



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee
September 24, 2024

Members Present: Christy Fleck, Nancy Kuhles, Andrea Menicucci, Branden Murphy, Katrina Nicholas, Kim Reddig, Adrienne Williams

Members Absent: Shawn Binn, Marvelee Clayworth

Staff Present: Jennifer Pierce, Executive Director
Stacey Whittaker, Licensing Coordinator
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General

Public Present: Belz & Case "Note-Taking Bot"

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Subcommittee Chair Kim Reddig was present in the meeting by phone with an unstable connection, so Executive Director Pierce called the meeting to order at 5:01pm and a roll call confirmed a quorum was present. Shawn Binn, Marvelee Clayworth were noted as excused absent.

Public Comment

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

Approval of the Minutes: Subcommittee Meeting of June 24, 2024

Ms. Pierce introduced the item and asked if there were any comments or corrections needed. Stacey Whittaker noted that a correction was needed to reflect that she was present in the June meeting, and Ms. Pierce called for a motion. Andrea Menicucci made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction to reflect Ms. Whittaker's attendance, and Nancy Kuhles 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 the issues for review, summarizing the Subcommittee's June 2024 meeting actions where the Subcommittee recommended final NRS draft language to the Board, which was approved by the Board at its

July 2024 meeting. The Subcommittee also worked on draft additions and revisions to NAC 637B at its June meeting, with several sections finalized and three sections tabled for further discussion at this meeting. It is anticipated that this language will be finalized, and all recommended NAC revisions will be presented to the Board at its October 2024 meeting.

- Qualifications/Education to address reciprocity for SLPAs licensed in another state. The Subcommittee discussed options, noting that there are wide variations nationally for SLPA licensing standards, and the consensus was that the standard should not be less than a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders. No NAC language was suggested, and no action was taken.
- Supervision to address "supervision provided by supervising speech-language pathologist" addressing training/orientation for new graduates in lieu of fieldwork included in education prior to licensing. The Subcommittee's work has revealed that new bachelor's level graduates from programs in Nevada, and possibly some other states, will not have completed any substantial fieldwork as part of the degree curriculum. At NSU for example, a new graduate will complete 25 observation and 0 clinical hours. Because of this, the Subcommittee's recommendation for licensing criteria in NRS 637B did not include a fieldwork component. Instead, the Subcommittee chose to consider how related guidelines could be added to NAC 637B for additional supervision or similar that could replicate fieldwork during the initial license period. There was discussion on fieldwork requirements established by other states and ASHA, and consensus that this should not be left up to the supervising SLP but instead standardized in some way. Christy Fleck suggested looking at a tool Texas uses called a "Clinical Deficiency Plan" that provides a structured plan for a licensee to acquire a required number of clinical observation and clinical experience hours if these hours cannot be completed within the educational program. There was agreement that a tool such as this could be used for SLP Assistants in Nevada, and Ms. Pierce agreed to draft related NAC language and a "plan" template for review at the next meeting. No action was taken.
- Applicability of Chapter/Alignment with NDE Assistants: This section was tabled for further discussion and related to the Subcommittee's prior recommendation for a revision to NRS 637B.080 that would remove the section allowing an exception from Board licensing for NDE employees holding an NDE endorsement. The Board approved moving forward with the recommended NRS revision at its July 2024 meeting. The NAC section under discussion was added as part of a revision to NAC 637B in 2020 included in LCB File No. R095-19, since codified as NAC 637B.014. Consensus in the Subcommittee was that it was appropriate to also recommend deletion of NAC 637B.014 as the Subcommittee believes the Board should not allow an exception from licensing for NDE personnel. Nancy Kuhles asked for clarification on the results of removing this section of NAC and the applicability language in NRS 637B.080. Ms. Pierce confirmed that both revisions would result in the requirement that any person wishing to practice audiology, speech-language pathology, or hearing aid dispensing in the state must hold a license issued by this Board, even if they already hold an NDE license or endorsement to practice in that setting. Ms. Pierce called for a motion and Andrea Menicucci made a motion to recommend the Board approve removal of NAC 637B.014 in future administrative rulemaking efforts to align with the Board's proposed BDR. Branden Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, however Nancy Kuhles noted for the record that she was "concerned" about the resulting requirement for NDE staff to hold both licenses.

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

Several members reported that most stakeholders are aware of the Board & Subcommittee's work on SLPA's. Nancy Kuhles shared the names of contacts at several school districts in support of SLPA licensing.

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 Ms. Pierce explained the proposed plan to disband the Subcommittee after the next meeting. As it was established as a temporary body by the Board to make recommendations on NRS and NAC revisions related to SLP Assistant licensing, one more meeting is sufficient to make final recommendations. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 5:00pm and future agenda items will include 1) Final review and recommendation for possible revisions to NAC 637B regarding SLP Assistant licensing and collaboration and coordination with stakeholders and partners, and 2) Dissolution of the Subcommittee with delegation to the Board to approve final meeting minutes.

Public Comment

Ms. Pierce called for public comment and Nancy Kuhles expressed her thanks to Board staff and the Subcommittee members for the work everyone put into this process.

Adjournment

Ms. Pierce adjourned the meeting at 6:11pm.