



Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

MONTANA BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS & AUDIOLOGISTS

MONTANA BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS & AUDIOLOGISTS
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Fall 2016 Edition

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

- Lucy Hart Paulson – Chair, SLP Member**
Missoula, MT – Term Ends 12/31/16
- Rich Turner – Vice Chair, Public Member**
Big Timber, MT – Term Ends 12/31/16
- Sharon Dinstel – SLP Member**
Colstrip, MT – Term Ends 12/31/16
- Tina Berg – AuD Member**
Lewistown, MT – Term Ends 12/31/17
- Leah Jacobsen – AuD Member**
Great Falls, MT – Term Ends 12/31/17

DEPARTMENT STAFF

- Lucy Richards** – Executive Officer
- Darcee Moe** – Board Counsel
- Kevin Maki** – Department Counsel
- Eleanor Tinsley** – Compliance Officer

BOARD MEETING DATES

- September 21, 2016 – HELENA (last meeting)**
- December 7, 2016 – HELENA (next meeting)**

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Executive Officer Report

By Lucy Richards, Executive Officer

Greetings everyone!

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Montana Board of Speech-Language-Pathologists and Audiologists. As the current executive officer for the board, I hope you find this newsletter informative and direct. It will be e-mailed to all licensees with current e-mail addresses and posted to the board's website. The board is planning to publish these newsletters on a quarterly basis. Our goal is to help keep you, the licensees, up-to-date on board activities and other relevant information. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Board Member Position Open – Apply ASAP

Sharon Dinstel is retiring from the board on December 31. If you are a licensed speech-language pathologist interested in serving on the board, go to the [Governor's Office appointment website](#) for more information and download the application.

Current Licensee Numbers (as of 10/4/16)

- 68 Audiologists
- 455 Speech-Language Pathologists
- 8 Speech-Language Pathologists/Audiologists (dual)

2017 Legislative Session Update

- The board is not proposing any legislation for the 2017 Session.
- At its December 7 meeting the board will review any bill proposals put forward by other parties which relate to its regulatory authority. The board will then determine whether or not it would like to take a position on those bills.
- As of the date of this newsletter, the board has not taken a position on any proposed legislation.

Important Dates and Information

- **October 31, 2016** – annual [aide/assistant registration](#) ends. All licensees who supervise aides must register them annually.
- **December 2, 2016** – license renewal opens for speech-language pathologists and audiologists (see article below).
- **March 20, 2017** – end of grace period for speech-language pathologist and audiologist license renewals (late fees apply).





Board Regulations & How They Can Change

By Lucy Richards, Executive Officer

Board laws and regulations fall into three main categories: statutes, rules, and policies. To use an analogy, statutes are a house's foundation and framework; rules are the plumbing, electric, walls, and floors; and policies are the furniture and appliances.

Statutes or Montana Code Annotated (MCA) are the board's overarching laws governing speech-language pathology and audiology. MCA can only be enacted by the Legislature (i.e. every other year unless there is a special session). Ideas for bills are put forward by many different parties including boards, state agencies, constituents, and the Legislature itself. For more information on the legislative process, visit the [Legislature's website](#).

MCA gives the board authority to engage in rulemaking. The Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM or rules) cannot contradict or expand statute. Their purpose is to implement and interpret MCA. The board can initiate changes to its ARM at any time. However, rulemaking is a formal statutory process and the board cannot implement a change by simple vote. The board must file notice of any proposed changes with the [Secretary of State's Office](#). Interested parties are given the opportunity to offer comments prior to final adoption. The [rulemaking process](#) typically takes three to six months to complete once the board files its initial proposal with the Secretary of State.

Finally, policies are guiding principles or statements to carry out board business within the context of MCA and ARM. Policy cannot contradict or supersede MCA or ARM. Changes to policy can be enacted immediately upon a vote by the board. Go to [www.slpaud.mt.gov](#) and click on the "Regulations" tab for more information on the laws and regulations of the board.

Annual Renewal for Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists

By Traci Collett, Licensing Bureau Chief, and Lucy Richards, Executive Officer

The 2017 renewal period for speech-language pathologists and audiologists opens on December 2, 2016, and runs through February 1, 2017. Don't wait until the last minute to renew. A few tips to help you navigate the renewal process follow.

How to Renew

- Renew online at <https://ebiz.mt.gov/pol/>. The online system is available 24/7 (excluding maintenance and technical issues). You can print your license immediately after you renew online. If you choose not to renew online there is PDF form available for download at www.slpaud.mt.gov. Click on the "Forms" tab and then select "Renewal Forms".
- For questions regarding your username and password when renewing online, click on "I've forgotten my password link" on the renewal website. You may also request renewal assistance by emailing dlibsdr renewal@mt.gov.
- Make sure your e-mail, preferred mailing address, and other contact information is up-to-date. You can update your e-mail by clicking on the "Forms" tab and selecting "Address Change" in the sidebar.

Late Renewals, Lapsed & Expired Licenses, and Continuing Education

- Late renewal for lapsed licenses not renewed by February 1, 2017 ends on March 20, 2017. Late fees are 100% the renewal fee—no exceptions.
- Licenses not renewed by March 20, 2017, automatically expire. An expired license may be reactivated within two years of the renewal date by submitting renewal information and associated fees. However, any licensee who has not renewed by March 20, 2017, and continues to practice is practicing without a license.
- All required continuing education (CE) must be completed prior to renewing your license. Licensees who supervise aides must also attest—as part of their renewal—that their aides' CE requirements have been met. CE requirements are found at [ARM 24.222.2102](#).

Still Have Questions?

- For questions regarding the renewal process itself contact the Licensing Bureau at UnitA@mt.gov or 406-444-6880.
- For general questions not related to the renewal process contact the board office at www.slpaud.mt.gov or 406-841-2300.





Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

It has been a busy summer and fall for the staff of the Business Standards Division. Staff have been busy all year, and with a significant increase in new applications over calendar year 2015, we have not seen some of the usual lulls in licensing activity.

We have made tremendous progress on several Accela projects and are also in the process of rolling out conversions of licensing board websites. This conversion will allow BSD staff to make routine changes to the website in lieu of submitting requests to IT programmers. The end result is expected to be more timely and frequent updates to our board websites.

Additionally, coordination of legislation and board budgets is taking place in anticipation of the 2017 Montana Legislative Session. Executive officers are working with the boards to ensure any necessary budget inputs have been received, and requests for legislation and/or permission to testify are being processed.

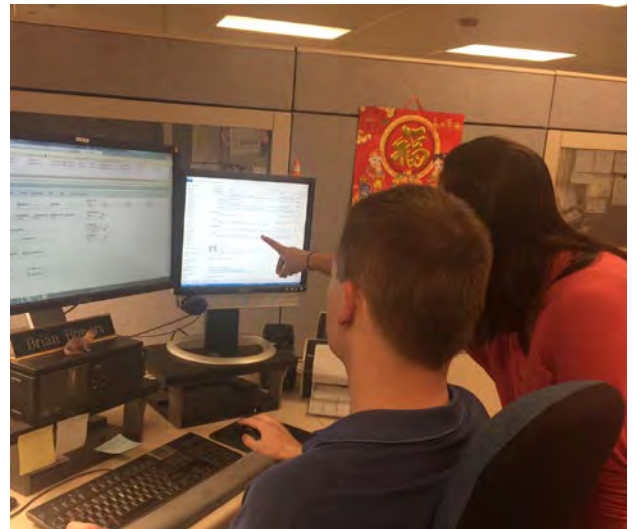
As always, thank you for the important work you do, and please don't hesitate to contact me with question and/or concerns. I look forward to seeing you at your next board meeting!

Todd Younkin
Business Standards Division Administrator

Recent Board Activities

By Lucy Richards, Executive Officer

- The board has resumed regular meetings after a period of inactivity. So far it has met three times in 2016.
- The board has updated the process for the annual aide/assistant registration. The new registration form clarifies that aides are registered (not licensed) and supervised by a licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist.
- The board has begun a comprehensive review of its administrative rules: June 22 – reviewed telepractice rules; September 21 – reviewed rules pertaining directly to the initial licensing process; and December 7 – will continue looking at licensing rules and begin to review aide/assistant and continuing education rules. This is only the start of the review process. The review and any potential rulemaking will extend forward into Summer 2017.
- Between July 2015 and August 2016 the board issued 7 new audiologist licenses and 65 new speech-language pathologist licenses. Look for a more in-depth article on the board's licensing history in the Winter 2017 newsletter.



Department of Labor and Industry staff Brian Bowers and Mary Charlton discuss license applications.

What's with the Licensing Jurisprudence Exam?

By Lucy Richards, Executive Officer

Applicants for Montana speech-language pathology and/or audiology licenses must pass two examinations prior to licensure. The national PRAXIS exam measures professional subject matter knowledge. The board-written, open book jurisprudence exam specifically tests on Montana statute and rule (MCA and ARM).

The intent of a licensing jurisprudence exam is to ensure that potential licensees understand state-specific requirements for practice, not just national and professional requirements. Over the past six months the board has been receiving requests to look at revising its jurisprudence exam. Notably, the last major review and revision was over ten years ago.

At its September 21, 2016, meeting the board went into closed session and completed a revision of the exam. In addition to revised questions, the exam includes clearer instructions which list: types of questions; requirements for passing; and directions on where to find the MCA and ARM on which the test is based.

On October 11, 2016, the revised jurisprudence exam went live on both the online and PDF applications.

For more information, contact Lucy Richards at 406-841-2394 or dlibsdsip@mt.gov.