



State of Nevada

## Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

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### MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

#### Board Meeting

April 22, 2025

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**Members Present:** Timothy Hunsaker, Lynee Anderson, Shawn Binn, Jennifer Joy-Cornejo, Branden Murphy, Adrienne Williams

**Members Absent:** 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:** Aamna Ahmad, Katie Allen, Karen Klopfer, Nancy Kuhles, Shawna Ross

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#### Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Vice Chair Hunsaker called the meeting to order at 5:02pm. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

#### Public Comment

Vice Chair Hunsaker introduced the agenda item and read the following instructions for a member of the general public to call in to the meeting and provide public comment, pursuant to NRS 241.023(5):

"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 called for public comment and there was none.

#### Approval of the Minutes: Board Meeting of March 26, 2025

Vice Chair Hunsaker asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of March 26, 2025 and none were noted. Adrienne Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Shawn Binn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Welcome New Member, Election of Board Chair & Vice Chair, and Appointment of Board Bank Signatories and Financial Reviewer**

Vice Chair Hunsaker introduced this item and confirmed that no appointment had been made to the vacant SLP seat. Vice Chair Hunsaker also confirmed that he is able to and willing to remain on the Board until a reappointment is made after he terms out on July 1, 2025. Ms. Pierce summarized that this item was included as currently she and Vice Chair Hunsaker are the only active signers on the bank accounts, and wanted to provide the Board with the option to consider holding elections now or waiting until after the legislative session when more will be known regarding proposed board mergers in SB78. After some discussion, consensus was to wait, and the item was tabled.

**Consent Decree Recommended for Approval: Case #S25-01, Aamna Ahmad, License #SP-3999**

Ms. Pierce explained that the complaint alleged failure to notify the Board of an incident within the 10 days required pursuant to NAC 637B.042(15)(b). After investigation and review of documentation, it was determined that there was sufficient evidence to file a formal complaint. Ms. Pierce further shared that Ms. Ahmad opted to settle the matter by entering into a consent decree and was present at this meeting to address the Board. Copies of the consent decree were then disseminated and reviewed by the Board members. Ms. Ahmad was invited to address the Board and expressed her deep regret over the matter, indicating that it was an oversight on her part in not understanding the need to report the original charge. Once she self-reported and the final disposition was for a lesser, non-criminal charge, she hoped this matter could be dismissed as well. There was lengthy discussion by the Board on the rationale for proceeding with this complaint after the court disposition, and Sr. DAG Henna Rasul advised that Ms. Ahmad was still in violation of NAC 637B by not reporting the original criminal charge within 10 days as required. The Board debated the matter for some time, with acknowledgement that while there was initially a violation, many felt it unfair to sanction Ms. Ahmad given that she self-reported and the court's disposition lowered the original charge. The Board also identified the section of NAC that was violated, and consensus was to revisit this later in the meeting regarding future NAC revisions and consider removing this requirement, as it does not align with allowing a person to be 'innocent until proven guilty'. The Board requested advice from Sr. DAG Rasul who advised that the Board could reject the Consent Decree and leave the case open, or reject the Consent Decree and dismiss the matter in two separate actions, and that both choices would set a precedent for future cases. Sr. DAG Rasul also advised that should the Board pursue revisions to this section of NAC 637B, the violation in this case would still apply, since it occurred when the current regulations were in place. The Board agreed to take a vote, and Shawn Binn made a motion to reject the consent decree, seconded by Adrienne Williams. Shawn Binn, Adrienne Williams, and Timothy Hunsaker voted for, and Lynee Anderson, Jennifer Joy-Cornejo, and Branden Murphy voted against. Mr. Murphy stated for the record that he agreed it would be the "right" decision to reject the consent decree given the dismissal of the charge, however he must vote against as the regulation was violated. Given that the result was a 3-3 tie, the Board sought advice from Sr. DAG Rasul who confirmed that the matter could be tabled until a seventh member is appointed to the vacant SLP seat. Adrienne Williams made a motion to table the matter until a full Board of 7 members can revisit the case. Timothy Hunsaker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Legislative Update with Consideration of AB177, Board Position and/or Recommendation on Legislative Bills, and Preparation for Board Visit to Nevada Legislature**

Vice Chair Hunsaker introduced the item and Ms. Pierce and Dr. Tenorio confirmed that the Board's bill, AB177 was passed just prior to the start of this meeting on the Assembly floor with strong bipartisan support. Ms. Pierce shared plans for the Board's visit to the Legislature the next day, and Dr. Tenorio explained that while many events are planned, the group may need to be flexible as things may change quickly. Ms. Pierce confirmed that the ASLP Interstate Compact bill, AB230, is exempt from deadlines but has been sent to the Ways & Means Committee due to a fiscal note. There was further discussion on other legislation with a recommendation from Dr. Tenorio to formally support AB169. Ms. Pierce briefly summarized the bill, which addresses insurance

coverage for SLP care related to stuttering. Shawn Binn made a motion for the Board to support AB169, seconded by Jennifer-Joy Cornejo. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Consideration and Approval of Proposed Revisions to NAC 637B in Preparation for Public Workshop During 2025-2026 Interim**

Vice Chair Hunsaker introduced the item, and Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the drafted revisions to NAC 637B, explaining that these include SLPA and other sections related to AB177 if passed, those that may be needed due to other active legislation, and other general revisions. Ms. Pierce noted that NAC 637B.030 includes proposed fees for SLP Assistants and HAS Apprentices that are lower than current fees, and directed the Board to a comparison of fees from other healthcare boards that license assistants. Ms. Pierce shared that she will update the draft to reflect needed changes after the legislative session ends, and proposed holding a Public Workshop during the Board's July 2025 meeting, with a Public Hearing to follow in October 2025. As discussed earlier in the meeting, the new draft will also reflect a revision to NAC 637B.042(15), changing the reporting requirement from 10 days to 30 days, and deleting NAC 637B.042(15)(b) requiring a licensee to report a criminal charge. No action was taken.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the written Executive Director's Report and summarized that FY25 Q3 saw a net decrease of 21 licenses, consistent with third quarter data as almost half of the Board's licenses expire on 12/31 each year, but those that are not renewed do not count until Q3. FY25 Q3 income and expenses were both lower than budgeted at 72.92% and 69.01% respectively. The following deviations from budgeted expenses were noted as lower than anticipated: examinations at 62.62%, likely due to fewer examinations than usual and/or more examinations expected in Q4 to coincide with graduations; legal fees at 24.38% due to AG's Office billing delays; and office supplies at 24.74% due to a lower final cost for QuickBooks software. The following expenses were noted as higher than anticipated: bank service charges at 78.21% due to increasing rates; insurance at 102.28% due to a temporary "surplus contribution charge" of \$120 assessed by the Nevada Retail Network to address its operating cost increases; postage at 82.76% due to shipping of practical dispensing exam materials; and travel at 703.75% due to the previously unplanned April 2025 in-person meeting & legislative visit. Both database (120.44%) and dues (79.55%) appear over budget, but were both one-time payments covering both FY25 & FY26 and will be adjusted at the end of the year. Ms. Pierce also reported that there was one open complaint case following the January 2025 meeting, with two new complaints received to date. One open case was scheduled for a Consent Decree review earlier in this meeting but tabled, leaving three open cases.

### **Review and Approval of Revised FY25 Budget and Proposed FY26 Budget**

Ms. Pierce presented revised FY25 and proposed FY26 budgets for the Board's review and approval. FY25 revisions include increases to travel for this in-person meeting and legislative visit, an increase in postage costs for exam materials shipping, and a decrease to office supplies due to the lower QuickBooks cost, resulting in an expected net revenue of approximately -\$27,500, consistent with prior plans for a deficit this fiscal year. The FY26 budget includes the cost of the anticipated biennial audit, and a proposed decrease in personnel through a change to part-time status for Ms. Pierce. A line item was also added, but the amount is yet unknown, for ASLP Interstate Compact participation fees. There was discussion around Ms. Pierce's suggestion to move back to part-time status, and consensus was to reject this offer and have Ms. Pierce remain full-time to support the work of the Board. Vice Chair Hunsaker made a motion to accept and approve both budgets as presented, with the exception of changing Ms. Pierce's status to part-time, instead retaining her hours & salary at the current full-time rate. Adrienne Williams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Report from Legal Counsel**

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

**Reports from Board Chair and Board Members**

There were no reports from the Board Chair or members. Executive Director Pierce summarized the plan to hold a Public Workshop on proposed regulations at the July 2025 meeting, with a Public Hearing to follow in the October 2025 meeting. The Board confirmed the next meeting for Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 4:30pm.

**Public Comment**

Shawna Ross shared that there was a recent amendment to AB169 that will increase the age of coverage to 26 to extend eligibility for young adults still on parental health plans. Ms. Ross also shared that the ASLP Interstate Compact may have available grant funding to help states cover participation costs.

**Adjournment**

Vice Chair Hunsaker adjourned the meeting at 6:46pm.