

## Board of Directors

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JD  
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## Election 2016

As specialists are already aware from recent communications, the ABCLLD is currently in the process of holding an election to select one new Board member to begin in January 2017. Melissa Jakubowitz is completing her sixth year on the Board and will transition off in December of this year. She has made many contributions to the Board, and most significantly as our Continuing Education Coordinator. The Board sincerely appreciates Melissa's commitment over the years.

All specialists received an email this past July 5<sup>th</sup> with election details, nominee information, and the ballot link. Voting closed on July 19<sup>th</sup>, and the Board Administration is busy tallying all of the information. The ABCLLD sincerely appreciates all who voted — what an amazing turnout!



The Board Chair will notify all applicants of the results of the election, announce the results to all specialists by email, and post results on the [website](#). Stay tuned for more details coming soon...

## Continuing Education



AMERICAN  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
HEARING  
ASSOCIATION

## ABCLLD advanced courses at ASHA 2016

This year's ASHA Convention in Philadelphia will feature two great advanced language sessions, brought to specialists by the ABCLLD's Continuing Education Committee:

Three-hour short course – “Children with ASD Making Connections: Reading It and Meaning It No Matter What the Genre” presented by Dr. Sylvia Diehl • Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 –4:30 p.m. (Eastern time)

Dr. Diehl presented a one-hour session on working with children with ASD last year that was packed, so the Board decided to invite her back for another session! This session will address the importance of integrating text structure within any reading comprehension intervention for children with ASD. Since students are now expected to comprehend increasingly complex texts including both informational and narrative information, it is important children with ASD are challenged to make connections to background knowledge of text structure along with background knowledge of the text content.

One-hour advanced session – “What's In a Word? Building Better Vocabulary through Morphological Instruction” led by Dr. Shari Robertson • Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Eastern time)

Dr. Robertson will present information about recent research indicating that study of the internal structure of words yields positive outcomes in the development of a more robust vocabulary, which is a critical component for language comprehension in both oral and written modes.

Join the ABCLLD at the ASHA Convention on November 17 – 19 in Philadelphia. The Board looks forward to seeing specialists there and sharing these great speakers with the group.

### We need you! ABCLLD looking for CE Coordinator

As an added benefit to valued specialists, the ABCLLD will be offering online continuing education opportunities. Stay tuned for more information and announcements for the first course offered this fall!

In the meantime, the ABCLLD is looking for a specialist to serve as a volunteer Continuing Education Coordinator. Duties will include being a member of the CE Committee for the Board, providing input for speakers for CE webinars and for the ASHA Convention, reviewing submissions to ASHA to ensure they follow guidelines, assisting the Board Administrator with ASHA paperwork, reviewing attendee feedback and other paperwork, answering attendees' questions, and assisting the CE Chair as needed.

Please contact ABCLLD CE Coordinator  
Melissa Jakubowitz if interested or with questions at  
[lthpfxr@gmail.com](mailto:lthpfxr@gmail.com).



## Welcome your new Board Members

### Congratulations to recently named Board Certified Specialists in Child Language and Language Disorders (BCS-CL)

#### Marie Ireland, MEd, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL

Marie Ireland is the Virginia Department of Education's specialist for Speech-Language Pathology. She is the Vice Chair of the ASHA SLP Advisory Council, and serves on the ASHA Journal's Ad Hoc Committee and Medicaid Committee. She has served on the board of the State Education Agency's Communication Disabilities Council (SEACDC) for nine years.

Supporting school-based SLPs and highlighting the need for evidence-based practices are areas of focus for Marie. She educates others on the impact of poverty, dialect, and cultural differences and develops tools and resources to support narrative analysis and dynamic assessment in the public school setting. The establishment of online learning modules for macro and microstructure, publication of the Talking EBP newsletter, and development of best practice guidelines for SLPs maintain her focus on evidence-based comprehensive assessment and treatment in the field.

Marie earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh and graduate degree from the University of Virginia. She was awarded the 2013 Editor's Award for Language Speech and Hearing Services in Schools for her publication "Evidence Based Speech-Language Pathology Practices in Schools: Findings from a National Survey."



#### Henriette W. Langdon, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL

Henriette Langdon noted she is very happy and honored to be among colleagues who are BCS-CL to learn and share new ideas. Henriette received her EdD in Special Education and Psycholinguistics from Boston University in 1977 and wrote her dissertation on differentiating language disorders in bilingual Spanish-English children.

Further, she is a bilingual SLP who speaks three languages other than English (Spanish, French, and Polish). Henriette has worked in the school setting as an SLP and bilingual consultant. She has published and presented on bilingualism and language-learning disabilities including on how to collaborate with interpreters. Her 20-year career as a professor at San José State University is ending in 2017, yet she continues pursuing new adventures in the field!



Henriette recently opened Sunflower Therapies in Southern California with her daughter, who is a bilingual Spanish and French licensed MFT with a doctorate in Psychology. Together, the mother-daughter duo are working with bilingual children and their families to serve the bilingual community.

### Calling all specialists! Let us feature your good work!

The ABCLLD hopes to feature some of the amazing work of our specialists! You are invited to send us a brief description of your professional accomplishments. These may include awards, peer-reviewed and other professional publications, and/or presentations.

Our ability to share your accomplishments will be dependent on space availability in upcoming newsletters. Please send 200 words or less to Board Administrator, Danielle Ziulkowski, at [ABCLLDInfo@gmail.com](mailto:ABCLLDInfo@gmail.com). Thanks for sharing!

## News You Can Use

### Board May meeting update

The ABCLLD held its annual spring meeting this past May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. Always a productive meeting, the Board benefited from uninterrupted time for discussions of essential business and activities on behalf of all specialists. This year was no exception, as Board members worked through a packed agenda.

Items for discussion and action included: follow-up on the 2015 – 2016 Practice Analysis Summary Report and ways it can improve the application process; marketing and professional development offerings; upcoming election of a new Board member (please see page 1 for more info); continuing education offerings at this year's ASHA Convention; launch of new online courses (please see page 2 for more details); revisions to the application process for potential specialists; and website redesign.



Pictured at the May meeting (left to right) are: Barbara Moore, Melissa Jakubowitz, Danielle Ziulkowski, Kathleen Whitmire, Paula Rhyner, Monica Ferguson, Judy Montgomery, and Trisha Self.

### Practice Analysis study validates scope of practice for child language specialty

The Child Language Practice Analysis Taskforce submitted its 2015 – 2016 Practice Analysis Summary Report to the ABCLLD to introduce a validated scope of practice for the child language specialty. The Taskforce began its work in June 2015, when the ABCLLD, with the support of ASHA, initiated a study of speech-language pathologists whose professional practice includes a specialization in child language and language disorders.

The study's purpose was to create a comprehensive competency framework identifying the core competencies needed by child language specialists to perform their work responsibilities in an appropriate and effective manner. The competency framework was validated by conducting a survey of practitioners who held the BCS-CL designation and also practitioners who were not board certified, but met criteria mirroring the Board's eligibility requirements for certification. The ABCLLD's objectives for conducting the study have been to (a) enhance the professional certification program, (b) enhance professional development and continuing education related to child language and language disorders, and (c) foster the advancement of the field.

Based on data collected, the competency framework provides an accurate and comprehensive description of the competencies required for specialty practice. Broad and inclusive, it provides a foundation for decision-making related to the BCS-CL certification program (e.g., eligibility requirements, criteria for evaluating candidates' applications, requirements for maintaining certification) and related activities (e.g., creation and refinement of academic curricula and professional development programs).

The ABCLLD acknowledges and thanks Taskforce members for their time and commitment to this important charge, including: Chair Monica Ferguson, Dolores Battle, Kathy Coufal, Perry Flynn, Charlette Green, Melissa Jakubowitz, Sue Ellen Krause, Stacy Shumway Manwaring, Barbara Moore, Paula Rhyner, Judith Roman, Judy Rudebusch, Sherry Sancibrian, Kathleen Whitmire, ex. officio members Todd Philbrick and Gretchen Ehret, as well as Tina Freilicher of Knapp & Associates International, who provided guidance and wisdom.

## News You Can Use cont.

### Specialist survey: Your input is needed! Take our quick survey TODAY!

In a recent survey, a group of speech-language pathologists who are Board Certified Specialists in Child Language and Language Disorders shared their perspectives on the benefits of holding this specialty certification.

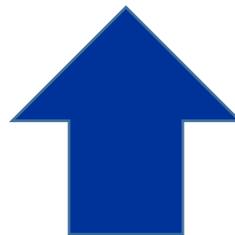
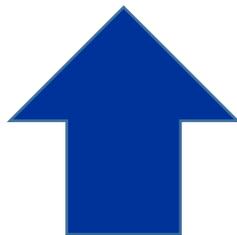
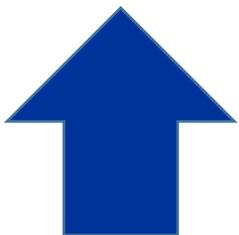
- About 90% of those surveyed expressed that having the certification distinguished them as experts in a specialty field and gave them a sense of personal satisfaction.
- Many of those surveyed also reported that with the BCS-CL, they were recognized by consumers, peers, supervisors, and employers as having expertise in child language and language disorders.



The ABCLLD is conducting an additional digital survey to gather information to tell us more about our specialists and their perspectives on the BCS-CL so we may better serve our specialists.

Please take a few minutes to respond to our survey by **Friday, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>** using the following link: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CN258BB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CN258BB).

Thank you for your time and input! The Board sincerely appreciates the feedback.



### Advanced Knowledge, Skills & Experience

The mission of the [American Board of Child Language and Language Disorders \(ABCLLD\)](#) is to promote high quality services to children and adolescents ages birth through 21 years whose language learning may be characterized as typical, at-risk, or atypical. The ABCLLD is approved by the Council for Clinical Certification of the [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\)](#).

The ABCLLD e-Newsletter is created and distributed regularly for specialists. For more information, visit [www.childlanguagespecialist.org](http://www.childlanguagespecialist.org) or contact the Board Administrator at [ABCLLDInfo@gmail.com](mailto:ABCLLDInfo@gmail.com) or 312.620.2267.