



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

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Albany, New York City, Syracuse

In Attendance:

Joe Pellegrino, Audiologist, Chair
Denise Cruz, Speech-Language Pathologist
Nathalia Fonseca, Speech-Language Pathologist
Brianna Hammerle, Speech-Language Pathologist
Melissa Fenice, Speech-Language Pathology
Ianthe Dunn-Murad, Audiologist
Michael Curro, Audiologist

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

The Board voted and unanimously approved Joe Pellegrino as the Board Chair for the calendar year.

Murphy shared an update to the USDE professional degree definition and shared the item which is currently out for public comment. The document provided on the federal register details USDE determinations on professional degrees and arguments supporting their determinations. Murphy will follow up with a link to the document for the Board to review.

Murphy shared the latest draft of the proposed regulation to update the experience requirements needed for Speech-Language Pathology licensure in New York State. The proposed regulations aligns with ASHA expectations to remove current barriers to meeting the requirement and also remove confusion in the field. The Board agreed to the most recent iteration of the draft.

The Board had a discussion on telesupervision. Currently, there is guidance on the website which was shared prior to the meeting regarding “Engaging in Telepractice in the Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology Professions” and “Supervision of Individuals Completing their Experience Requirement”. The Boards current stance falls between the two where a licensed professional must exercise their professional judgement to determine whether a clinical fellow is prepared to be supervised through telesupervision and further, the patient can be appropriately cared for by the CF, and it need be the supervisor through telesupervision. Although telesupervision is an acceptable modality it should not be the sole modality utilized.

The Board Office has received inquiries regarding whether a licensee residing in another state could provide supervision to a CF. The Board discussed that the supervisor needs to be licensed in New York State or hold the appropriate credential to provide services in the setting the CF will be (ASHA CCCs for a school setting). The Board shared concerns that an in person requirement may inhibit positions that are solely virtual positions. If the supervision is synchronous and occurring in real-time,

this could be seen as direct supervision. The Board agreed this conversation will need to continue and guidance developed especially if the regulations regarding meeting the experience requirement changed and referred to the need for direct and indirect supervision. The Board acknowledges that there is a shortage of Speech-Language Pathologists, and clinical fellowship positions in some areas of the state are difficult to find. The Board should explore additional supervision models that ensure quality learning experience for clinical fellows with adequate supervision to guarantee safe and effective treatment of patients.

The Board had a brief discussion on Swallowing, Diet Orders, & Suctioning. It was shared that many allied health professionals pass a tracheal suctioning training within a healthcare agency. Most healthcare agencies allow anyone who has demonstrated competence to provide this level of care in emergency situations.

The Board also discussed that current practice and research indicate that an instrumented swallowing evaluation is the only appropriate way to determine appropriate swallowing and further recommend diet changes. Speech-Language Pathologists are moving away from bedside evaluations for this reason. The main goal is to prevent aspiration and aspiration pneumonia.

Fiberoptic Endoscopic Examination of Swallowing (FEES) procedures were also discussed including Mobile FEES vans. The Board discussed SLPs cannot administer topical anesthetic; however a Physician presence should be determined by facility policy as it could be setting and patient population dependent.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00am. Next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2026