



State of Nevada
Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 ~ 4:45pm

Location: Board Office ~ 6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523

Supporting materials relating to this meeting will be physically available but in an effort to reduce costs and preserve resources, attendees are encouraged to access electronic copies on the Board's website at <https://www.nvspeechhearing.org/about/Minutes.asp>

Teleconference Access

ZOOM VIDEO & AUDIO:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87103888577?pwd=bHQ1dTBZbytibTdpZG9ud3RzYzVhdz09>

AUDIO ONLY BY TELEPHONE: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 871 0388 8577 Passcode: 086835

If you are outside the United States or need **toll-free audio access**, please contact the Board office at board@nvspeechhearing.org to request a toll-free number no later than 3:00pm Pacific on the day of the meeting.

AGENDA

The **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE** of the **NEVADA SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID DISPENSING BOARD** may: (a) address agenda items out of sequence, (b) combine agenda items or (c) pull or remove items from the agenda at any time. The Subcommittee may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person. (NRS 241.020, NRS 241.030). Action by the Committee on any item may be to approve, deny, amend, or table.

1. Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

2. Public Comment

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

3. Election of Committee Chair *(for possible action)*

4. Review and Recommendation to the Board on Proposed Revision to NRS 637B to Include SLP Assistant Licensing and Telesupervision *(for possible action)*

5. Review and Recommendation to the Board on Proposed Revision to NRS 637B.060 "Practice of speech-language pathology" defined to address Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) Procedure *(for possible action)*

6. Reports from Committee Chair and Members

- a. Report from Committee Chair and Board Members *(for possible action)*
- b. Discussion on Future Meeting Schedule and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date *(for possible action)*
- c. Future Agenda Items *(for possible action)*

7. Public Comment

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

8. Adjournment

(for possible action)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is welcomed by the Subcommittee. Public comment will be limited to five minutes per person and comments based on viewpoint will not be restricted. A public comment time will be available prior to action items on the agenda and on any matter not specifically included on the agenda as the last item on the agenda. At the discretion of the Subcommittee Chair, additional public comment may be heard when that item is reached. The Subcommittee Chair may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and in their sole discretion. (NRS 241.020, NRS 241.030)

Prior to the commencement and conclusion of a contested case or a quasi-judicial proceeding that may affect the due process rights of an individual, the Board may refuse to consider public comment. (NRS 233B.126).

ACCOMMODATIONS

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting should contact the Board office at (775) 787-3421 or email at board@nvspeechhearing.org no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for special accommodations made after this time frame cannot be guaranteed.

AGENDA POSTING & DISSEMINATION

This meeting has been properly noticed and posted in the following locations:

- Nevada Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board
 - Board Office: 6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523
 - Board Website: www.nvspeechhearing.org
- State of Nevada Public Notices Website: www.notice.nv.gov

This agenda has been sent to all members of the Subcommittee and other interested persons who have requested an agenda from the Board. Persons who wish to continue to receive an agenda and notice must request so in writing on an annual basis.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Supporting material relating to public meetings of the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board is available at the Board's administrative office located at 6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523 on the Board's website at <https://www.nvspeechhearing.org/about/Minutes.asp> or by contacting Jennifer R. Pierce, Executive Director by phone at (775) 787-3421 or email at board@nvspeechhearing.org.

Anyone desiring additional information regarding the meeting is invited to call the Board office at (775) 787-3421 or board@nvspeechhearing.org.



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AGENDA ITEM 1

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum.

Action: Meeting Called to Order



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AGENDA ITEM 2

Public Comment

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020).

CHAIR: PLEASE READ PRIOR TO CALLING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

I will now review the instructions for providing public comment during this meeting:

Any person wishing to make public comment may attend this meeting and provide public comment in one of the following ways:

1. Attend the meeting and provide public comment in-person at the physical location; OR
2. Attend the meeting and provide public comment virtually through the Zoom teleconference video link listed on the agenda; OR
3. Attend the meeting and provide public comment telephonically through the Zoom telephone number listed on the agenda. Please see additional public comment instructions at the end of the agenda.

Public comment is welcomed by the Subcommittee.

- Public comment will be limited to five minutes per person and comments based on viewpoint will not be restricted.
- A public comment time will be available prior to action items on the agenda and on any matter not specifically included on the agenda as the last item on the agenda.
- At the discretion of the Subcommittee Chair, additional public comment may be heard when that item is reached.
- The Subcommittee Chair may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and in their sole discretion.
- Prior to the commencement and conclusion of a contested case or a quasi-judicial proceeding that may affect the due process rights of an individual, the Board may refuse to consider public comment.

Action: None – Informational Only



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AGENDA ITEM 3

Election of Subcommittee Chair

Subcommittee members will be invited to nominate any member of the Subcommittee for the Chair role during this meeting, and an election vote will be held.

Duties of the Chair

The Chair presides over all public meetings of the Subcommittee, calling meetings to order, leading and conducting the meeting.

- Decides if a quorum is present before the meeting is opened;
- Leads Subcommittee members into discussion and attempts to have all sides presented;
- Sets the ground rules for time allocation, discussion limits, time of adjournment and keeps focus on the agenda;
- Has the agenda adopted at the start of the meeting and ensures motions are properly voted upon.

Requirements of a Good Chair:

- Knowledgeable of basic parliamentary procedures
- Leadership ability
- Ability to get along with people while remaining firm and orderly
- Ability to handle critical and controversial issues
- Maintains control of his/her emotions and convictions
- Impartial, exercising common sense and good judgment
- Ability to control ill will or negative thoughts about others in public.

Action: None – Informational Only



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AGENDA ITEM 4

Review and Recommendation to the Board on Proposed Revision to NRS 637B to Include SLP Assistant Licensing and Telesupervision

This revision would create a new license type for SLP Assistants and has been an ongoing discussion, with attention to aligning this effort with the NDE plan to sunset bachelor's SLP staff. The NDE regulation change was approved by the Legislative Commission in June 2023 and will take effect in October 2026.

These revisions have been approved by the Board, but draft revisions are needed and have been referred to this Subcommittee for work & recommendation. The following is an overview of the of this role and factors for consideration in drafting bill language.

a. NRS Language/Structure Needed

1) Regulatory Path:

- Licensing: Most restrictive, making it illegal to engage in the practice without a license.
- Certification: Requires certified practitioners to meet certain state-established standards, but uncertified individuals could still engage as long as they don't use the title.
- Registration: Practitioners register with the Board, typically providing name & address, and pay a nominal registration fee. Standards are not necessarily required/may be minimal, and the Board may choose whether to handle complaints and take disciplinary action.

2) Definitions (SLPA, Supervising SLPA)

3) Qualifications: Education/Certification/Examination/Reciprocity

4) Scope of Practice

5) Applicability of Chapter/Alignment with NDE Assistants

6) Fees for Application, License, & Renewal

7) Supervision of and Responsibility for Work: Supervisor Qualifications, Supervision Plan, Ratios

8) Telepractice/Telesupervision

9) Continuing Education

b. Collaboration and Fiscal Considerations

- 1) Coordination/alignment with NDE and sunset of Bachelor-Level SLPs (NAC 391). NDE is also considering adding a similar Assistant role to its regulations and is supportive of and willing to collaborate to align these efforts.
- 2) Coordination and collaboration with stakeholders: Higher Education Programs, Nevada Medicaid, Healthcare Providers, School Districts, & ASHA/NSHA/NV Coalition
- 3) Expenses for database enhancements, licensing activities, and oversight & discipline

c. SLPA Role & Scope of Practice

ASHA guidelines date back to 1969 and SLPAs have been in use since the 1970's. Speech-language pathology assistants are support personnel who perform tasks prescribed, directed, and supervised by speech-language pathologists. Training includes academic coursework, fieldwork, and on-the-job training. SLP support personnel are typically called "aides" or "assistants", though each has different levels of training & responsibility with an "aide" having less training and experience than an "assistant".

A comprehensive overview of this role may be found through ASHA's [Frequently Asked Questions: Speech-Language Pathology Assistants \(SLPAs\)](#), as well as the recommended [SLPA Scope of Practice](#).



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d. Use/Regulation Nationally

Per the [ASHA State Overviews](#), a total of 38 states currently regulate SLP support personnel through various methods. Several states that do not regulate still address support personnel in their practice laws, while others only regulate in school settings.

License (16)		Registered (16)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arizona • Idaho • Illinois • Louisiana • Maryland • Maine • Massachusetts • Minnesota 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montana • New Mexico • North Dakota • Ohio • Oklahoma • South Carolina • South Dakota • Texas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alabama • Alaska • Arkansas • California • D.C. • Georgia • Indiana • Kansas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mississippi • Missouri • Nebraska • North Carolina • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • Tennessee • West Virginia
Certified	Under SLP Supervision	School Settings Only	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida • New Hampshire • Oregon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia • Washington • Wyoming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado • Hawaii • Kentucky • Connecticut • Iowa • Michigan • Nevada • New Jersey • New York • Wisconsin

e. SLP Practice Nationally & In Nevada

According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), in 2022 there were approximately 171,400 SLP jobs nationally, (up from 153,700 in 2018), with an expected ten year increase of 19%, noted as “much faster than average”.

ASHA reported 576 SLPA Assistants holding C-SLPA Certification in its [2022 ASHA Membership and Affiliate Profile](#). States with the highest census of C-SLPAs were California (117), Arizona (51), Texas (47), Colorado (31), and North Carolina (26). Three responses were from Nevada.

In the [2022 ASHA Membership and Affiliation Profile, State-Level Data](#), Nevada SLPs reported working in the following practice roles and settings:

Primary Employment Facility 856 responses	Primary Employment Function 813 responses	Private Practice 794 responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Facility 43.3% • Health Care Facility (HCF) 47.9% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hospital 16.9% ○ Residential HCF 6.0% ○ Nonresidential HCF 25.0% • All Other Facilities 8.8% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Service Provider 72.8% • Special Education Teacher 9.3% • College/University Professor 2.0% • Researcher 0.0% • Doctoral Candidate 0.0% • Administrator 6.8% • Consultant 1.8% • Other Position 7.3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Time Private Practice 18.0% • Part Time Private Practice 11.6% • Not in Private Practice 70.4%

As of December 31, 2023, there were a total of 1,315 active Speech-Language Pathologists licenses issued by this Board as follows:

STATE	STANDARD	PROVISIONAL	TOTAL
TOTAL	1,244	71	1,315
Nevada	982	61	1,043 (79%)
Out-of-State	262	10	272 (21%)
California	54	3	57
Arizona	20	2	22
Florida	18	-	18
Texas	16	-	16
North Carolina	9	-	9

COUNTY	STANDARD	PROVISIONAL	TOTAL
TOTAL	982	61	1,043
Clark	594	44	614 (59%)
Washoe	316	16	332 (32%)
Carson	22	-	22 (2%)
Douglas	18	1	19 (2%)
Elko	9	-	9 (1%)
Churchill	8	-	8 (1%)
Lyon	5	-	5 (<1%)



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Washington	9	-	9
Colorado	8	-	8
Illinois	8	-	8
Utah	7	1	8
Tennessee	6	1	7
New Mexico	7	-	7
New York	7	-	7
Ohio	7	-	7
Georgia	6	-	6
Idaho	6	-	6
Michigan	5	1	6
Alabama	5	-	5
New Jersey	5	-	5
Oregon	5	-	5
Montana	3	1	4
Pennsylvania	4	-	4
Rhode Island	4	-	4
Virginia	4	-	4
Alaska	3	-	3
Hawaii	3	-	3
Indiana	3	-	3
Missouri	3	-	3
Puerto Rico	3	-	3
Arkansas	2	-	2
Connecticut	2	-	2
Louisiana	2	-	2
Massachusetts	2	-	2
Minnesota	2	-	2
Oklahoma	2	-	2
APO/FPO/AE	1	-	1
Delaware	1	-	1
Maryland	1	-	1
South Carolina	-	1	1
Mississippi	1	-	1
Nebraska	1	-	1
New Hampshire	1	-	1
South Dakota	1	-	1
Wisconsin	5	-	5

White Pine	4	-	4 (<1%)
Humboldt	3	-	3 (<1%)
Nye	2	-	2 (<1%)
Eureka	1	-	1 (<1%)
Esmeralda	-	-	0
Lander	-	-	0
Lincoln	-	-	0
Mineral	-	-	0
Pershing	-	-	0
Storey	-	-	0

No Current Licensees (8 states):

- D.C.
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maine
- North Dakota
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

f. Education & Training

Per [ASHA's Support Personnel Excluding School Settings](#), national trends for support personnel are as follows:

	Bachelor's Degree + Graduate Hours	Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	Associates Degree or Equivalent	High School Diploma or Equivalent	"Non-Conforming" Education
# of States	5	24	20	17	9



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- Current Nevada SLP Degree Programs are as follows and prior discussion in this area has focused on how Nevada's universities may support/prepare SLPAs.

	Bachelor	Post-Bacc	Master
Nevada State University (NSU)	Speech Pathology (B.A.)	SLP Post-Bacc (Admissions ended in 2022)	Speech-Language Pathology (M.Ed.)
University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)	Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (B.S.)	-	Speech-Language Pathology (M.S.)

- The [ASHA SLP Assistants Certification \(C-SLPA\)](#) offers 3 educational pathways for eligibility:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
2-year SLPA Accredited Program Degree	X		
Bachelor's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders		X	
ASHA Online SLPA Education Modules or Academic Equivalent		X	X
College Degree (AA/BA/BS from an Accredited Institution)			X
SLPA Certificate Program with equivalent coursework, or academic coursework from an accredited program in specific areas.			X
Three 1-hour prerequisite courses in the following: ethics, universal safety precautions, & patient confidentiality	X	X	X
Clinical field work under the supervision of an ASHA-certified CCC-SLP. (Min 100 hours: 80 direct/20 indirect.)	X	X	X
C-SLPA National Examination	X	X	X

- Examples from Other Nevada Boards

- Occupational Therapy

[NRS 640.093 Requirements for program of professional education for physical therapist assistant.](#)

- For the purposes of NRS 640.092, the Board shall not approve any program of professional education for a physical therapist assistant unless the program includes elementary or intermediate courses in clinical, anatomical, biological and physical sciences and is:
 - At least a 2-year program requiring a minimum of 60 academic semester credits at a college accredited by a recognized accrediting agency; or
 - A program which is provided by the Armed Forces of the United States.
- The Board may refuse to approve any program of professional education for physical therapist assistants if the program does not include such courses in theory and procedures as determined by the Board to be necessary for these assistants.

- Physical Therapy

[NRS 640A.120 Qualifications for license.](#) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 640A.165 and 640A.166, to be eligible for licensing by the Board as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, an applicant must:

- Be a natural person of good moral character.
- Except as otherwise provided in NRS 640A.130, have satisfied the academic requirements of an educational program approved by the Board. The Board shall not approve an educational program designed to qualify a person to practice as an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant unless the program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., or its successor organization.
- Except as otherwise provided in NRS 640A.130, have successfully completed:
 - If the application is for licensing as an occupational therapist, 24 weeks; or
 - If the application is for licensing as an occupational therapy assistant, 16 weeks,



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4. È of supervised fieldwork experience approved by the Board. The Board shall not approve any supervised experience unless the experience was sponsored by the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., or its successor organization, or the educational institution at which the applicant satisfied the requirements of subsection 2.
5. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 640A.160 and 640A.170, pass an examination approved by the Board.

g. Supervision & Telesupervision

ASHA's [Guidelines for SLP Supervision of SLPAs](#) includes the following:

- Minimum Qualifications for a Supervising SLP (Holds CCC-SLP, 9 months experience post-certification, & 2 hours of professional development in clinical instruction/supervision)
- Expectations for the Supervising SLP
- Supervision Responsibilities
- SLP-to-SLPA Ratio (Recommends no more than 3 FTE SLPAs in any setting)

The ASHA [Speech-Language Pathology Scope of Practice](#) defines direct supervision to include supervision via telecommunications as follows:

Direct Supervision: In-view observation and guidance by an SLP while the SLPA performs an assigned activity. Direct supervision activities performed by the supervising SLP may include, but are not limited to, the following: observing a portion of the screening or treatment procedures performed by the SLPA, coaching the SLPA, and modeling for the SLPA. **The supervising SLP must be present during all services provided to a medically fragile client by the SLPA (e.g., on-site or via synchronous telesupervision). The SLP can view and communicate with the student, patient, or client and SLPA via "real-time" telecommunication technology to supervise the SLPA, giving the SLP the opportunity to provide immediate feedback.** This does not include reviewing a recorded session later.

h. Potential Benefit of SLPAs to Public/Consumers and Practitioners

- Increases access to services, especially in rural Nevada
- Allows SLPs more time to increase the frequency and intensity of services to patients or clients, focus more on professional-level tasks,
- Reduce costs through delegation of tasks that do not require an SLP
- Clarifies practitioner roles & scope of practice
- Increases workforce opportunities
- Employers rely on established national standards
- Portability between states and work settings
- Systematic review and maintenance of high caliber standards for assistants
- Enhancement of ethical practice

i. Career Continuum

Moving from SLPA to SLP is possible in some states, though historically the associated course work and field work experiences required for SLPAs do not align with those required at the professional level. However, this role will create a new pathway for a bachelor's level-trained professional to enter the workforce immediately without additional graduate education to be licensed as an SLP. Currently there is no path into healthcare settings in Nevada with only an undergraduate degree. The Department of Education endorsement has historically offered a career path into school settings, but this will no longer be an option after October 2026. These roles also required supplemental training and coursework that was only offered at Nevada State University in Southern Nevada; admissions for this program were discontinued in 2022.



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j. Earning Potential

The average reported salary of full-time SLPAs was \$46,000 in the [2021 ASHA Audiology Assistant and SLPA Survey](#). ASHA reports a median hourly rate for full-time SLPAs at \$28.00 and has reported that OT and PT Assistants earn approximately 60-75% of professional-level salaries. This is consistent with [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reports, noting 2022 median pay for SLPs at \$84,140 annually (\$40.45/hour). An SLP assistant paid at 70% of this rate would earn \$58,898 annually (\$28.32/hour).

k. Reciprocity, Portability, & Military Personnel/Spouses

- The ASLP Interstate Compact does not currently include Assistants.
- The Board's License by Endorsement statutes (NRS 637B.203-204) only include Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists.
- Some states offer reciprocity to SLPAs and/or automatic qualification to those holding ASHA Certification.

l. Billing & Reimbursement

Board statutes do not address billing/reimbursement, however consideration for licensing may include discussion of whether these practitioners will be eligible providers under Nevada Medicaid or private insurance plans. Currently reimbursement of SLPAs varies from state to state. Medicare policy currently does not recognize SLPAs, regardless of the level of supervision and does not reimburse for SLPA services, though billing may be allowed under the license of the supervising SLP. Private insurance coverage varies.

m. Ethics & Liability

ASHA has developed a [Code of Conduct](#) for assistants that may be referenced in drafting ethics/professional responsibility statements.

n. Model Bill Language

Model bill language developed by ASHA in 2024 included the following:

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

Defined as any person who assists in the practice of speech-language pathology and who meets the qualifications set forth in this Act.

A person represents himself/herself to be a speech-language pathology assistant when he/she holds himself/herself out to the public by any means, or by any service or function performed, directly or indirectly, or by using the terms "speech pathology assistant," "speech pathologist assistant," "speech language pathology support personnel," "speech therapy assistant," "speech therapist assistant," "speech teacher assistant," "speech correction assistant," "speech correctionist assistant," "speech clinic assistant," "speech clinician assistant," "language therapy assistant," "language therapist assistant," "language pathology assistant," "language pathologist assistant," "language specialist assistant," "voice therapy assistant," "voice therapist assistant," "voice pathologist assistant," "logopedics assistant," "logopedist assistant," "communicology assistant," "communicologist assistant," "communication specialist assistant," "aphasiology assistant," "aphasiologist assistant," "phoniatriest assistant," or any variation, synonym, coinage, or other word that expresses, employs, or implies these terms, names, or functions.

Supervising Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists

(1) Audiologists and speech-language pathologists supervising audiology assistants or speech-language



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pathology assistants shall:

- (a) Register with the Board the name of each assistant working under their supervision;
- (b) Be responsible for the extent, kind, and quality of service provided by the assistant, consistent with the Board's designated standards and requirements; and
- (c) Ensure that persons receiving services from an assistant receive prior written notification that services are to be provided, in whole or in part, by an audiology assistant or a speech-language pathology assistant.

(2) Supervising audiologists must hold a valid state license and hold a Certificate of Clinical Competence

in Audiology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

(3) Supervising speech-language pathologists must hold a valid state license and hold a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Each such supervisor shall not accept more than two full-time assistants.

Persons and Practices Affected

(1) Licensure shall be granted either in audiology or speech-language pathology independently. A person may be licensed in both areas if that person meets the respective qualifications. No person shall practice audiology or speech-language pathology or represent himself/herself as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist in this state, unless such person is licensed in accordance with this Act.

(2) On or after [date], an individual hired by a public school system, State approved nonpublic school for children with disabilities, or chartered educational institution of the State or the State Department of Education to practice speech-language pathology shall be licensed in accordance with this Act.

(3) On [date], an individual employed by a public school system, State approved nonpublic school for children with disabilities, or chartered educational institution of the State or the State Department of Education to practice speech-language pathology who does not otherwise meet the qualifications set forth in this Act, may be licensed to practice speech-language pathology as long as they are practicing continuously on and after [date] while performing the duties of that employment.

(4) Any person not eligible for licensure as an audiologist or not eligible for authorization to practice as an intern, who assists in the practice of audiology under the supervision of a licensed audiologist must be licensed as an audiology assistant. No person shall practice as an audiology assistant or represent himself/herself as an audiology assistant in this state, unless such person is licensed in accordance with this Act.

(5) Any person not eligible for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or not eligible for authorization to practice as an intern, who assists in the practice of speech-language pathology under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist must be licensed as a speech-language pathology assistant. No person shall practice as a speech-language pathology assistant or represent himself/herself as a speech-language pathology assistant in this state, unless such person is licensed in accordance with this Act.

Qualifications: Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

To be eligible for licensure by the Board as a speech-language pathology assistant, the applicant shall:

- (a) Submit a signed and notarized application to the Board, upon such form as prescribed by the Board;
- (b) Pay to the Board the appropriate application fee;
- (c) Possess an associate degree or bachelor degree with an emphasis in speech-language pathology from an accredited educational institution approved by the Board;



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- (d) Submit a bona fide official transcript or a written notification from the chair or program director of an academic institution verifying that the applicant attended the academic institution and completed the academic course work requirement.
- (e) Complete a minimum of 100 clock hours of supervised clinical experience at the educational institution approved by the Board or during the first year of employment.
- (f) Have committed no acts described in section 4.02 for which disciplinary action may be justified.
- (5) Within 30 days of employment, the supervising audiologist or supervising speech-language pathologist must submit a notarized statement to the Board explicitly indicating that the supervisor agrees to supervise the assistant's practice and that the supervisor accepts full and complete responsibility for that practice.

Action: Approve, Table, or Take No Action on the Matter



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AGENDA ITEM 5

Review and Recommendation to the Board on Possible Revision to NRS 637B.060 “Practice of speech-language pathology” defined to Address Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) Procedure

This possible revision has not been approved by the Board and the matter has been referred to this Subcommittee for a recommendation.

This revision would address/allow practice of the FEES procedure by SLPs with specific guidance/limits as drafted. The Board office has received a number of guidance requests over the years regarding whether an SLP can perform the Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) procedure, and the current scope of practice (listed below) does not address the procedure specifically.

The Committee may recommend proposed language to revise this section of NRS or consider whether NAC 637B may be amended to provide more detailed guidance on this practice.

Example: California passed [SB 1453](#) that took effect in January 2023, allowing a “Speech-Language Pathologist to perform the FEES procedure in primary care and specialty clinics, county medical facilities, hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, hospice facilities, and medical group practices, without the presence of a physician, as long as the facility has emergency medical backup procedures, including a physician or other appropriate medical professional being readily available.”

a. Current Scope of Practice in NRS 637B.060

NRS 637B.060 “Practice of speech-language pathology” defined. “Practice of speech-language pathology” means the application of principles, methods and procedures relating to the development and effectiveness of human communication and disorders of human communication, and includes, without limitation:

1. The prevention, screening, consultation, assessment, treatment, counseling, collaboration and referral services for disorders of speech, fluency, resonance voice language, feeding, swallowing and cognitive aspects of communication;
2. Augmentative and alternative communication techniques and strategies;
3. Auditory training, speech reading and speech and language intervention for persons who suffer from hearing loss;
4. The screening of persons for hearing loss and middle ear pathology;
5. **The use of oral and nasal endoscopy for the purpose of vocal tract imaging and visualization;**
6. Selecting, fitting and establishing effective use of prosthetic or adaptive devices for communication, swallowing or other upper respiratory and digestive functions, not including sensory devices used by persons with hearing loss;
7. Providing services to modify or enhance communication;
8. Providing referral services for medical diagnosis and treatment; and
9. At the request of a physician, participating in the diagnosis of a person.

b. Overview of FEES Procedure

The FEES Procedure as [described by ASHA](#):

- “A portable procedure (sometimes also called fiber-optic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing) that may be completed in outpatient clinic or at bedside by passing an endoscope transnasally.
- May be conducted by an SLP, a physician, or collaboratively together.
- May be recommended regardless of setting (e.g., hospital, skilled nursing facility).
- Used without concerns of radiation exposure and can be used within therapeutic contexts and for diagnostic therapy to assess current progress and effectiveness of therapy.



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- If there are clinical indications for a laryngoscopy evaluation (e.g., hoarse voice, pain on swallowing), the SLP may consider consulting with a physician regarding a referral to an otolaryngologist to rule out the possibility of disease in the nasal, pharyngeal, or laryngeal region.
- Clinicians should be well trained in the signs and symptoms of adverse reactions, know their facility's plan for response and intervention to such reactions, and be ready to take appropriate actions if they occur.
- Procedures for FEES vary across settings and across clinicians. Clinicians should follow guidelines from their facility and licensing body regarding FEES procedures."

c. States With Specific Instrumental Assessment Requirements

Per ASHA, the following states have laws, regulations, or policies related to the [use of instrumental assessment for speech-language pathologists](#):

Alabama	Colorado	Indiana	Missouri	New York	South Dakota
Arkansas	Georgia	Maryland	Nevada	North Carolina	Tennessee
California	Illinois	Michigan	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Virginia

d. States That Define Swallowing

Per ASHA, the following states [define swallowing or voice](#) as part of the practice of speech-language pathology:

Alaska	Idaho	Minnesota	North Dakota	Utah
Arizona	Iowa	Mississippi	Ohio	Vermont
Connecticut	Kansas	Montana	Oklahoma	Washington
Delaware	Kentucky	Nebraska	Oregon	West Virginia
D.C.	Louisiana	Nevada	Rhode Island	Wisconsin
Florida	Maine	New Hampshire	South Carolina	Wyoming
Hawaii	Massachusetts	New Mexico	Texas	

Action: Approve, Table, or Take No Action on the Matter



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AGENDA ITEM 5

Reports from Committee Chair and Members

- a. Report from Committee Chair and Board Members
- b. Discussion on Future Meeting Schedule and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date
- c. Future Agenda Items

Action: Approve, Table, or Take No Action on the Matter



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AGENDA ITEM 6

Public Comment

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

Action: None – Informational Only



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AGENDA ITEM 7

Adjournment

Action: Meeting Adjourned