



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

Date: Friday, February 7, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: New York City, Albany, Rochester, Syracuse Offices and via WebEx

In Attendance:

Heather Pyke, Speech-Language Pathologist, Chair
Joe Pellegrino, Audiologist
Denise Cruz, Speech-Language Pathologist
Nathalia Fonseca, Speech-Language Pathologist

Kellie Murphy, Executive Secretary
Christina Amato, Education Program Assistant
Eric Andrus, Education Program Analyst

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

The meeting minutes from November 8, 2024 were reviewed; however, a vote could not be taken due to lack of quorum.

Murphy provided board office updates which included updates on license statistics, a new BS program registration with Sage Colleges, need for new Board Members and frequently asked questions which come into the office. The Board discussed looking for board members with backgrounds in care to rural communities, Audiologists in private practice, professionals with experience in skilled nursing facilities, and care in early intervention.

Murphy also shared the status of the Social Worker examination and how this has led to a larger conversation regarding the evaluation of professional examinations for implicit bias. The Board shared there are some difficulties in passing the Praxis II examination and shared often the correct answer is not reflective of practice. Murphy will continue to search for psychometrics on the Praxis II exam to verify the exam and exam questions are being appropriately evaluated and vetted and to see if data on test-taker success is provided.

The Board continued its discussions on Speech-Language Pathology post-graduate experience requirement or the Clinical Fieldwork (CF) experience. Murphy a draft of proposed changes based on the challenges the Board Office sees for individuals trying to obtain a New York State license and conversations and feedback obtained during the previous meeting. The main changes would keep the minimum part-time hours per week to 12 hours but allow part-time experience to be continuous for 12 weeks rather than 6 months. It will also allow students to complete a full-time experience and receive credit for those hours up to 45 hours per week if the applicant completes 36 weeks of experience. The Board discussed the 12-hour minimum for part-time experience and Murphy shared that ASHA allows part-time experience to count with a minimum of 5 hours per week. The Board decided that there can be value in a five hour per week experience and that it is important to align with ASHA as much as possible while still ensuring applicants are appropriately prepared to engage in safe and effective practice. They also felt they did not want to have experience requirements that are too

stringent that may restrict some applicants from meeting the requirement due to outside responsibilities such as care for family members or children.

Murphy provided an update on the Hearing Aid Dispensing practical exam and discussed that conversations with the Department of State are going well. The New York State Department of State is charged with the oversight of Hearing Aid Dispensers and re-connecting with this department has been a welcome change.

The Board discussed the prevalence of Myofunctional Therapy trainings in New York State. Chair Pyke mentioned reading through literature and researching to try and determine if there is evidence of its use having positive outcomes from Speech-Language patients. Fonseca shared her experience with Myofunctional Therapy and explains she is trained in Myofunctional Therapy rather than certified. The Board agrees that with appropriate training and demonstrated competency a Speech-Language Pathologist may use Myofunctional Therapy while providing professional services within their scope. They may not use this modality outside of the scope for issues such as breathing and also feel Speech-Language Pathologists are not the only professionals who may use this treatment modality. There is a group of Speech-Language Pathologists that have been advocating to see the Speech-Language Pathologist scope changed in New York State to include Myofunctional Therapy; however, no official action has occurred to date. Murphy will keep the Board apprised of any possible advances to changing the scope of a Speech-Language Pathologist in New York State.

The board discussed some difficulties in obtaining TSSLD certification specifically one member is having a hard time obtaining their permanent certification with the bilingual extension. Due to this they will no longer be able to supervise students that are seeking their TSSLD bilingual extension. Teacher certification is outside the jurisdiction of the Board but continued conversation included the relationship between licensed Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) and certified Teachers of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD) and whether a Speech-Language Pathologist needed to supervise a TSSLD. Murphy will follow-up with the Office of Teaching to determine if all TSSLDs need to be licensed or license eligible for the SLP in order to be permanent.

The meeting adjourned next meeting May 2, 2025.