

**California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
March 21-22, 2018
Sacramento, California**

**Board Report
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board
<http://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/>**

Submitted by:

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Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board

Submitted to:

Elaine Fogel Schneider, PhD, CCC-SLP

Commissioner of Professional Services in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**Highlights from the February 8-9, 2018 Licensing Board Meeting in Sacramento
Update from Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee Regarding Speech-
Language Pathology Telepractice Issues That Could Have Regulatory Implications**

Melissa Jakubowitz, M.A., CCC-SLP, Coordinator of ASHA's Special Interest Group 18 (SIG 18) Telepractice, was invited to speak to the Board about SLP telepractice services. Ms. Jakubowski informed the Board that ASHA defines SLP services provided via video conference as telepractice, rather than telehealth, and the term is used nationwide by SLPs. Many SLPs use telepractice as a service delivery mode for providing speech and language services with the majority of telepractice services provided in schools. The level of services provided by telepractice must be equivalent to services that are provided in person and the same paperwork must be completed as when sessions are performed in person. Clients are served by telepractice in both individual and group settings. Barriers to telepractice include: technology related issues such as slow internet speeds; lack of reimbursement by third parties; requirements to hold licenses in all states where services are being provided; keeping abreast of the laws in all the states where a license is held; and ability to obtain equipment or compatibility of equipment when providing services. Ms. Jakubowitz informed the Board that a licensing compact is being explored to ease the burden of obtaining licenses in other states through the combined efforts of ASHA and the National Council of State Boards in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (NCSB).

A question/answer period followed the presentation. Mr. Sanchez asked Ms. Jakubowitz if there were regulatory barriers to telepractice in California to which she said she did not know of any at this time. Ms. Solomon-Rice asked what types of regulations existed in other states. Ms. Jakubowitz informed the Board that some states require an in-person visit prior to beginning telepractice services, and a few states do not allow telepractice at all. In addition, Louisiana has a telepractice only license, and some states require continuing education to provide telepractice services.

In closing, Ms. Jakubowitz informed the Board that telepractice is a feasible way to serve clients. However, she stated experience in the field should be required prior to providing

telepractice services as it is an advanced area of service delivery and requirements must be understood prior to working remotely.

Update on Development of Hearing Aid Consumer Fact Sheet

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) requested that the Board create a consumer fact sheet for adults with hearing loss for placement on the Board's website. A pamphlet entitled *Consumer Facts: Hearing Loss and Hearing Aids for Adults* has been developed addressing the types of hearing loss, basics about hearing aids, and a glossary of terms related to hearing loss. The pamphlet will be placed on the Board's website in the near future.

Update by Executive Officer Paul Sanchez

1. Budget Change Proposal Approved for Additional Staff Positions

The Board had obtained approval to augment the budget, which will allow for the hiring of two additional staff positions. One position will be an administrative support position and the other will be a senior analyst position with responsibilities for legislation and regulations.

2. Speech-Language Pathology Fees Amendments to Section 1399.157

Current SLP, SLPA, and SLP aide fees, as well as audiology and hearing aid dispensers fees, became effective on 1/1/2002. An increase in fees is needed given the large increase in number of licensees since 2002 and the resultant increase in workload and need for additional Board staff. The Board approved regulatory revisions to increase fees for SLPs, SLPAs and SLP aids as follows, with an effective date to be determined:

- SLP application fee will be increased from \$60 to \$150
- SLP initial and renewal fees will be increased from \$110 to \$150
- SLPA application and initial registration fees will be increased from \$50 to \$150
- SLPA renewal fee will be increased from \$75 to \$100
- SLP aide registration will be increased from \$10 to \$30

3. SLPA Regulations Amendments to Sections 1399.170 - 1399.170.15

Revisions to the SLPA regulations were approved by the Board in 2014. However, the Office of Administrative Law recently disapproved the package due to wording irregularities. As a result, the regulations package has been pulled for revision and resubmission with changes to the wording, not the content, of the regulations. Following Board discussion, revisions to the wording of the regulations will be submitted to the Board for review and further discussion at the May 2018 Board meeting.

4. Notice to Consumers Section 1399.129 and 1399.157.1

A requirement for SLPs, audiologists and hearing aid dispensers to provide a notice to consumers that the licensee is licensed and regulated by the SLPAHADB was approved by the Board at the October 2017 meeting. At the February meeting, the Notice to Consumers Proposed Text was discussed and approved by the Board.

SLP Issues for Consideration at the May 10-11, 2018 SLPAHADB Meeting

- Survey of telepractice regulations by Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) health-related boards, e.g. Medical Board, OT Board and Behavioral Therapy Board
- SLPA regulations revisions

2018 SLPAHADB Meetings

SLPAHADB meetings have been scheduled for the following dates and locations during 2018-2019, subject to change:

- May 10-11, 2018 San Francisco
- August 9-10, 2018 San Diego
- November 8-9, 2018 Sacramento
- February 7-8, 2019 Los Angeles