

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

FY17 Performance Report

Oklahoma Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The Oklahoma Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is the only agency in the state regulating health care services in the area of communicative disorders of the speech, language and hearing mechanisms. The mission of the Oklahoma Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is to regulate the practices of speech-language pathology and audiology in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and to support practitioners in their professional endeavors.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Amy Hall, Executive Secretary
Phone: 405-524-4955
Fax: 405-524-4985
E-mail: amy.hall@obespa.ok.gov

GOVERNANCE:

The agency is governed by five board members. The board members are residents of the state and appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The board members consist of three licensed speech-language pathologists or audiologists, provided that at least one of the three shall be a licensed speech-language pathologist and at least one a licensed audiologist; one otolaryngologist who is certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology and one lay member. The licensed speech-language pathologist and the audiologist members are chosen by the Governor from a list of nominees elected by the Oklahoma Speech-Language Hearing Association. The agency lead administrator is appointed by the Board.

Current Board Members:

Susan McHugh, M.Ed. Chair
Mona Ryan, M.S., Vice Chair
Deborah Earley, Ph.D., Secretary
William Livermon, Lay member
Christopher Goff, M.D., ORL

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SUBGROUPS OR COMMITTEES:

The Board does not have any committees or subgroups at this time.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

The Oklahoma Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (OBESPA) does not have a statute or rule which includes an attendance policy for board members. When board members accept the nomination for board membership they are encouraged to attend all meetings. OBESPA collaboratively schedules meeting dates to facilitate this attendance. The Board statutes provide that the Governor may remove any member for misconduct, incompetence, or neglect of duty.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

OBESPA is currently working with the OMES department in a shared service contract. OMES currently completes and processes payroll, accounts payable and accounts receivable for OBESPA. OBESPA recently just signed a contract with OMES IT department for our 2 person agency for computer support.

OBESPA has a website to provide our licensees and the general public with information on Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology licensure, board information, and copies of our rules and statutes.

The website has saved money for OBESPA by increasing productivity in the office with decreased number of hours spent answering questions over the phone and by mail.

OBESPA was one of the first State agencies to provide online application and renewal of licensure for our licensees, therefore, greatly reducing money spent to print and mail applications and renewal forms.

CORE MISSION:

No core mission services that OBESPA provides is duplicated or replicated by another agency.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

OBESPA is the only entity providing licensure for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology in Oklahoma.

Licensure is required to practice speech-language pathology and/or audiology in each State in the United States. Licensure of speech-language pathologists and audiologists is provided through each state government.

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OBESPA has not been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit Corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency.

The bordering States of Arkansas, Texas, Kansas and New Mexico licensure fees exceed those of Oklahoma.