MISSION STATEMENT: We exist because the legislature declared that “in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare, to protect the public from incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons, and from unprofessional conduct by speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech-language pathology assistants, it is necessary to provide regulatory authority over persons offering speech-language pathology and audiology services to the public.”

LBESPA ANNOUNCES
17TH ANNUAL CE WORKSHOP

In keeping with its commitment to provide quality continuing education opportunities for licensees, LBESPA once again will hold a CE workshop that will provide attendees with up to six hours of continuing education. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge. Email blasts with a “Save the Date” announcement have been sent, and you should have received a copy of the complete program and registration form by the time this publication goes to press.

The morning session from 8:30-11:45 is tailored for both speech-language pathologists and audiologists and features Lee Reeves, DVM. Dr. Reeves brings a unique perspective to the program in that he has been both a consumer of our services and a public member on more than one regulatory board. He will not only provide information about consumer service on a regulatory board but will also discuss how our professions are viewed by those to whom we provide services.

The luncheon speaker, Dr. Larry Molt, will focus on intergenerational ethics. In a discussion of four generations, Dr. Molt will provide information relative to those generations and how best for employers, supervisors, and colleagues to interact with each of the generations. The presentation will also include a perspective on ethics as viewed by each generation.

Afternoon sessions will follow the same format utilized at past conferences and will be presented as round tables that are offered twice. The first round tables will be offered from 1:15-2:15, and the second round table will be presented from 2:30-3:30 PM. The registration form will request that attendees select two of the round table presentations.

Continued On Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:
A FIFTEEN YEAR RETROSPECTIVE OF USING SUPPORT PERSONNEL
TOP 10 REQUESTED VIDEOS • RULES, REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES
BOARD MEETING DATES • DISCIPLINARY ACTION • LAPSED LICENSE LIST
LBESPA LOOKS AHEAD TO LAW REVISION • WELCOME NEW LICENSEES
LICENSE RENEWAL • LBESPA 17TH ANNUAL CE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION
CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS: ARE THEY RELATED OR IN THE AREA?
UPDATE ON BOARD VACANCIES • BEHAVIOR ANALYST COMMISSION
LBESPA PROVIDES LICENSURE INFORMATION FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS
A FIFTEEN YEAR RETROSPECTIVE OF USING SUPPORT PERSONNEL - Kerri Phillips, SLP.D., CCC-SLP

In November 2011, the presentation, “Successful Utilization of Support Personnel: A Fifteen Year Retrospective” was made at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association by Stephen Harris, Kerriilyn Phillips, Theresa Rodgers, and Glenn Waguespack. This article will provide a synopsis of that presentation.

In 1995, LBESPA began the process of revising the practice act for speech-language pathologists (SLP) and audiologists. One of the primary reasons for the revision was to expand and update the scope of practice. During this time, a shortage of SLPs prompted the discussion on how to regulate support personnel due to the educational and healthcare issues at that time. While this was considered to be a need by the professionals within the state, there was cause for concern. The greatest concerns voiced by professionals at that time was fear of losing jobs, a lowering of standards, and the availability of personnel to supervise support personnel.

In 2011, two surveys were distributed via SurveyMonkey one to fully licensed SLPs and another to provisional or assistant SLPs. The data obtained was then compared to data collected in 1999 regarding the use of support personnel. The 2011 data indicates that 78% of SLP assistants primarily work in school systems and have been practicing anywhere from 2 to 15 years as an assistant.

In addressing the opposition to the use of personnel, the data indicates that many of the initial objections have not been issues. For example, a fear of losing jobs for the master level practitioner has not been supported. In 1999, there were 2,408 licensed SLPs in Louisiana in comparison to 3,074 SLPs. Interestingly, in 1999 there were 213 licensed SLP assistants and in 2011 there were 271.

In comparing data from the 1996 survey to the 2011 survey, agreement remained that universities, both academically and clinically, were preparing students for jobs as SLP assistants. Licensed assistants (53%) reported that their future plans were to enroll in a graduate level training program. The level of competency the SLP assistant possessed was found to meet the needs of clients by 78% of the respondents. Therefore, the opinion that a lowering of the standards would occur is not supported.

One of the biggest concerns was the availability of personnel to supervise assistants. Data from 2011 indicated that this has not been an issue for SLP supervisors as 26% reported that it was very easy to schedule the required supervision for the assistant.

In reviewing data from 15 years ago, it appears that Louisiana’s model on how to use support personnel has been successful. The regulation of support personnel has allowed harmonious relationships with the State Department of Education by resolving a significant critical shortage of personnel. By maintaining control of the professional standards, the use of support personnel has helped to eliminate encroachment by maintaining a standard of care within the profession. Lastly, there has been the establishment of a career ladder within speech-language pathology.

While other states are wrestling with the issue of support personnel and how to regulate them, Louisiana has continued to be at the forefront in the regulation of support personnel by creating a model that has not only alleviated the personnel shortage in the state, but has also provided assurance that consumers of speech-language pathology services will be protected.
Continued From Cover Article:

LBESPA ANNOUNCES 17TH ANNUAL CE WORKSHOP

Among the round tables will be an audiology presentation by Martin Audiffred entitled “Assistive Technology: Is it Really Assistive”, and the traditional Grand Rounds in Audiology by Tammy Crabtree that will focus on the topic of Cochlear Implants. Grand Rounds in Speech-Language Pathology will cover the topic of traumatic brain injury and will be facilitated by Verlencia Millet and Laura Roach. Other round tables and their presenters include “Cognition vs. Language: A Chicken and Egg Scenario” by Donna Fitzgerald, “Autism in School-Aged Children” with Lillian Stiegler, and “Implementing Interventions Consistent with CCSS” by Janet Norris.

Please plan to join your colleagues for an outstanding education program and earn six hours of continuing education. Lunch is included in the registration. Visit the LBESPA web site at www.lb espa.org for further information and for complete biographical information on the presenters.

Workshop Registration on Page 8

Top 10 Requested Videos (LBESPA)

1. Video 09- Orofacial Myology: Beyond Tongue Thrust
4. Video 96-Assessment and Treatment of Narrative Skills: What’s the Story
6. Video 104- Supporting the Communication of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
7. Video 113- Everyday Routines in Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation
9. Video 169- HIPPA: Privacy Regulations
10. Video 177- Assessment of Bilingual Learners-Language Difference or Disorder?

Rules, Regulations & Procedures

The amendment to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures will become rule effective April 20, 2013. The Rules will be available at www.lb espa.org after April 20 and all licensees are encouraged to download a current copy for review and information.
BOARD MEETING DATES:

All meetings are scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. to be held at the board office in Baton Rouge unless otherwise noted. All meetings are open to the public. Meeting Minutes are available upon written request.

February 11, 2013 - The license of Monica Waasdorp, L-SLP#2607 was disciplined through a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing while her license was suspended through a Consent Agreement and Order that was signed on June 5, 2008.

August 6, 2011 – The license of Caroline Geiger, Provisional SLP Assistant#6484 was issued through a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing without a license. Caroline Geiger is currently fully licensed.

October 28, 2011 – The license of Andrea Branch-Mathis, SLP Assistant#5553 was disciplined through a Consent Agreement and Order for violating supervision requirements.

December 2, 2011 – The license of Warren Brown, Provisional SLP#6407 was disciplined through a Consent Agreement and Order for exceeding his scope of practice while licensed as a SLP Assistant and for violating supervision requirements. Warren Brown is currently fully licensed.

December 2, 2011 – The license of Anne-Marie Keesler, L-SLP#4815 was re-issued through a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing with a lapsed license.

August 3, 2012 - The license of Courtney Stewart, L-AUD/Hearing Aid Dispensing#5652 was disciplined through a Consent Agreement and Order for violations relative to billing and record keeping.

August 3, 2012 – The license of Brandy Townsend, L-SLP#2355 was re-issued through a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing with a lapsed license.

February 22, 2013 – The license of Amy Ballard, L-SLP#5759 was re-issued through a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing with a lapsed license.

February 22, 2013 – The license of Jennifer Hootsell, Provisional SLP#6792 was issued through a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing without a license.

February 22, 2013 – The license of Monique Maraldo, L-SLP#3149 was re-issued through a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing with a lapsed license.

A copy of disciplinary orders effective after February 16, 2007 can be obtained from the board’s website www.lbespa.org.
### LAPSED License List

Based on information available in our office as of November 1, 2012, the following licensees are listed for non-renewal of licensure.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Location</th>
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When the licensure law for speech-language pathology and audiology was last revised in 1995, sweeping changes were included to align the professions with the expanded scope of practice. Among the major changes were provisions to allow audiologists to dispense hearing aids under the umbrella of the audiology license and provisions to license speech-language pathology assistants. Also included were changes to the disciplinary process, the ability to levy fines for violations, and the inclusion of continuing education as a condition for licensure renewal.

Since 1995 the Rules and Regulations have been revised to maintain currency with the scope of practice and to expand on the initial version of the rules promulgated in conjunction with the passage of the law. Of late those changes have included updated coursework requirements, development of a Code of Ethics for SLP Assistants, provisions to require experience for supervisors, revision of language related to the passing of the Praxis to conform to changes from Educational Testing Service, provisions for emergency preparedness, and provisions to expedite licensure for military personnel or spouses of military personnel. In spite of these changes to the Rules and Regulations, the language in the law itself is in need of updating to reflect changes in the scope of practice as well as changes in the educational and clinical practicum requirements. Additionally, there are sections of the law that present a potential conflict with the language in the Rules and Regulations.

Among the needed changes are the inclusion of a doctoral degree in audiology as the minimum requirement for licensure, along with a corresponding licensure renewal. There are a number of potential additions that require further study before they can be included in the revisions to the law. One is the addition of audiology support personnel and the educational and clinical practicum requirements that accompany audiology assistant regulation. Unlike guidelines for speech-language pathology support personnel, individuals cannot generally obtain a Bachelor’s degree in audiology nor can they obtain sufficient practicum hours in audiology to qualify for licensure. Related to audiology is the issue of restrictions on the sale of internet hearing aids. Licensure boards across the country have had difficulty with defining and implementing this regulation, and it will require careful study before it can be included.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
Welcome New Licensees  
JANUARY 7, 2011- MARCH 4, 2013

License Renewal

License renewal will begin on April 15th. The Board is again offering a waiver of the $3.00 credit card processing fee for timely online renewals, which are those processed between April 15th and June 30th, to encourage individuals to renew online. The Board’s online renewal system is secure and it makes renewing online quick and simple. New license cards are received within one (1) week with online renewals.

Those that choose to renew by mail, as well as those that are required to renew by mail, should download the renewal application from the Board’s website. The credit card processing fee will be applicable to renewal applications manually processed. Licensees renewing by mail should allow six (6) weeks for processing.

Those that require supervision to maintain their license and those that are randomly selected for an audit of their continuing education are not eligible to renew online. Licensees selected for an audit will be notified by a certified letter with instructions for responding to the audit.

Individuals who do not have internet access should contact the Board office to request that renewal forms be mailed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
Afternoon Round Table Sessions:
Availability is determined on a first come, first serve basis. Sessions may not be changed on the day of workshop. Please place a number by each roundtable session. 1 indicates a workshop that you are most interested in attending, with 6 being the least interested.

A  Assistive Technology  
B  Grand Rounds in SLP: TBI  
C  Cognition VS Language: A Chicken Egg Scenario  
D  Autism with School-Aged Children  
E  Grand Rounds in Audiology: Cochlear Implants  
F  Implementing Interventions Consistent with CCSS

NOTE: Registration Fee is non-refundable
Pre-Registration - $85 received by April 1, 2013  
Late / Onsite Registration - $150.00 received on/after April 2, 2013
This course is PENDING APPROVAL for .6 CEUS (Intermediate level; Professional area) Registration: 8:00 a.m.

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT
TO:  
LBESPA  
18550 Highland Road, Ste B  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Name: ________________________________
Daytime Phone #: (___)________________________
Address: ________________________________
City: ________________________________  
State: ___________  Zip: ___________

LBESPA LOOKS AHEAD TO LAW REVISION
CONTINUED from PAGE 6

In 1995 LBESPA attempted to include cerumen management, but this was quickly removed at the request of the medical lobbyist. LBESPA plans to obtain information from practicing otolaryngologists in the state before including this topic in the revised law.

Revisions to a practice act should not be taken lightly, and LBESPA plans to conduct a full-scale study prior to proposing any changes that would open the practice act. It is necessary to have the support of speech-language pathology and audiology professionals across the state, as well as the support of professional organizations like the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association (LSHA) and Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists in Louisiana Schools (SPALS). The proposed date for introduction of changes to the law is the Spring of 2014, and licensees will be provided with many opportunities for comment and input prior to that date. This is the first of many articles related to the proposal, and LBESPA requests your input as the Board undertakes this project. Although the proposed changes in this correspondence are tentative, please send your comments regarding them to the board office or to me at audmath1@aol.com. In addition, please include any topics and/or changes that you might like to have considered.

Louisiana is fortunate to have had licensure in place since 1972. In 1978 the law was revised to include regulation in all settings, an accomplishment that many licensure boards across the country have yet to achieve. The proposed changes are not to reduce standards or make licensure more difficult, but rather to add currency to the law as the professions expand and services become more available to the consumers we serve. Thank you for your support of the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. We look forward to hearing from you.

Glenn Waguespack  
LBESPA Chair
Welcome New Licensees— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
JANUARY 7, 2011- MARCH 4, 2013

JOHNSON, SHASA
JOHNSON, TORIE
JOHNSTON, MORGAN
JONES, KATHLEEN
JUDICE, STEPHANIE
KAHL, LAUREL
KAZUICHTIS, ALISA
KESLER, ANNE-MARIE
KELLERHALS, BROOKE
KELLY, CHRISTINE
KELLY, KELYSIA
KELPE, MORGAN
KINCHEN, HILLARY
KIRBY, KELLY
KLIBERT, JENNA
KNAPP, RANDEE'
KNIGHT, CRYSTAL
KNIGHT, MARY
KROBOK, JONI
KOCHERGIN, IRINA
KOEHLY, VICKIE
KRUMMEL, VICTORIA
KUHL, LISA
LABARRE, MALLORY
LAFLERE, SARA
LAGARDE, PAULA
LAIRD, LAUREN
LAJAUNIE, ANNIE
LAMBERT, CANDACE
LAMBERT, GINGER
LANDY, JENNIFER
LANDY, LAUREN
LANTRIP, LAYNE
LAPEROUZE, ELIZABETH
LEAFBLAD, STEFANIE
LEBLANC, KAYLA
LEBLANC, LAURA
LEBOUEF, LEXIE
LEE, CHARLOTTE
LEE, RYAN
LEGERE, LEAH
LEONARD, MEGAN
LINDSEY, COURTNE
LINGEFELT, SARAH
LINN, AMBER
LIRETTE, JACKIE
LIRETTE, SHANNON
LOISEL, CLAIRE
LOPER, PAMELA
LUCAK, TAMIA
LUDDEAU, ERIN
LUERSEN, LAURIE
LYLES, ALLICE
MABRY, HOLLY
MAJESTY, SHANA
MAJOR, ANNA
MALAKI, KRISTEN
MALONEY, KELLY
MANGRUM, LINNAYA
MANN, STEPHANIE
MARALDO, MONIQUE
MARLIN, TAMMY
MARSHALL, MEOSHA
MARSHALL, TAMMI
MARTIN, EMILY
MARTIN, LEAH
MARTIN, RUTH
MATHERNE, LINDSEY
MAXWELL, JAMIE
MAY, SHANNON
MCBRIDE, LACEY
MCCONNEL, JULIE
MCOTTER, MALLORY
MCCOY, KELLY
MCGAR, SAMANTHA
MCINTOSH, HEATHER
MCKENNA, LISA
MCKENZIE, LESLIE
MCEMORE, EMILY
MCMURRAY, AMANDA
MCEWEN, ELIZABETH
MEAUX, AIMEE
MECHE, ANN
MEDINE, KATHRYN
MELERINE, KASIE
MELLION, NADRA
MEYER, LINDSAY
MICHELS, HEIDI
MICKELSON, ASHLEY
MILLER, KATHY
MILLER, MITZI
MILLET, KELLY
MITCHELL, JANICE
MONTGUT, III, EMILE
MOORE, BRANDI
MOORE, CHARLES
MOORE, HOLLY
MOORE, MEG
MORRILL, DANIELLE
MULLEN, BRANDI
NATIONS, JESSICA
NEGRON, ERIN
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NICHOLLS, HEATHER
NOBLE, LORI
NORMAND, LAUREN
NORMAND, RACHEL
NORSWORTHY, KRISTEN
OAKES, MARIA
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OURSOS, VALERIE
OWEN, PLEASANCE
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PARRAT, EMILY
PARKS, ANDREA
PAYNE, ERICA
PEARCE, MEGAN
PEBLER, VALERIE
PENA, AMY
PENTES, REBECCA
PERGOLO, SUZANNE
PERRY, BLAIRE
PERRY, HOLLEY
PERRYMAN, ALICIA
PETZET, JENNIFER
PHAM, JENNIFER
PICCOLO, FRANCIS
PICKERING, REBECCA
PIERCE, LESLIE
PINAC, ANDREA
PITRE, HANNAH
PITTMAN, DANA
PLACE, RACHEL
POCHE', JORDAN
POOL, KERISTIN
PORTER, WHITNEY
PREJEAN, NAOMI
PRIEST, KELLY
PRINCE, KATHERINE
PUDHOMME, SARAH
PRUNA, CLAUDIA
PURIFOY, SHARON
PYFROM, MARY
RABALIAS, NATALIE
RABY, BRITTNEY
RACHAL, AMELIA
RADO, MARYLENE
RAZIANO, LISA
READ, CATHERINE
REALUX, ANGEL
REED, APRIL
REESE, MAEGAN
REICH, WHITNEY
REINE, TRACY
REMONDET, HEIDI
RENFRO, KELLY
REPP, REBECCA
REUTER, MEREDITH
RHON, MARY
RICHARDS, MONICA
RICHARDSON, JESSICA
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RIGAL, TIFFANY
RIPPETOE, TRACY
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ROBERTS, MOLLY
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ROGERS, MELISSA
ROSSON, EMILY
ROY, LINDSEY
ROY, TARA
RUFFIN, SHARLENE
RUPPENICKER, EVA
RUSSEL, LEAH
RYAN, ERICA
RYAN, SHEENA
SABIR, VANESSA
SAGER, JASON
SALOOM, BRIDGET
SALTER, LINDSAY
SANCHEZ, ELISA
SAVAGE, HILLARY
SCHAFFER, ELIZABETH
SCHAFFLER, MARGO
SCHAMBAUGH, HEATHER
SCHETZEN, LEA
SCHMIDT, VIRGINIA
SCIANNI, EMILIE
SCOTT, MICHELLE
SCRAM, JEANETTE
SEAL, HEATHER
SERIO, JENNIFER
SEYMOUR, HEATHER
SHERRILL, MARTHA
SHERVILLE, RACHEL
SHOWS, KASEY
SIMMONS-BUQUET, LE'KAJA
SIMS, MELISSA
SINGH, LEAH
SLAUGHTER, LINDSEY
SMITH, BOBBI
SMITH, HOLLY
SMITH, JESSICA
SMITH, TARA
SMITH, VIRGINIA
SOUTHER, RENEE
SPANGLER, JOURDAN
STANER, MEGHAN
STELLY, HANNAH
STEVENS, DEBORAH
STEVENS, KRISTEN
STEWART, ARIANA
STORM, JESSICA
STOUTE, KAILE
STUTZENBECKER, LISA
SWISHER, TANIA
TALBERT, JENA
TAYLOR, HOPE
TEMPLIN, MEGAN
TERRELL, MARY
THAMES, SARAH
THIBODEAUX, TERESA
THOMAS, IDA
THOMAS, TANESHA
TIRCUIT, LARA
TOTARO, MARY
TRAHAN, ALISA
TRAHANT, MEGAN
TRAMONTANA, GEORGE
TRIPLETT, MEAGHAN
TROQUILLI, BETHANY
TROXCLAIR, DENISE
TUCKER, FAYE
TULBERT, COURTNEY
TUREAU, CARESS
UNDERWOOD, STACY
UPTON, AMY
VADELL, VERONICA
VARNADO, KIMBERLY
VENTRESS, RAMONA

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Do you obtain all of the continuing education (CE) clock hours required for licensure renewal through attendance at a professional conference such as LSHA, SPALS, AAA, or ASHA? Well, so do many other licensees. Licensees often assume that since their ten clock hours were completed at a conference hosted by a speech-language pathology and/or audiology association, that all of the CE hours are inevitably in the area of licensure. However, this is not so.

Even when attending highly-esteemed dynamic conferences, not every session will necessarily address the provision of clinical services. When completing the continuing education summary form (or on-line continuing education section) at the time of licensure renewal, licensees must be prepared to critically evaluate and categorize each conference session, workshop, distance learning course, employer-sponsored training, or other continuing education activity.

The session “Reflective Practice for Self-Awareness & Emotional Balance in Professional Relationships” was presented by a dually credentialed speech-language pathologist and mental health counselor at the previous ASHA convention. Although this presentation targeted improving professional relationships as a speech-language pathologist, it did not specifically target the provision of clinical services. Therefore, this is an example of continuing education that is “related” rather than “in the area” (of licensure).

“Managing Dysphagia in the Schools: Identification & Treatment” was another session that was presented at the previous ASHA convention. This session’s content directly addressed practical methods for identifying students who have swallowing and feeding difficulty, generating a swallowing and feeding plan, training school personnel, and designing therapeutic intervention. Therefore, this is an example of continuing education that is “in the area.”

LBESPA Rule 123.B specifies “Of the 10 hours, five shall be in the area of licensure (practice of audiology or speech-language pathology), and five may be in areas related to the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology.” To simplify, a licensee may obtain all ten required hours in the area of licensure, but only five hours of training in related areas may be credited toward the ten required clock hours of continuing education. Before submitting the CE Summary Form to the Board or completing the CE section of the on-line renewal form, it is vital that each licensee evaluate the topic and content relative to clock hours earned.

CE hours should be obtained during the licensing period which is July 1st to June 30th.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the board members or staff.

Welcome New Licensees-
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

JANUARY 7, 2011- MARCH 4, 2013

VENTURA, JANE
VERDIN, KATIE
VICKNAIR, LINDSEY
VIDRINE, BRITTANY
VIEIRA, CANDACE
VILLARRUBIA, ANGELLE
VINING, MEGAN
VOISSELLE, MAGEN
VOORHIES, REBECCA
WAILES, BRANDI
WALKER, MOLLIE
WALLACE, LINDSEY
WARD, KRISTIN
WARNER, KATHERINE
WARREN, BRITTANY
WASCOM, ANGELA
WASHINGTON, KAMERA
WATSON, ERINN
WEATHERSPOON, LATASHA
WEBBER, JESSICA
WELCH, JULIE
WELCH, SAMANTHA

WELLS, ASHLEY
WEST, MARYLYN
WHITE, KATHERINE
WHITE, WENDY
WHITFIELD, AMBER
WHITMAN, ANNIE
WHITTINGTON, ALICIA
WIGGINS, AMY
WILLIAMS, JAMI
WILLIE, BRITTANY
WILSON, SHABA
WISEMAN, KATE
WITCHER, KIMBERLY
WOOD, LISA
WOODALL, GINGER
WOODS, ERIN
WRIGHT, BRITTNEY
WRIGHT, CORI
ZAUNBRECHER, KALA
ZERINGUE, CHRISTIE
ZERINGUE, KRISTIE

Update on Board Vacancies

The call for nominations for three board member positions yielded two responses by the February 15 deadline. The responses included one qualified candidate for the Audiology position, which was available beginning January 14, and one qualified candidate for the Audiology or Speech-Language Pathology position that is available beginning June 21. Because there is only one qualified applicant for each position, there is no reason to send a ballot. The names of the qualified candidates will be submitted to the governor for appointment. LSHA received no response to the call for the public member position. Because this position does not become vacant until December, another call for nominations will be submitted later this year.
During the regular session of the 2012 Legislative session, Senate Resolutions Nos. 110, 142 and 159 were passed. These resolutions stated that a commission of professionals, of which a representative from the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech Pathologists and Audiologists was a required member, was to study the licensure and regulation of behavior analysts and to generate a report with a basic framework for that licensure and regulation. The commission met regularly from July, 2012 to February, 2013. A report was submitted to the Senate on February 1, 2013 which provided a detailed outline of the many discussions and informal work of subcommittees and individuals.

The findings of the commission revealed that all members involved agreed that the practice of behavior analysis should require licensing and regulation. A major point discussed and outlined in the report was the qualifications for licensure of any individual practicing behavior analysis or using the title “Licensed Behavior Analyst” or “Behavior Analyst”, assistant behavior analysts and behavior analyst direct contact/line technicians. Consideration of exemptions to the licensure criteria provided engaging discourse. The exemptions included were undergraduate/graduate/doctoral students, non-human behavior analyst, training/experience exemption, behavior analyst line technician and family member exemption, visiting behavior analyst academic professional exemption, other professionals and psychologist. The commission members unanimously agreed that the regulatory authority should have the ability to determine the processes for disciplinary guidelines, licensure appeals, complaints and investigations, license renewals, and license reinstatement. Lengthy discussions followed by presentations from professional groups, resulted in the commission’s recommendation of a merged board (Behavior Analyst with another board) and the licensing authority to be the Louisiana Professional Counselors Board. Although LBESPA participated in discussions relative to licensing of behavioral analysts, LBESPA withheld endorsement of this licensure pending the determination of a comprehensive scope of practice for behavioral analysts. Because behavioral analysts and speech-language pathologists often provide similar services, LBESPA was reluctant to endorse any potential encroachment on the practice of speech-language pathology without first evaluating the proposed scope of practice, academic training, and practicum requirements. LBESPA will continue to monitor and provide input to the group on an as needed and as requested basis.

As the School Speech-Language Pathologist on LBESPA, I gladly accepted the appointment to the commission and greatly enjoyed the ability to network and connect with other professionals. Being involved in the exciting and exhausting process of establishing licensure and regulation of professionals has been such an awakening experience. According to the commission recommendations, any individual who uses the principles of behavior analysis, (as many Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists do) will still be able to do so without obtaining a license as a Behavior Analyst. If in the scope of your services you represent yourself as a Behavior Analyst, you will need to apply for this license once the legislature makes this a State law.

For a number of years members of the licensure board have been available to speak with students in training programs across the state. A presentation entitled “How to Transition from School to Work” was initially developed by Theresa Rodgers and has been modified as the rules have changed. In addition to the power point presentation, students are provided with applications for licensure and all other information necessary to ensure that they understand the difference between licensure and certification, as well as to develop an understanding of the need to apply for licensure before beginning work in Louisiana. University training programs may request that a board member present the licensure information by contacting the board office.