

Ethical Principles, Standards, and Practices: ABESPA Update for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

Session Format
 There are 2 parts to this session, with separate Handouts



- ▶ **Part 1: ABESPA Update/Annual Report**
 - ▶ 30 minutes, presented by the ABESPA Board Members
- ▶ **Part 2: Ethical Principles, Standards, and Practices**
 - ▶ 90 minutes, presented by Larry Molt
- ▶ **Both sessions count as ABESPA Content 1, for a total of 120 minutes on Ethics**



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

1

Part 1

ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY


ABESPA Annual Report
 FISCAL YEAR: October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022
 SHAA 2023 Convention
 February 9, 2023

2

Disclosures

- ▶ Financial
 - ▶ There are no financial disclosures - all ABESPA Board Members presenting are unpaid volunteers
- ▶ Nonfinancial
 - ▶ Summer Macias is the consumer member; all other presenters are employed as either speech-language pathologists, audiologists, or are dually certified.

3



ABESPA is an independent agency of the executive branch of the government of the state of Alabama, established by Legislative Act in 1975.

ABESPA is a financially self-supporting agency. All funds to sustain agency operations come from fees paid by ABESPA Licensees.

ABESPA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

4

Board members 2021-2022

- Larry Molt (DUAL) (Chair)
- Mark Carroll (AUD)
- Mickey Ezell (Consumer)
- Nichole Bailey (SLP)
- Karen Flynn (SLP)
- Ellen Maxwell (SLP)
- Brady Rives (AUD)

Note: Mickey Ezell, Nicole Bailey completed their terms –
New members for 2022-23 are Summer Macias (Consumer) and Frances Clark (SLP) and Brady Rives was re-elected




5

2022-2023 ABESPA Staff Members

- **Wanda Rawlinson**
Executive Director
- **Shemicka Williams**
Administrative Support
- **Ex Officio: Yvonne Saxon (through May 2022); replaced by Chris Howell**
Assistant State Attorney General

Note: currently Wanda Rawlinson is the only employee



6



How to contact ABESPA

Address: 400 South Union Street, Suite 435
Montgomery, AL 36104

Phone: 334-269-1434

Fax: 334-834-9618

Website: www.abespa.alabama.gov

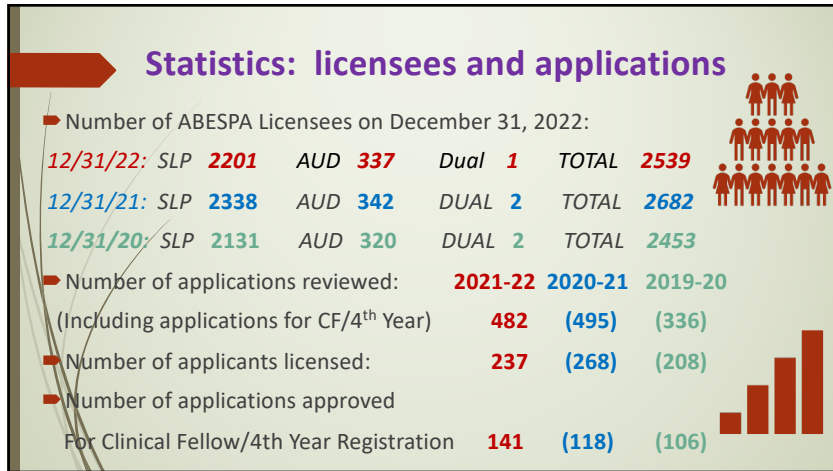



7

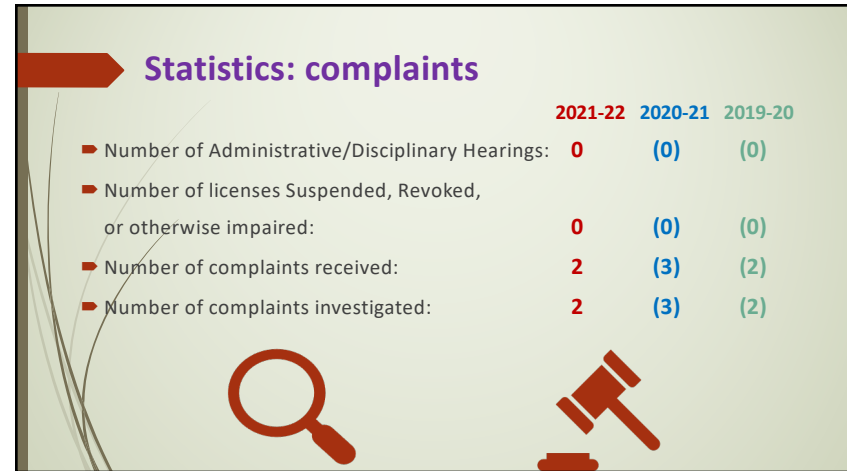
2021-2022 Meeting dates & locations

- October 15, 2021, Montgomery
- November 12, 2021, Montgomery
- December 10, 2021, Montgomery
- January 28, 2022, Montgomery
- February 17, 2022, Birmingham
- March 11, 2022, Montgomery
- April 8, 2022, Montgomery
- May 13, 2022, Montgomery
- June 24, 2022, Montgomery
- July 8, 2022, Montgomery
- August 12, 2022, Montgomery
- September 9, 2022, Montgomery

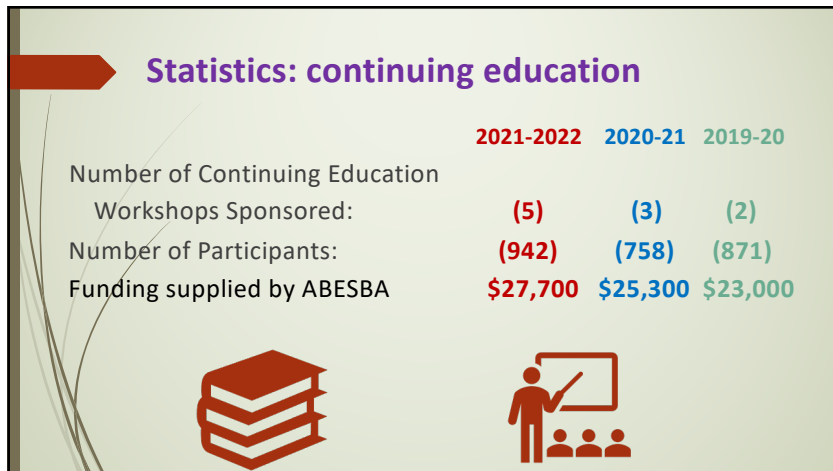
8



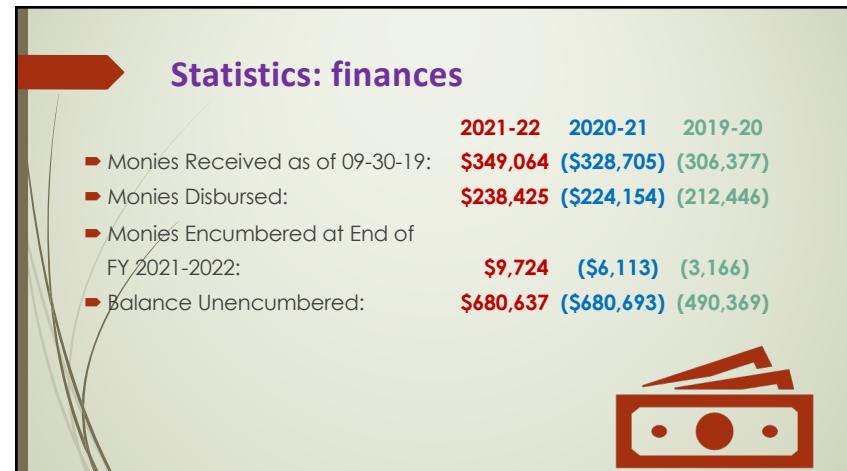
9



10



11



12

ABESPA Committee Reports

13

Karen Flynn: Committee on rules and regulations

- ▶ **Duties:**
 - ▶ Address inquiries pertaining to Rules and Regulations
 - ▶ Initiate rule-related discussions and draft rule changes
- ▶ **Changes:**
 - ▶ No changes to rules and regulation in 2021-22
- ▶ **Your Role in Rules and Regulations:**
 - ▶ Take note of Public Hearing notifications and other ABESPA bulletins
 - ▶ Provide input and ask questions
- ▶ **Helpful links:** 1) abespa.alabama.gov 2) aslpcompact.com

14

Mark Carroll: applications review committee

- ▶ ABESPA reviewed 482 new applications in 2021-2022, similar to the previous year
- ▶ Applications received by ABESPA staff are checked for completeness by board members at the meetings, deficiencies are relayed to applicant
- ▶ Timely completion of deficient information will facilitate application review/approval
- ▶ Procrastination is not your friend, ABESPA typically meets the 2nd Friday of each month applications should be received in the ABESPA office 5 business days prior to the meeting per 870-X-2-.02(2).
- ▶ The dates for the 12 ABESPA monthly meetings are posted on the ABESPA website, as are notices whenever it is necessary that a meeting date be changed.

15

applications review continued

Common problems with applications include:

- ▶ Missing letter from director of training program verifying number of clinical hours. It should be an original document on letterhead sent directly from the training program stating applicant met requirements in accordance with training program and degree
- ▶ Omission of Congressional District
- ▶ Transcripts from training institutions not received in time for meeting
- ▶ Applications can be approved pending receipt of some required minor items however; only the Board can approve applications, other omissions require that the application be reviewed during the following ABESPA meeting resulting in a delay of approval.

fOLLOW InStruCTIONs FOR PRoMpt ApPRoVAL of ApPLICAtIONs!

16

Summer Macias: Consumer Member and Budget Committees

- ▶ **Consumer Representative:** My task as the consumer representative is to review the board's actions in terms of how these actions effect the quality of services for Alabama consumers.
- ▶ **Budget Committee:** The budget committee's role is to review the budget monthly to insure that funds are being spent appropriately.

17

Brady Rives: continuing education committee

- ▶ **CE Reminder** - Need 12 clock hours of CE each calendar year
- ▶ **Content Area I**
 - ▶ Is clinically relevant
 - ▶ Includes ethics
 - ▶ typically does not need a pre-approval form
- ▶ **Content Area II**
 - ▶ only 2 hours maximum
 - ▶ non-clinical topics
 - ▶ service delivery models, administration for supervision, etc.
 - ▶ may need a pre-approval form
- ▶ **Clarification Content I vs. II**
 - ▶ consult the Rules and Regulations (access on website); if still unclear call or email ABESPA office

18

continuing education committee (continued)

- ▶ **Audits**
 - ▶ New rule passed in 2021 decreased number of licensees audited annually from 25% to 10%
 - ▶ Audit notices will be out in September 2023
 - ▶ License Renewals as early as October 1
 - ▶ Cannot renew online if you are being audited
 - ▶ Audited applications reviewed October, November, December Board Meetings
 - ▶ Complete your renewal applications the **EARLIER THE BETTER**
- ▶ **Licenses**
 - ▶ Renew online up until 11:59 p.m. December 31
 - ▶ Newly licensed in 2022 cannot renew online WHY? CEU requirements are prorated
- ▶ **Change of Address**
 - ▶ **IMPORTANT** to update changes since information from ABESPA is sent via mail; update new address, contact information (form on ABESPA website)

19

Ellen Maxwell: credential review and enforcement and special assistance committees

- ▶ **Credentials Review and Enforcement Committee (CREC):** The committee on credentials review and enforcement is charged with investigating and reporting to the Board instances of apparent violations of the Alabama law governing the licensing of speech-language pathologists and audiologists and with monitoring the enforcement of the Alabama law for the Board via the assistance of Assistant State Attorney General Chris Howell
- ▶ When a complaint about a licensee is received by ABESPA, it is investigated by ASAG Chris Howell and either the chair of the CREC if the complaint is in their area of practice, or by one member of the ABESPA board from the other practice area. If deemed appropriate for the board to respond to the complaint, a hearing will be held in front of the other members of the Board.

20

credential review and enforcement and special assistance committees (continued)

- CREC (continued):** The defendant licensee is given the opportunity to respond to the complaint. After a thorough investigation is completed, if the complaint goes to a hearing before the full Board, the defendant licensee can attend the hearing and have legal counsel and supporting witness present.
- Special Assistance Committee:** The committee on special assistance ensures the Board meets the requirements of ADA or other laws regarding discrimination in serving the public appropriately.

21

Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC): Larry Molt, ASLP-IC Commission Chair

ASLP-IC is an occupational licensure compact that:

- Allows licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice face-to-face or through tele-health across state lines without having to become licensed in other ASLP-IC member states.
- Is similar in form and function to current occupational licensure compacts for nursing, psychology, medicine, physical therapy and emergency medical services.
- Alabama was the 7th state passing the ASLP-IC (March, 2021), and 23 states had adopted it by the end of 2022, enabling the ASLP-IC to begin operating. It is anticipated another 7-10 states will adopt it in 2023.
- The first meeting of the ASLP-IC Commission was held in January 2022, with ABESPA Members Larry Molt and Karen Flynn serving as delegates from Alabama. It is hoped the commission will have all rules and regulations completed and the ASLP-IC fully operational/up and running by the end of 2023.

22

Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC): (continued)

- Audiologists and SLPs in states that are members of the compact must be licensed in their *home state* and can then apply for a privilege to practice under the ASLP-IC in *other member states*.
- The privilege for multi-state practice renews at the same time as the home state license. Continuing education is based on your home state license, unless it relates to scope of practice. Financial cost to ABESPA for being a member state is currently unknown, as is the fee for Alabama licensees choosing to utilize the compact privileges. Changes to ABESPA Rules and Regulations to meet ASLP-IC requirements will be announced as soon as the ASLP-IC Commission finalizes ASLP-IC requirements.
- While it will allow current Alabama Licensees to practice in additional member states, the impact on jobs in Alabama from allowing out-of-state tele-practitioners to have essentially free access to consumers in Alabama is unknown.

23

Questions?

24