



State of Nevada

Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee

May 20, 2024

Members Present: Shawn Binn, Marvelee Clayworth, Christy Fleck, Nancy Kuhles, Andrea Menicucci, Branden Murphy, Kim Reddig, Adrienne Williams

Members Absent: Katrina Nicholas

Staff Present: Jennifer Pierce, Executive Director
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General

Public Present: Jeffrey Briske, NDE; Rachael Grigsby; Sabrina Schnur; Belz & Case "Note-Taking Bot"

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Subcommittee Chair Kim Reddig called the meeting to order at 5:02pm and a roll call confirmed a quorum was present. Katrina Nicholas (member) was noted as absent Ms. Pierce reported that Stacey Whittaker was away on vacation.

Public Comment

Ms. Reddig introduced the agenda item and read the following statement pursuant to AB219 (2023): "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 at the end of the meeting agenda with additional public comment instructions. Public comment is welcomed by the Board. 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 Board Chair, additional public comment may be heard when that item is reached. The Board 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."

Ms. Reddig then called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes: Subcommittee Meeting of March 25, 2024

Ms. Reddig introduced the item and asked if there were any comments or corrections noted in the minutes. Hearing none, Ms. Reddig called for a motion. Shawn Binn made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Christy Fleck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Recommendation to the Board on Proposed Revisions to NRS 637B and NAC 637B to Address SLP Assistant Licensing, Supervision and Telesupervision Provided by Supervising SLPs, and Related Sections

Ms. Pierce summarized that following the March 2024 meeting the draft language document was revised with several sections noted for further discussion. Ms. Pierce also explained that the Board will need to review and approved a final draft of its BDR at the July 31, 2024 meeting and asked that the Subcommittee prioritize recommendations for NRS revisions during this meeting, as work on NAC sections may continue concurrent to the legislative session.

Work Session to Consider Recommendation for Revision to NRS 637B and/or NAC 637B to Address Supervision & Telesupervision by Supervising Speech-Language Pathologists for SLP Assistants, Provisional SLPs, and Students

Ms. Pierce directed the Subcommittee to the NRS language drafted from prior discussions. After the work session, the following sections were identified for recommendation to the Board:

- *NRS New: Definitions* to include Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, Supervising Speech-Language Pathologist, Provisional Licensee, Student, Supervision, and Telesupervision.
- *NRS New: Qualifications/Education* to include either a bachelor's degree or master's degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders or current endorsement issued on or before September 30, 2026 by the Nevada department of education pursuant to Chapter 391 of NRS to teach students who have speech and language impairments.
- *NRS New: Speech-language pathology assistants: Regulations* to include adoption of SLPA regulations regarding licensing; educational, training, and fieldwork requirements; supervision; and practice.
- *NRS New Requirements for speech-language pathology assistant, provisional licensee, or student to assist in practice of speech-language pathology.*
- *Supervision:* No NRS revisions recommended, may be addressed in NAC recommendations.
- *Continuing Education:* No NRS revisions recommended, may be addressed in NAC recommendations.
- *NRS 637B.175 Fees:* No revisions recommended.

Kim Reddig called for a motion. Andrea Menicucci made a motion to recommend the Board pursue the NRS revisions as drafted. Nancy Kuhles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Work Session to Consider Recommendation for Revision to NRS 637B.244 Regarding Telepractice by Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

This item was identified to provide interpretation and guidance as to whether the current NRS would allow an SLPA to engage in telepractice and if not, whether the Subcommittee would recommend a revision to allow this. Discussion resulted in consensus that as written, NRS 637B.244 could and should allow an SLPA to engage in telepractice given that they would be working under a Supervising SLP, and both would be required to follow Nevada's practice laws and regulations. Kim Reddig called for a motion. Andrea Menicucci made a motion to recommend the Board pursue no revision to NRS 637B.244 and accept the interpretation that NRS 637B.244 would allow an SLPA to engage in telepractice. Adrienne Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Work Session to Consider Recommendation for Revision to NRS 637B.080 and NAC 637B to Align with SLP Assistant Licensing and NDE Sunsetting of Bachelor's Level Personnel

Ms. Pierce summarized that this item was identified on request to consider removing NRS 637B.080(1) to align with the planned sunseting of bachelor's level staff by NDE. NRS 637B.080(1) currently reads as follows: *"The provisions of this chapter do not apply to any person who: 1. Holds a current credential issued by the Department of Education pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto and engages in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology within the scope of that credential"*. Ms. Pierce further summarized that the Subcommittee's discussion has centered on recommending a bachelor's degree as the minimum requirement for an SLPA license with no alternative pathway for those who currently

hold the NDE endorsement and will be eligible to remain in their role under the revised regulation. Fully removing this section of NRS 637B.080 would pose a conflict with the revised section of NAC 391.370 and pose an unlicensed practice risk to those individuals despite being allowed to continue working within the scope of their role as an employee (non-contract/private practice) of a public education entity. Ms. Pierce suggested two possible options: 1) Make no recommendation to change this section but revise to address only those allowed to continue working under NDE after October 1, 2026, or 2) Recommend removal of this section but include an option in its recommendation for SLPA licensure specific only to those holding the NDE endorsement prior to October 1, 2026. There was discussion on the matter with consensus to recommend allowing those holding current NDE endorsement to qualify for a Board SLPA license. Kim Reddig called for a motion. Andrea Menicucci made a motion to recommend that the Board pursue a revision to remove NRS 637B.080(1) and add the option to the recommended NRS section for SLPA licensing that would include either a bachelor's degree or *"A current endorsement issued on or before September 30, 2026 by the Nevada Department of Education pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS to teach students who have speech and language impairments."* Nancy Kuhles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Work Session to Consider Recommendation for SLPA Fieldwork Requirements in Context of NSHE and Other Educational Program Offerings

Ms. Pierce summarized that this item was identified in the March 2024 meeting for further discussion regarding SLPA fieldwork requirements, as it was identified as a desired requirement, but adequate educational and community resources do not currently exist to provide students with sufficient fieldwork opportunities. Christy Fleck shared that Bachelor's students at NSU only obtain 25 observation hours, and it was agreed this would not be considered sufficient for an SLPA. A suggestion was made to consider adding language to proposed NAC recommendations to allow for supervision of a new graduate that would mirror an initial fieldwork period, and consensus was to move fieldwork requirements to NAC 637B for continued work by the Subcommittee. Kim Reddig called for a motion. Shawn Binn made a motion to add fieldwork in the NRS section that addresses Regulations in its recommendation to the Board with a plan for the Subcommittee to continue working on recommendations that may be proposed for inclusion in future NAC sections. Adrienne Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Work Session to Consider Recommendation for Revisions to NRS 637B and/or NAC 637B to Address SLP Assistant Licensing and Practice Requirements

As the Subcommittee reviewed and recommended revisions to sections of NRS in earlier agenda items, this item was tabled for discussion at the next meeting to work on recommendations for revisions to NAC 637B.

Discussion on Collaboration and Coordination with Stakeholders and Partners Related to SLP Assistant Licensing and Related Recommended Revisions to NRS 637B and NAC 637B

This item was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

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*

Ms. Pierce summarized the Subcommittee's prior discussions on this matter, resulting in consensus that a revision to #5 in NRS 637B.060 to effectively address the range of tools used by SLPs for the purpose of vocal tract imaging and visualization would be appropriate but would not need to specifically list the FEES procedure. Ms. Pierce directed the Subcommittee to draft language in the meeting packet with NRS 637B.060(5) revised as follows: *The use of flexible/nasal endoscopy, rigid/oral endoscopy, and/or stroboscopy for the purpose of evaluating and treating disorders of speech, voice, resonance, and swallowing function.* Ms. Reddig called for a motion. Shawn Binn made a motion to recommend the revised language in NRS 637B.060(5) to the Board as drafted. Andrea Menicucci seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports from Subcommittee Chair and Members

There were no reports from the Subcommittee Chair or Members. The group discussed the schedule for future meetings and agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:00pm. It was agreed that future agenda items will include 1) Review and Recommendation for Possible Revisions to NAC 637B Regarding SLPA Licensing, including scope of practice and supervision, and 2) SLPA telepractice and telesupervision, 3) Consideration of supervision/telesupervision of student interns and clinical fellows in the context of SLPAs, 4) NRS 637B.080 Applicability of Chapter in the context of SLPAs, and 5) Possible Revision to NRS 637B.060 related to the FEES Procedure.

Public Comment

Branden Murphy offered public comment to introduce his student, Rachael Grigsby who was in attendance and observing the meeting.

Adjournment

Ms. Reddig adjourned the meeting at 6:49pm.