



State of Nevada

Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

Board Meeting
January 22, 2025

Members Present:	Timothy Hunsaker, Lynee Anderson, Shawn Binn, Jennifer Joy-Cornejo, Adrienne Williams
Members Absent:	Branden Murphy, Vacant SLP
Staff Present:	Jennifer Pierce, Executive Director Stacey Whittaker, Licensing Coordinator Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General, Board Counsel Izack Tenorio, Board Lobbyist
Public Present:	Katie Allen, Laura Fussell, Nancy Kuhles, Shawna Ross

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Vice Chair Hunsaker called the meeting to order at 4:31pm. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Vice Chair Hunsaker introduced this 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 above. Please see additional public comment instructions at the end of this agenda. 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."

Vice Chair Hunsaker then called for public comment, and there was none.

Approval of the Minutes: Board Meeting of October 23, 2024

Vice Chair Hunsaker asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of October 23, 2024 and none were noted. Shawn Binn made a motion to approve the minutes of October 23, 2024 as written and Adrienne Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Board Member Welcome

Ms. Pierce confirmed that no appointment has been received from the Governor's Office to fill the vacant SLP seat, but they have indicated that Lynee Anderson's reappointment should be made within the next few weeks.

Legislative Update from Strategies 360 and Board Staff with Consideration for Work with Partners and Stakeholders, and/or Approval of Board Position on Proposed Legislation

Izack Tenorio of Strategies, 360 and Ms. Pierce provided the Board with an update on legislative activities related to the Board's bill and others that may impact the Board in the upcoming 2025 legislative session.

BDR 54-199 is this Board's bill to Revise NRS 637B. The bill text has not been released but a draft has been reviewed by Ms. Pierce and Dr. Tenorio and sent back for corrections. Ms. Pierce reported that she is scheduled to meet with LCB to discuss these tomorrow (January 23) and once released, the bill text will be sent out to the Board. The first committee hearing date is still yet to be determined but it would be helpful if the Board Members appointed to appear before the Legislature are available to attend: Timothy Hunsaker (Dispensing Audiologist), Adrienne Williams (SLP), and Lynee Anderson (Hearing Aid Specialist).

SB 78 is the Governor's Office/Department of Business and Industry Board consolidation bill, which intends to terminate and consolidate various Boards and revise the powers and duties of the Office of Nevada Boards, Commissions and Councils Standards of the Department of Business and Industry. B&I has reported a planned amendment and Dr. Tenorio advised the Board to request that B&I add the proposed revisions from BDR 54-199 to SB 78, in addition to working BDR 54-199 concurrently. A suggestion was made to also request that they add a second SLP to the proposed consolidated Board. Shawn Binn made a motion to support SB78 to include the Board's proposed revisions to NRS 637B, the addition of a second SLP to the "Nevada Board of Rehabilitative Practice and Therapy", and clarification that one SLP represent medical/private practice settings and the second represent educational settings. Adrienne Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 34, from the Patient Protection Commission, seeks to reduce barriers for licensed healthcare providers to practice in Nevada by authorizing the state to join the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, as well as compacts for Physical Therapy, Physician Assistants, Nursing, and Occupational Therapy. Additionally, BDR 54-568 from Assemblymember Marzola would enact the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact. Vice Chair Hunsaker called for a motion. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to take a position in support of these bills and other compact legislation, and Adrienne Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other bills of note were discussed but no action was taken. Ms. Pierce and Dr. Tenorio will provide the Board with updates as the legislative session progresses.

Consideration to Approve SLP Subcommittee Recommendations for Revisions to NAC 637B, Approve Final SLP Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, and Dissolve SLP Subcommittee

The Board was provided drafted revisions to NAC 637B recommended by the SLP Subcommittee at its final meeting of January 14, 2025. When/if the Board's Bill passes, the proposed NAC revisions will be pursued through the administrative rulemaking process during the 2025-2026 interim. Vice Chair Hunsaker called for a motion. Shawn Binn made a motion to approve the drafted NAC revisions and Adrienne Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pierce then explained the need to dissolve the SLP Subcommittee and approve the Subcommittee's final meeting minutes. Vice Chair Hunsaker made a motion to do so, and Adrienne Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Disciplinary Case H24-02 Recommended for Dismissal

Ms. Pierce summarized that the Complaint alleged unprofessional conduct, misrepresentation of qualifications, attempting to influence a client to derive benefits, and conduct that is harmful to the public health and safety. After investigation and review of all documentation received on this complaint, it has been determined that there is insufficient evidence to file a formal complaint for hearing before the Board and the facts set forth in the accusations are insufficient to establish a violation of Chapter 637B of the Nevada Revised Statutes or the Nevada Administrative Code. This case was recommended for dismissal. Vice Chair Hunsaker called for a motion. Adrienne Williams made a motion to dismiss Case H24-02, seconded by Shawn Binn. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the written Executive Director's Report and summarized that FY25 Q2 saw a net increase of eight licenses, which is consistent with data for prior second quarters, which are a slow time for new license applications. FY25 Q2 income was almost equal to budget at 49.02%, with expenses slightly lower at 43.81%, resulting in an expected negative net income of -\$4,672.48. Additionally, a significant amount of revenue is collected in this quarter as over half of Board licenses renew on December 31st annually, however that income is reflected as deferred revenue throughout the year. There were no unexpected expenses or deviations from the budget in FY25 Q2. Ms. Pierce reported that there were two open complaint cases following the October 2024 meeting, and one new complaint received to date. One open case was screened out/closed, and one open case was approved for dismissal earlier in this meeting, leaving one open case.

Report from Legal Counsel

Henna Rasul, Board Counsel had no new information to report on legal matters.

Reports from Board Chair and Board Members

- a. There were no reports from the Board Chair or members.
- b. 2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule: It was agreed that the next meeting would be an in-person meeting, with Las Vegas members traveling to Reno sometime during the week of April 21, 2025. The planned meeting will also be scheduled to coordinate a visit by the Board to the Legislature in Carson City. Ms. Pierce agreed to send out an email poll to find dates that work for all members.
- c. Future Agenda Items: The following matters were identified for the April 2025 meeting and future agendas:
 - 1) Update and Report Out from Strategies 360 on Board Bill and Related Activities during the 2025 Legislative Session
 - 2) Other Items As Proposed

Public Comment

Shawna Ross shared an update on NSHA's effort to support legislation, including SB34 and Assemblymember Marzola's BDR to enter Nevada into the Audiology-Speech-Language Pathology Compact and asked for the Board's support. Ms. Pierce confirmed that the Board previously took action to take a position in support of compact legislation.

Adjournment

Timothy Hunsaker adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.