

**California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
September 21-22, 2018
Costa Mesa, 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

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Commissioner of Professional Services in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**Highlights from the August 9-10, 2018 Licensing Board Meeting in San Diego
Update Regarding RPE Direct Monitoring Requirements and Remote or Tele-
Supervision.**

Approximately 8 emails/letters were received by the licensing board since the February 2018 Board meeting addressing RPE direct monitoring requirements and the use of remote or tele-supervision of RPEs. The emails/letters addressed two issues of concern:

- Confusion about the definition of direct supervision of RPEs, specifically whether the supervisor must be present in-person during supervision of RPEs;
- Desire to allow tele-supervision of RPEs.

Current regulations for SLPAs require immediate supervision (in-person supervision) if a client is medically fragile; direct supervision (on-site supervision) with new screening or treatment procedures; and indirect supervision (not in same facility during supervision) for screening and treatment procedures previously observed and clerical tasks. Immediate supervision is required during the initial 90 days of SLPA supervision. Indirect supervision implies the allowance of tele-supervision.

Current regulations for RPEs only address direct monitoring for specific duties of the RPE. However, direct monitoring is not defined in the regulations. In addition, the regulations do not include immediate or indirect supervision and, as a result do not address tele-supervision.

The Board approved revised RPE regulations during the August meeting. Approved revisions state that:

- RPE supervision consists of minimum of eight hours of direct supervision per month for fulltime RPE temporary license holders and a minimum of four hours of direct supervision per month for part-time RPE temporary license holders.
- RPE temporary license holders must be on-site and in-person with the student/client/patient while the RPE supervisor is remote.
- Tele-supervision will be limited to no more than four hours per month out of the eight required hours for each full-time RPE temporary license holders and will be limited

to no more than two hours per month out the four required hours for each part-time RPE temporary license holder.

- RPE supervisor shall inform the client about the use of tele-supervision and obtain verbal or written consent from the client.
- Same standard of care is exercised when providing tele-supervision as when providing any other mode of supervision.
- Functions performed by the RPE temporary license holder must be previously evaluated by the RPE supervisor to determine that the RPE temporary license holder is able to perform the functions without the need for the RPE supervisor to be physically present.
- Procedures that the RPE supervisor cannot perform or demonstrate remotely require that another California licensed SLP be onsite and available to step in as needed.

Update Regarding the Speech-Language Pathologist Service Credential Variable Term Waiver Program in California's Public Schools

The California Commission for Teacher Credentialing revised the speech-language pathology service credential variable term waiver program (SLPSC VTW) in 2014 to limit use of the VTW for a maximum of 5 years, require an undergraduate GPA of 3.00 by the VTW holder in communicative sciences and disorders or a GPA of 3.00 and above in an education credential program, and require evidence that the VTW holder has applied to SLP graduate programs. It was recently discovered that the 5-year VTW limit was not included in Title 5 regulations for the credential. The SLPSC VTW regulations will now go through the regulatory process to add the 5-year limit to the SLPSC VTW credential.

Update by Executive Officer Paul Sanchez

1. Budget Change Proposal Approved for Additional Staff Positions

The Board obtained approval to augment the budget, which allowed for the hiring of two additional staff positions effective 7/1/18. Hiring is underway for an administrative support position and a senior analyst position with responsibilities for legislation and regulations.

2. Staff Positions Update

Three SLPAHADB staff left the Board since February to join the new Marijuana licensing board - 2 in the area of enforcement and 1 in the area of licensing. Hiring is also underway to replace these staff in addition to hiring for the two new staff positions.

3. Fee Increases

Fee increases across all categories of licenses are expected to be implemented in July 2019. Fee increases are needed to support the hiring of additional staff resulting from large increases in numbers of licensees over the past seven years.

4. 2018 Continuing Education Audit

A random sample of eligible licensees were chosen in November 2017 for a CE Audit. Approximately 5% of SLPs and SLPAs were audited. Of those audited, approximately 79% of SLPs and SLPAs passed the audit, approximately 17% failed the audit and

approximately 3% did not respond to the audit. Reasons for failing the audit included exceeding the limit for self-study hours, completing courses from non-approved providers and not completing the required hours (or inability to provide evidence of completion). Licensees who failed to respond twice to the audit notices were issued a notice of probable violation or a citation and a fine. As of June 8, 2018, 7 SLPs and 4 SLPAs were issued a citation.

5. Licensed populations as of June 30, 2018

SLP	19,161
SLPA	4,118
SLP/Aud Aide	216
Audio/Dispensing Audio	1,966
Hearing Aid Dispensers (HAD)	1,266
<u>HAD Branch Offices</u>	<u>1,297</u>
Total Licensees	29,488

Total Licensed populations from FY 11/12 through QTR 3 17/18

FY 11/12	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18
19,113	20,074	19,472	20,772	22,330	27,938*	29,488*

*New accounting system resulted in a large increase in licensing numbers

6. SLP Issues for Consideration at the November 8-9, 2018 SLPAHADB Meeting

- RPE tele-supervision regulations update
- SLPA preparation in post baccalaureate programs
- SLPA regulations update

2018 SLPAHADB Meetings

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

- November 8-9, 2018 Sacramento
- February 7-8, 2019 Los Angeles
- May 2-3, 2019 San Jose