

**California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
June 23-24, 2017
Sacramento, 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 May 11-12, 2017 Licensing Board Meeting in San Francisco
*Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval Process for Speech-Language
Pathology Assistant Training Programs***

Business and Professions Code 2538.1(b)(2) authorizes the Board to approve SLPA training programs. At the February 2017 Board meeting, the Board discussed the need for revising the approval process and delegated the task to the Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee. There are currently seven approved SLPA training programs in California and the Board has received an inquiry from one potential applicant for a new program.

The SLP Practice Committee, chaired by Dr. Solomon-Rice, invited two SLPA program coordinators to the committee meeting to discuss objectives and tasks necessary to revise the SLPA training programs approval process. However, the meeting venue was not able to set up a telephonic conference call with the invited SLPA program coordinators. As a result, discussion of the agenda item was tabled and a publically noticed SLP Practice Committee telephonic meeting will take place prior to the August 2017 Board meeting to discuss this agenda item.

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 in the public school setting.

Since 2014, anecdotal evidence has emerged that some SLPSC VTW individuals are not meeting the new requirements. Specifically, 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.

SLP member of SLPAHADB, Dr. Dee Parker, 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 Board's Sunset Oversight Review and Hearing

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 Sunset process 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.

The Sunset Review process will be completed by December 31, 2017. If the Board is successful in meeting the above responsibilities, the Board is continued for an additional four years.

Sunset Oversight Review Report: 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 yet 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 (e.g. 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 met with the Board on March 6, 2017. The Board provided the following information to the Committee:

- 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.

The Board was pleased that representatives from CSHA provided public comment to support the continuation of the Board.

Discussion and Possible Action to Consider adding Language to Title 1, California Code of Regulations on General Rules Regarding Fingerprints Requirement

The Board approved revisions to Section 1399.112 Requirements for Renewal of Licenses to require, upon renewal of one's license, that the licensee electronically submit fingerprints if not previously submitted, and that the licensee disclose convictions of violations of the law and whether the licensee has had a license disciplined by a government agency or other disciplinary agency.

2017-2018 Board Election of Officers

The Board elected Dr. Dee Parker as Chair and Dr. Marcia Raggio as Vice-Chair for the term of 7/1/17 through 6/30/18.

Update by Executive Officer

Executive Office Paul Sanchez reported:

- The Board has two staff vacancies in the areas of license processing and administrative assistance. Temporary help is being utilized until permanent staff is hired.
- **It currently takes one to three weeks to review temporary license applications submitted by graduating speech-language pathology students versus 7 weeks in February 2016.** The Board staff and creative ideas from the California Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CA CAPCSD) are to be commended for these significant improvements in processing times during the past 15 months.

Licensed populations as of March 31, 2017

SLP	17,667
SLPA	3,727
SLP/Aud Aide	226
Audio/Dispensing Audio	1,903
Hearing Aid Dispensers (HAD)	1,160
<u>HAD Branch Offices</u>	<u>1,344</u>
Total Licensees	27,483

Total Licensed populations from FY 10/11 through FY 16/17 QTR 3

FY 10/11	FY 11/12	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16	Qtr 3 16/17
18,170	19,113	20,074	19,472	20,772	22,330	27,483

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

Legislation Updates

AB 387 Minimum wages: health professionals: interns: A motion was passed to oppose the bill, which if passed, would significantly limit the ability of university programs to place speech-language pathology and audiology graduate students at internship sites for completion of the required clinical experiences needed to obtain licensure. A letter will be drafted and sent to the legislature opposing the bill.

AB 1707 Speech-language pathology and audiology and hearing aid dispensers board: A motion was passed to support the bill, which if passed, would allow the Board to continue for an additional four years.

SLP Issues for Consideration at the August 10-11, 2017 SLPAHADB Meeting

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

2017 SLPAHADB Meetings

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

- August 10-11, 2017: Sacramento
- October 26-27, 2017: Southern CA