

**California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
January 26-27, 2018
Sacramento, California**

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

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Commissioner of Professional Services in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**Highlights from the October 26-27, 2017 Licensing Board Meeting in Los Angeles
*Update from Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee 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 to revise 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 interested in developing a new program.

The Speech Language Pathology Practice Committee held telephonic meetings to revise the application process for community college programs desiring to become approved SLPA programs on August 1, 2107; August 28, 2017; and October 1 2017. During the October 1st meeting the committee reviewed a SLPA program checklist created by licensing board staff and edited by Patti Solomon-Rice; obtained SLPA Guidelines from 1996 which were referred to in the CA Code of Regulations; reviewed the more recent 2004 ASHA SLPA document, which was useful but not referred to in current regulations; and reviewed the 2013 ASHA SLPA document that was not applicable to program applicants.

During the Board meeting, the Committee recommended that the checklist be used for future SLPA applicants and that statutes/regulations be updated to refer to the 2004 ASHA document *Guidelines for Training, Use and Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants*, rather than the 1996 ASHA SLPA document.

Update by Executive Officer

1. Licensing Cycle Times

The Board filled two the vacant administrative assistant and licensing analyst positions in August, 2017. As a result of the filled vacancies and receipt of applications no longer in peak season, it is currently taking one week to review applications submitted by speech-language pathology applicants as of 10/15/17, versus 4 weeks as of 8/1/17.

2. CE Audits Resuming

Continuing education audits during licensure renewal were most recently completed in 2013, with 3% of licensees audited prior to a loss of Board staff. With full staffing currently in place, CE audits for SLPs, SLPAs, Audios/Dispensing Audios, and HADs will be resuming within the next six months.

3. Licensed populations as of September 30, 2017

SLP	18,440
SLPA	3,939
SLP/Aud Aide	246
Audio/Dispensing Audio	1,948
Hearing Aid Dispensers (HAD)	1,201
<u>HAD Branch Offices</u>	<u>1,392</u>
Total Licensees	28,942

Total Licensed populations from FY 11/12 through QTR 1 17/18

FY 11/12	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	QTR 1 17/18
19,113	20,074	19,472	20,772	22,330	27,938*	28,942*

Per the above table, licensing populations have increased 32% during the past five years.

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

4. Legislative Update

AB 1706 Sunset of Board

Sunset Review is mandated by the Legislature every four years. 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.

The Board submitted a number of statutes for legislative consideration during Sunset Review in the area of hearing aide dispensing. The Board chose *not to submit* statutes for legislative consideration addressing the following more controversial issues regarding speech-language pathology:

- 1) 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, due to the shortages in the speech-language pathology profession.
- 2) Adding English language proficiency requirements for foreign-trained speech-language pathology applicants educated in non-English speaking countries.
- 3) Eliminating the speech-language pathology aide designation.

The California legislature voted to extend SLPAHADB through 1/1/22.

H.R. 1539 and S 652

The US House of Representatives and the US Senate approved amendments to the Health Services Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, entitled the “Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2017”.

SLP Issues for Consideration at the February 8-9, 2018 SLPAHADB Meeting

- Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee update on the provision of Telehealth Services
- SLPA regulations updating

2018-2019 SLPAHADB Meetings

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

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