



State Board for Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology  
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## BOARD MEETING NOTES

Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023  
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: via WebEx

### In Attendance:

Heather Pyke, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Ianthe Dunn-Murad, Audiologist  
Joe Pellegrino, Audiologist  
Denise Cruz, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Melissa Fenice, Speech-Language Pathologist

Kellie Murphy, Acting Executive Secretary  
Christina Amato, Program Associate  
Kimberly Anderson, Program Associate  
Stephanie Maes, Professions Connections  
David Wiech, Deputy Commissioner's Office  
Owen Donovan, Deputy Commissioner's Office

### Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:10am.

The meeting minutes from April 20, 2023, were voted and approved pending an addition of language to hearing aid dispensers and licensing.

Murphy provided board office updates which included updates on statistics, registration of a new Speech-Language Pathology program, and frequently asked questions which come into the office. The Acting Secretary shared the Board is currently seeking members and current Board Members should reach out to colleagues. It was discussed that the Board has been invited to present at the New York State Speech Language Hearing Association meeting May 2-4 and plan to present.

The Board received a presentation on the Office of the Professions Modernization project with guest speakers Erin Sahotsky, Michael Charsky, and Valli Sundaravalli. Information was shared about the New Professions System and how it will provide increased transparency to applicants and licensees and will provide more functionality and information.

The Board received a presentation on Professions Connections with guest speaker Stephanie Maes who shared information and resources that are available on the Office of the Professions website for community and student outreach and engagement. The Board discussed ways to raise awareness of this resource and appreciated the efforts of the office in compiling it. The print profiles and websites relating specifically to Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology will be shared with the Board Members for review and follow-up. The Board Members also noted there is an upcoming community outreach event relating to Speech-Language Pathology which the Professions Connections unit will follow-up with.

During the open floor discussions there were a few topics discussed including the extensive wait times which are still occurring for new Audiology graduates to take the Hearing Aid Dispenser practical examinations and the hardships students are facing in finding a job without this license. There were also questions raised regarding whether the license should be necessary given professional education and experience and Audiologist already receives for licensure.

Concerns were raised regarding long processing times for applicants to obtain new licenses or limited permits. The Board believed the wait time could be 3-6 months. This issues appears to be unique to Speech-Language Pathologist as Audiologists have not heard similar complaints.

The Board had a discussion regarding a question which was recently received in the office regarding myofascial release and its relative practice within Speech-Language Pathology. No determination was made and further independent research and individual follow-up with the Board office would occur at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55am and will reconvene on March 22, 2023.