

California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
March 15-16, 2017
Pasadena, California

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

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Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board

Submitted to:

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Commissioner of Professional Services in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Highlights of the February 9-10, 2017 Licensing Board Meeting in San Diego
Update on Board's Sunset Oversight Review and Hearings

Sunset Review is mandated by the Legislature every four years. The Board's Sunset Oversight Review Report was due to the CA legislature by December 1, 2016. The Senate Committee on Business, and Professions will meet with the Board on March 6, 2017. The Sunset Review process will be completed by December 31, 2017.

The review allows the Legislature to:

- review the laws and regulations pertaining to the board and evaluate its programs and policies
- determine whether the board operates and enforces regulatory responsibilities and is carrying out its statutory duties; and
- examine fiscal management practices and financial relationships with other agencies.

If the Board is successful in meeting these responsibilities, the Board is continued for an additional four years.

Sunset Oversight Review Report: The report was submitted to the CA legislature prior to the December 1st deadline. Regarding Board action and responses from the most recent 2012 Sunset Report, at that time it was recommended that legislation be passed requiring applicants moving to California and applying for licenses, who held licenses in other states, to produce to the Board a disciplinary data bank report. This was not passed by the Legislature due to the additional costs to the applicant. Since that time, the Board has approved language for a fee increase which has not been enacted. The proposed fee increase would allow the Board to cover the cost of the disciplinary data bank report.

Regarding new issues before the Board since 2012, the report addressed three new issues related to speech-language pathology.

- 1) Shortages in the speech-language pathology profession: While the Board has significantly decreased the timeframe for processing SLP applications, a severe shortage of SLPs exists in CA. As a result, the Board recommends a) expanding SLP programs in CA beyond the current 18 programs; b) educating school administrators

- about the differences between the SLP and SLPA scopes of practice; and c) revising the Master Plan to allow UC's to develop master's level programs in speech-language pathology, particularly at those UC campuses operating within medical centers.
- 2) English language proficiency requirements for foreign-trained speech-language pathology applicants: Whatever the primary language of the consumer, the SLP must be fluent in understanding and using English, as well as be highly intelligible in speaking English. The Board recommends amending current statutes to a) allow the Board to establish a minimum score in English proficiency testing for foreign-trained speech-language pathology applicants to assure adequate English comprehension, English production and English speech intelligibility; and b) waive the above requirement for applicants from English-speaking countries (Canada, UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand).
 - 3) Eliminating the speech-language pathology aide designation: The speech-language pathology aide designation regulations require no formal education, no licensure, no continuing education and no disciplinary actions for maintaining registration, unlike the SLPA. The Board recommends eliminating the speech-language pathology aide designation as SLPA regulations provide far more consumer protection and serve the same role as the speech-language pathology aide.

Senate Hearing: The Senate Committee on Business, Professional and Economic Development will meet with the Board, along with seven other boards, on March 6th in Room 4203 of the State Capitol starting at 9:00 a.m. The SLPAHADB meeting will take approximately 1 hour and consist of:

- an overview of the current regulatory program
- board responses to issues, problem areas, questions and staff recommendations
- public comment
- comment by professional individuals, groups or associates
- closing comments by the Board.

Update on Speech-Language Pathology Service Credential/Variable Term Waiver

New requirements for the SLP Service Credential Variable Term Waiver (SLPSC VTW) offered through the CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing became effective in 2014 through the combined efforts of the CTC, SLPAHADB, CSHA and other interested parties. The requirements included completing a bachelor's degree with a major in Communicative Disorders or having a teaching credential, maintaining a 3.0 GPA at the undergraduate level, showing evidence of applying to and meeting the minimum requirements for applying to a Communicative Disorders graduate program, and being employed as an SLPSC VTW for a maximum of 5 years. The SLPSC VTW allows the individual to practice within the SLP scope of practice.

Since 2014, anecdotal evidence has emerged that some SLPSC VTW individuals are not meeting the new requirements. In particular, these individuals did not maintain an undergraduate GPA of 3.00 and as a result, while they applied to graduate programs, there was no possibility of being accepted into a graduate program. Anecdotally, these individuals are often licensed SLPAs who also completed bachelor's degrees with a major in Communicative Disorders.

Dr. Dee Parker, SLP member of SLPAHADB, has been in contact with representatives from the CDE (California Department of Education) and the CTC. It was determined that a collaborative effort between the three organizations is needed to create a one-page fact sheet on CDE letterhead that defines the scopes of practice of the SLPA and SLP and highlights the need for SLPA supervision by SLPs. The fact sheet would be distributed to the appropriate personnel within public school districts.

Update on Approval Process for Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Training Programs

SLPAHADB staff reported that a community college inquired about developing a new SLPA training program in CA and requested information about the application process. The most recent SLPA community college application was approved in 2001 and, as a result, a review of the application process, and possible revisions, is in order. Board SLP members Dr. Patti Solomon-Rice and Dr. Dee Parker will discuss the need to form an Ad Hoc committee consisting of themselves and community college SLPA program coordinators to review and revise the application process. A motion to approve the Ad Hoc committee will be brought before the Board during the May 2017 Board meeting.

Update by Executive Officer

Executive Office Paul Sanchez reported:

- The Board was successful in gaining an additional position through the state budget process. One permanently funded licensing analyst was hired in September, 2016 with a primary responsibility for processing licensing applications.
- **It currently takes two weeks to review applications submitted by speech-language pathology applicants versus 7 weeks in February 2016.** The Board staff is to be commended for these significant improvements in processing times during the past 12 months.

Licensed populations as of December 31, 2016

SLP	17,461
SLPA	3,611
SLP/Aud Aide	216
Audio/Dispensing Audio	1,899
Hearing Aid Dispensers (HAD)	1,149
<u>HAD Branch Offices</u>	<u>1,407</u>
Total Licensees	26,806

Total Licensed populations from FY 10/11 through FY 16/17 QTR 2

FY 10/11	FY 11/12	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16	Qtr 2 16/17
18,170	19,113	20,074	19,472	20,772	22,330	26,806

Per the above table, licensing populations have increased nearly 33% during the past 5.5 years.

SLP Issues for Consideration at the May 11-12, 2017 SLPAHADB Meeting

- Update on Sunset Review and Hearing

- Update on SLPSC VTW/Supervision of SLPAs
- Update on SLPA Approval Process for SLPA Training Programs

2017 SLPAHADB Meetings

SLPAHADB meetings have been scheduled for the following dates and locations during 2017, subject to change:

- May 11-12, 2017 (Bay Area)
- August 10-11, 2017 (location TBD)
- November 16-17, 2017 (location TBD)