thirty (30) days of employment. The application process must be completed within sixty (60) days of receipt of application. If requirements listed below are not met within sixty (60) days, the applicant will lose the application fee and must reapply. A license will not be granted until the applicant has successfully registered with the Board and the supervised clinical experience is complete. The applicant must submit the following:

(a) Registration application.

(b) \$200 application fee.

(c) A notarized statement from the applicant's CFY or Fourth-Year Internship supervisor which must include:

(i) Beginning date of CFY or Fourth-Year Internship

(ii) Expected completion date: For CFY, an equivalent of 9 months (to be completed within 36 months). For the Fourth-Year Internship, the acquisition of a total 1,820 hours (that include hours obtained prior to the commencement of the Fourth-Year Internship). Total number of clinical practicum hours may vary based on current

academic requirements.

(iii) Number of hours to be worked each week.
(iv) Place of employment.
(v) Supervisor's name and Alabama license number (or certificate of clinical competence or its equivalent if clinical experience is within an exempt licensure site).

(d) ALL official undergraduate and graduate transcripts.

(2) The applicant must notify the Board within ten (10) days of any changes in employer or supervisor.

(3) Following approval of the Clinical Fellowship Year or Fourth-Year Internship registration, the Board shall issue a registration certificate. This certificate shall reveal the full name of the registrant, the beginning date of the clinical experience, the expected completion date, the number of hours worked per week, the number of weeks worked, supervisor's name, supervisor's license number (supervision to be provided in accordance with the accrediting Association or Academy guidelines), and shall bear a serial number. The certificate shall be signed by the chair of the Board or the executive secretary under the seal of the Board. The purpose of the registration certificate is to indicate to the general public legal compliance by the registrant with the Board rules and regulations for the period of time indicated on the certificate. The certificate shall contain the following statement: "This is to certify that (registrant's name) is engaged in the completion of his/her clinical experience and to further certify that (registrant's name) is under the supervision of (supervisor's name) a licensed (speech-language pathologist or audiologist) (license number)".

(4) The clinical experience must be completed at the expected completion date. The Fourth-Year Internship demonstrates an acquisition of a total of 1, 820 hours (that include hours obtained prior to the commencement of the Fourth-Year Internship). The Clinical Fellowship Year must be completed within a maximum of 36 consecutive months. The Clinical Fellowship Year may be completed in nine (9) consecutive months (30 hours per week or more) or fulfilled by part-time clinical experience not to exceed 36 consecutive months. The part-time Clinical Fellowship Year experience may be fulfilled as follows: 15 to 19 hours per week for 18 months, 20 to 24 hours per week for 15 months, or 25 to 29 hours per week for 12 months. Professional employment of any less than 15 hours per week will not fulfill any part of this requirement.

(5) Applicant has thirty (30) days to complete the application process following the supervised clinical experience.

870-X-4-.08 Mandatory Continuing Education

(1) Number of Hours.

(a) Each licensee shall annually complete and report at least twelve (12) hours of continuing education. A minimum of ten (10) shall be in the area of licensure – Content Area I; and a maximum of (2) may be in areas related to the profession of speech-language pathology or audiology – Content Area II, all which must contribute to professional competency of the licensee. A person holding licensure in both speech-language pathology and audiology shall annually collect and report at least twelve (12) hours of continuing education in speech-language pathology and at least twelve (12) hours in audiology for a total of 24 hours that are in compliance with the content area requirements. The Board shall not issue a renewal of a licensee's certificate of registration unless the licensee documents completion of twelve (12) hours of continuing education. The period for completion of the continuing education requirements shall be the period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of each renewal period.

(b) Any speech-language pathologist or audiologist whose license has been placed on inactive status must obtain at least twelve (12) continuing education hours for each year of inactive status (refer to 870-X-4-.05 for inactive status) prior to license reactivation. These twelve (12) hours must directly improve clinical skills in the area of licensure.

(c) Any speech-language pathologist or audiologist whose license has been revoked due to failure to renew must demonstrate that they have obtained at least twelve (12) continuing education hours for each year during which the license was in revoked status in addition to the continuing education hours that were required for renewal at the time the license was revoked prior to the granting of a new license.

(d) Individuals with dual licenses in both speech-language pathology and audiology shall complete at least twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education on an annual basis as a condition of licensure renewal. All twenty-four (24) required hours must meet the qualifying criteria specified. The required hours must be equally distributed between the two areas of speech-language pathology and audiology and must be completed in the twelve (12) month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of each renewal period. At the time of renewal, the licensee is required to specify the applicable area for each continuing education activity.

(e) A single continuing education activity shall not apply to both areas of dual licensure.

(2) Record Keeping, Recording and Monitoring.

(a) It is the responsibility of each speech-language pathologist or audiologist to maintain and compile accurate records relating to all continuing education courses or activities attended and completed. It shall be the responsibility of each speech-language pathologist and audiologist to maintain the above described documentation and information pertaining to each renewal period for a period of five (5) years and this information shall be submitted on line or on a form approved by and provided by the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology at the time of license renewal. The Board will not be responsible for maintaining the licensee's documentation of the continuing education hours.

(b) Each speech-language pathologist or audiologist must submit by December 31 (the time of annual license renewal) of each year evidence of satisfactory completion of the required hours of continuing education provided for in these rules. This information shall be submitted on a form provided by the Board or on line. Upon receipt, the Board shall have the authority to review this information. Each speech language pathologist and audiologist will be notified that either (1) the requirements of these rules have been fulfilled (by automatic renewal of their license) or (2) that there are deficiencies resulting in noncompliance with rules and regulations relating to license renewal. Licensees with deficiencies will be notified that their licenses may not be renewed until the noncompliance has been remedied in accordance with the rules relating to license renewal.

(c) Auditing. The Board requires documentation of continuing education for audit purposes. If a licensee fails to renew his/her license on time, this will result in an automatic audit. Each year 25% of all licensees will be randomly selected for audit of their continuing education hours. If it is determined that the speech-language pathologist or audiologist submitted false or misleading documentation to ABESPA, such person may be subject to penalties outlined in Code of Ala., 1975, §34-28A-26.

(d) Each licensee shall certify by signature, electronic or otherwise, on his/her licensure renewal form, under penalty of perjury, that she/he has completed the required twelve (12) hours of continuing education, and that the continuing education obtained meets the qualifying criteria specified.

(e) Any speech-language pathologist or audiologist who receives notification that the license will not be renewed because of noncompliance with these rules will have until January 31 to remedy noncompliance/deficiencies, without penalty.

(f) If noncompliance/deficiencies are not remedied by February 28, the speech-language pathologist or audiologist has an additional thirty (30) days to appeal, in writing, to the Board. Upon the receipt of the written appeal, the Board may request the submission of additional information or records, or may require the speech-language pathologist or audiologist to appear before the Board in conjunction with the appeal. All applicable late renewal penalties apply during the appeal period.

(3) Extension.

(a) Upon written request to the Board, by January 31, and upon demonstration of good and sufficient cause, the Board may grant an extension of time for the completion of the annual continuing education requirements as set forth herein. The Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist who seeks such an extension shall submit to the Board any documentation required by the Board to make a decision concerning the extension.

(b) If an extension is granted, the speech-language pathologist or audiologist must submit a plan to meet the requirements of these rules and regulations within thirty (30) days of notice that an extension has been granted.

(c) When an extension is approved by the Board, noncompliance/deficiencies must be remedied within 90 days of approval of the plan.

(d) All late renewal penalties apply until deficiencies are remedied.

(4) Criteria for Approval of Continuing Education.

(a) Continuing Education in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology shall consist of a series of planned learning experiences beyond the educational programs that have led to the degree that qualifies one for licensure. The licensee must participate in CEU activities of at least twelve (12) clock hours for each license period. A minimum of ten (10) of the required twelve (12) hours of continuing education must improve the professional competency of the licensee in the area of licensure – Content Area I. A maximum of two (2) of the required twelve (12) hours can be in an area related to the area of licensure but must improve the professional competency of the licensee – Content Area II. Dual licensees must complete twenty four (24) clock hours with a minimum of ten (10) hours in each discipline from Content Area I.

CONTENT AREA I:

- (1) Anatomic and physiologic bases for the normal development and use of speech, language and hearing and balance
- (2) Physical bases and processes of the production and perception of speech, language and hearing
- (3) Linguistic and psycho-linguistic variables related to normal development and use of speech, language and hearing
- (4) Technological, biomedical, engineering and instrumentation information which would enable expansion of knowledge in the basic communication processes
- (5) Various types of disorders of communication, their manifestations, classification and cause
- (6) Evaluation skills, including procedures, techniques, and instrumentation for assessment
- (7) Principles in habilitation and rehabilitation of communication disorders
- (8) Principles in diagnosis and rehabilitation of balance and vestibular disorders
- (9) Ethical Practices
- (10) Any other professional competency area that is relevant to treatment and diagnosis.

CONTENT AREA II: (Must relate to the professional competency of Speech-Language Pathology and/or Audiology)

- (1) Regulations and implementation of federal and/or state regulated programs
- (2) Service delivery models
- (3) Administration for supervision issues
- (4) Related areas which interface with delivery of speech-language pathology and audiology services

- (b) One (1) hour of continuing education credit shall be given for each clock hour of attendance.
- (c.) Acceptable continuing education activities include, but are not limited to:

- (1.) Workshops in the area of licensure approved by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) or the American Academy of Audiology (AAA);

- (2.) Academic coursework at a regionally accredited college or university in the area of licensure taken for credit or official audit (three semester hours or five quarter hours = 12 hours of continuing education);

- (3.) Distance learning provided the activity is approved by ABESPA (i.e. video conferences, telephone seminars and Internet courses sponsored by individual private practitioners, universities, schools, clinics, state agencies, hospitals, professional organizations, or related professional organizations);

- (4.) Workshops and in-services that are university, school, clinic, hospital or state agency sponsored provided they are approved by ABESPA;

- (5.) Publication of articles in a peer-reviewed journal for the year in which they are published (maximum of two (2) hours),

- (6.) Scientific or educational lectures to include presentations such as poster sessions given by the licensee; the presenting licensee may count 1 1/2 times the value of a workshop the first time it is presented to allow for preparation time (Example: a three hour workshop = 4 1/2 hours.) No credit will be allowed for subsequent presentations of the same workshop;

- (7.) Related areas of study pertain to the understanding of human behavior, both normal and abnormal, as well as services available from related professions which apply to the contemporary practice of speech-language pathology/audiology, e.g., theories of learning and behavior; services available from related professions that also deal with persons who have disorders of communication; information from these professions about the sensory, physical, emotional, social or intellectual states of child or adult; and other areas such as, clinical supervision, counseling and interviewing.

- (8.) Teaching at the college level in the area of communication disorders is not acceptable.

- (d.) Pre-approval is required for continuing education events that do not meet the requirements as listed under (c).

- (e.) The licensee shall request pre-approval (minimum of 30 days in advance) of self-study activities, or other appropriate activities with the exception of the Continuing Education Lending Library (CELL) holdings (limited to 1/2 of the required CEU's).

- (f.) During the first cycle of licensure renewal, the graduated scale for the collection of continuing education hours is based on the date an applicant receives his/her initial license. One clock hour CEU is required for every month a new licensee is licensed in the state.

- (g.) Pre-approval, by the Board, of a continuing education activity may be requested by the licensee.

- (h.) No continuing education credit shall be given for identical courses taken during the same year.

- (5) Documentation of continuing education compliance, as required during an auditing period, shall be evidenced by:

- (a) A Continuing Education Registry Form from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and/or the American Academy of Audiology (AAA), specifically listing the continuing education obtained by the licensee and the dates of obtainment; or

(b) A certificate of attendance provided by a sponsor which contains the date of program, the program title and presenter(s), program site, number of clock hours attended, name of sponsor and name of licensee; or

(c) A personal letter to the licensee which contains the date of the program, the program title and presenter(s), program site, number of clock hours attended, name of sponsor, name of licensee and is signed by a program official; or

(d) An official transcript, from a regionally accredited college or university, indicating successful completion of academic coursework in appropriate subject matter as specified of this rule.

(6) Any speech-language pathologist or audiologist who fails to comply with the provisions of these rules or who otherwise violates provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-28A-25 in connection with the requirements of these rules or relating to any information to be maintained or submitted to the Board as provided for in these rules shall be, upon notice of hearing, subject to the penalties outlined in the Code of Ala. 1975, Chapter 28A, §34-28A-26.

870-X-6-.03 (a) Principle of Ethics II

(a) Individuals shall engage in the provision of clinical services only when they hold the appropriate license, CFY registration, Fourth-Year Internship registration or assistant registration.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Concerning Changes to the Rules and Regulations of ABESPA

Date: September 8, 2006

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Place: 400 South Union Street
4th Floor Conference Room
Montgomery, AL

If you would like to attend the Public Hearing, please contact the ABESPA office by telephone at 334-269-1434 or email: abespa@mindspring.com to have your name placed on the agenda. If you are unable to attend the hearing, send any comments to ABESPA, P.O. Box 304760, Montgomery, AL 36130-4760.



*****IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****

Regarding Renewal

Several renewal forms were returned last renewal period requesting that all information on the renewal form be completed. A number of licensees did not fill in their social security number. After an audit completed by the Board of Examiners of Public Accounts, the following information was provided to ABESPA: according to **Code of Alabama 1975**, Section 30-3-194 "Any agency charged with the administration of any law concerning the issuance of renewal of a license, certificate, permit,...to engage in a profession, occupation, ...shall require all applicants issuance or renewal of the license, certificate, permit, or other authorization to provide the applicant's Social Security number...".

The above requirements are mandated by the federal law "The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996"(P.L. 104-193).

Please remember that if the social security number is not provided on the renewal form, the form will be returned requesting this information which may hold up the renewal process.

ABESPA will again this year have Online Renewal. If you choose not to renew online or if you don't have internet access, please call our office to request a printed renewal form.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Shemicka Williams joined our staff on May 24, 2006. Shemicka's work hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. to help you with your questions.
