



State Board for Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology
Tel. (518) 474-3817 ext. 100
Fax (518) 473-0532
E-mail: speechbd@nysed.gov

BOARD MEETING NOTES

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: New York City Office and via WebEx

In Attendance:

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

Kellie Murphy, Acting Executive Secretary
Kimberly Anderson, Program Associate

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:10am.

The meeting minutes from November 2, 2023, were voted and approved.

Murphy provided board office updates which included updates on statistics, registration of a new Speech-Language Pathology program offered in the distance learning format, and frequently asked questions which come into the office. The Acting Secretary shared the ongoing confusion regarding Continuing Education Requirements. It was determined there is value in having in person continuing education and therefore, up to 20 of the 30 required hours can be completed in the self-study, asynchronous, online format. The remaining 10 hours can be completed in any other learning activity outlined in the Regulations. There was discussion about revising the Continuing Education requirements as there are other learning activities that could be included and add value to the development of a licensed professional.

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. Murphy inquired regarding the time to process applications; however, the processing unit for Speech-Language Pathologists was less than a week in terms of processing requests. It was discussed that Limited License can be a problem due to insufficient submission of application materials. Murphy will work with the office to update the website to better communicate the forms that must be submitted for a Limited License.

The Board discussed whether the Department should consider certification from the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) as an equivalent to the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) for candidates that wish to apply for licensure via endorsement. New Audiology graduates would not be eligible for this certification as they do not have enough clinical hours. It was also discussed that to directly bill to Medicaid/Medicare New York State requires a professional to have CCC-A. Murphy also shared there have been no requests from applicants to recognize this certification and this would most likely impact a very small group of New York State licensees. Due to the restrictions in Medicaid/Medicare billing and the potential for confusion in the field with two

competing certifications the Board has determined not to move forward with the ABA-C recognition at this time.

The Board provided feedback on the NYSSLHA presentation which will be given at this year's convention May 2-4, 2024, in White Plains NY. Board Members provided recommendations on information to add and provided insight into the potential audience which can help shape the content of the presentation. Based on the feedback, Murphy will make changes to the presentation and share it with the group via email. Murphy will also follow-up with NYSSLHA about the possibility of remoting into the presentation and/or meeting.

The Board Office has received a few inquiries regarding the practice of Myofunctional Therapy. Myofunctional Therapy is an exercise program that trains the muscles around your face, tongue, and mouth and can be used for treatment in a number of conditions. The Board agrees that Myofunctional Therapy falls under the scope of practice of a Speech-Language Pathologist but only when the professional is competent and received the appropriate training/education to perform the treatment methodology. The Board also agrees that although a Speech-Language Pathologist can perform this method of treatment it should only be used when working with a patient with disorders of speech, voice, swallowing, and/or language.

There are still concerns regarding 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. Murphy will reach out to the Department for clarification on the process for obtaining a Hearing Aid Dispenser license.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm and will reconvene on May 2, 2024.