



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

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 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
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 approved the proposed meeting minutes for February 6, 2026.

Murphy shared updates on leadership changes due to the retirement of our Deputy Commissioner. The Board also discussed a few questions that were received in the board office. The Board confirmed in these discussions that Feeding is within the scope of practice for a Speech-Language Pathologist, but if the licensee does not have the appropriate training then they should not provide the service. Feeding and Swallowing are not considered basic, entry level skills and additional training should be completed. The Board recommended that a school struggling to meet this need may want to contract with a feeding therapist to train Speech-Language Pathologists, it is also recommended that continuing education should be made available to the professional to maintain these skills.

Pellegrino shared for informational purposes national conversations are occurring to reflect an expanded scope for Audiologists in other states. Multiple other states are expanding the scope to include blood work, imaging, and cultures. Murphy shared any expansion to the scope of practice for Audiologists would need to go through the legislative process. This item is being shared for informational purposes.

Murphy shared an update to the proposed regulatory change for applicants seeking to meet the experience requirement to obtain Speech-Language Pathologist licensure in New York State. The regulation is currently out for public comment and is expected to be considered for permanent adoption at the Board of Regents meeting in September.

The Board considered revised web guidance regarding meeting the experience requirement. Specifically, the regulation speaks to direct and indirect supervision. The proposed changes align with ASHA expectations and allow for remote, telesupervision. The Board also discussed if the supervision does not provide a favorable evaluation or does not sign off on hours, the Board Office cannot accept those hours. Questions were raised regarding the difficulty some CFs face where place

of employment will require the CF to remain for the entire 9 months through a contract and if the CF leaves before the end date, they will lose their hours. The Board felt this was not acceptable for whether the Department can accept hours and recommends if a denial or unfavorable evaluation is received that there must be supporting documentation to support the evaluation.

To allow for open floor discussions, Murphy moved to push the continuing education conversation to the following meeting to allow appropriate time to discuss. The Board agreed and moved to open floor discussion.

During open floor discussion the Board shared those applicants seeking a limited license or Form 6 may begin the process after meeting program requirements rather than waiting for degree conferral. Applicants may also begin earning their experience hours after a program attests the applicant has met all program requirements for licensure and are only awaiting degree conferral.

Another question that was received within the Board Office centered on the practice of Photobiomodulation. The Board shared this is a relatively new practice that is still being studied and currently, only Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants are operating the related lasers. The Board discussed that any new or emerging practice should be evidence-based and felt currently, there is not enough research to support Photobiomodulation use although current studies appear promising. The Board will work on web guidance to support this discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2026