



Secretary Carol Aichele

# PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND HEARING



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March 2012

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## Pennsylvania Health Alert Network (PA-HAN) February 1, 2012

The Pennsylvania Health Alert Network (PA-HAN) is one of the major ways the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) rapidly distributes information on emerging public health issues (e.g. disease outbreaks) to health care providers, hospitals, emergency management officials, and other public health agencies. In a typical year, PADOH distributes 20-25 HAN messages to providers via email, fax, or cell phone, depending on user preference. PADOH feels it is important that all health care providers have access to HAN messages directly or through their health care facility in order to receive critical public health messages. This assures that public health is protected and allows Pennsylvania's health care providers to give the best care to your patients and community.

In mid-2011, PADOH switched to a new software vendor to support and improve the PA-HAN. The updated system was completed in July and the new version of the PA-HAN can be found at the following link <https://han.pa.gov/>. During the conversion process, some users were removed from the system and cannot be reinstated to the user list without re-registering. PADOH therefore requests that any previous user who is not currently receiving HAN messages register as a Health Alert recipient in the new system. In addition, any provider who would like to receive HAN messages for the first time should also register in the new system.

To access the new PA-HAN Registration Site, click on the following link: <https://han.pa.gov/>. Under the second paragraph there is a gray 'Register Now' button. This option will walk the user through the registration process. If you have any questions about the HAN system or the registration requirements, please ask for Stacey Kalinoski in the PADOH at 717-265-8890 or [skalinoski@pa.gov](mailto:skalinoski@pa.gov).

## 2011 National Council of State Boards (NCSB) Honors Awarded to Board Counsel, Roberta L. Silver



Our own Board Counsel, Roberta L. Silver, was awarded the 2011 NCSB Honors at its fall conference in Las Vegas. The following are the remarks that were made at the conference prior to presenting the award:

Once a year, NCSB considers nominations for Honors of NCSB. This award is intended to recognize an individual for his or her exemplary contributions to either NCSB, a licensing board in their state, or an individual employed by an organization or entity that addresses regulatory issues or concerns for the professions. This year the Honors go to Roberta L. Silver.

Roberta L. Silver has diligently served the Pennsylvania Board of Examiners in Speech, Language and Hearing as its Counsel for nearly a decade. One of Roberta's key accomplishments was the promulgation and implementation of Pennsylvania's continuing education regulations, bringing to fruition a process that had proceeded at a painstakingly slow pace prior to her arrival. She continues to play an integral role in

educating Pennsylvania's licensees as these regulations are implemented, co-presenting with board members at state professional association meetings and helping to develop informational materials that have been distributed via various informational channels.

She has gone above and beyond to assure that the Board's position is presented with legal precision, no matter the topic, no matter the venue.

At the national level, Roberta first gained the attention of the members of the NCSB through her participation at the 2005 annual conference. She was then invited to take part in an "Ask the Experts" panel in 2006, and the

depth of her knowledge and interest in our professions were highly evident.

It is my pleasure to present the 2011 Honors of NCSB to Roberta L. Silver. Roberta was not able to attend and Amy Goldman, Chairperson of the PA Board accepts the award on Roberta's behalf.