



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

July 9, 2025

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Timothy Hunsaker, Lynee Anderson, Jennifer Joy-Cornejo, Branden Murphy, Adrienne Williams
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Shawn Binn, Vacant SLP
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Jennifer Pierce, Executive Director Stacey Whittaker, Licensing Coordinator Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General, Board Counsel
<b>Public Present:</b>	Susan Adams (ASHA), Katie Allen (NSHA), Markeita Jolly, Edyl Zarah Peck, Kim Reddig (NSHA), Shawna Ross (NSHA), Shannon Sullivan, Deanna Yates

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#### Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Vice Chair Hunsaker called the meeting to order at 4:32pm. 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, advising that any pertaining to the Public Workshop could be held until that agenda item. There was no public comment.

#### Approval of the Minutes: Board Meeting of April 22, 2025

Vice Chair Hunsaker asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2025 and none were noted. Branden Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Adrienne Williams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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## **Board Member Welcome & Election to Board Seats and ASLP-Interstate Compact Commission Delegate/Temporary Representative Positions**

Welcome New Board Member: Dr. Hunsaker introduced this item and confirmed that no appointment had been made to the vacant SLP seat, though the Governor's office has indicated they have a candidate for review.

Election of Board Chair & Vice Chair: Dr. Hunsaker's appointment expired on July 1, 2025 and he reiterated that he can remain on the Board until a new appointment is made, however it was agreed that it would be prudent to elect a new Chair & Vice Chair. Ms. Pierce shared that Shawn Binn conveyed that she would be open to the financial reviewer role but not Chair or Vice Chair. Both Branden Murphy and Adrienne Williams volunteered to take on either Chair or Vice Chair, and were nominated by Jennifer Joy-Cornejo and Timothy Hunsaker, respectively. Dr. Hunsaker made a motion to elect Adrienne Williams as the new Chair and Branden Murphy as the new Vice Chair, and Jennifer-Joy Cornejo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Election of Delegates and Appointment of Temporary Representatives (Alternates) to the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) Commission with Authority Granted to Represent the Board on the Commission: Jennifer Joy-Cornejo and Adrienne Williams stated that they were interested in serving as the audiology & SLP delegates. Timothy Hunsaker stated that while he remains on the Board, he could serve as a Temporary Representative, and as Shawn Binn is currently the only other SLP, consensus was that she would have to fill the SLP Temporary Representative role, if temporarily. Dr. Hunsaker made a motion to appoint Jennifer Joy-Cornejo and Adrienne Williams as delegates and Shawn Binn and himself as Temporary Representatives, with authority granted to all to represent the Board on the Commission. Branden Murphy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Banking Signatories: Discussion resulted in consensus that these should be the new Chair & Vice Chair. Dr. Hunsaker made a motion to appoint Adrienne Williams & Branden Murphy as banking signatories along with Ms. Pierce, and Lynee Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Reviewer: Adrienne Williams made a motion to appoint Shawn Binn as the new Financial Reviewer and Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **Summary of 2025 Legislative Session and Update on Follow-Up Work Related to Relevant Bills**

Dr. Hunsaker continued chairing the meeting and directed the Board to the summary provided by Ms. Pierce. Ms. Pierce briefly explained the work required between now and January 2026 to make the changes included in AB177, including revisions to regulations (NAC), policies, online applications, and website content, as well as completing manual license conversions for dispensing audiologists. There was discussion around these items with consensus to add the following matters to the October 2025 meeting agenda along with the planned Public Hearing: 1) consideration of licensing changes and approval of waiver and/or reimbursement of fees impacted by AB177; and 2) consideration to partner with NSHA and other stakeholders on licensee education around changes related to AB177 & AB230 (ASLP-IC). Ms. Pierce also shared an update on the ASLP-IC, particularly the requirement for the Board to begin requiring FBI background checks for Nevada licensees who request compact privileges. Ms. Pierce shared her concerns that the language in AB230 will not be adequate to provide the Board with background check authority. This was initially identified in March 2025 and Ms. Pierce met with and/or emailed the bill's sponsor Assemblymember Marzola, NSHA representative Shawna Ross, and NSHA lobbyist Lea Cartwright multiple times over the course of the session, encouraging an amendment to the bill and providing an example of specific statutory language from the Medical Board NRS 630.167. Ms. Pierce also asked whether the parties were aware of authority elsewhere in the Nevada Revised Statutes and never received a response, despite several last-minute emails as the session ended. Ms. Pierce further shared that she spoke with and emailed a copy of the Board's current chapter of NRS 637B and AB230 to the Nevada Department of Public

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Safety (DPS), who will be responsible for sending it on to the FBI for approval. In that telephone conversation it was suggested to Ms. Pierce that the language in AB230 may not be sufficient to obtain approval. Ms. Pierce promised to provide the Board with an update as soon as a response is received, but advised that the best case scenario is an approval, and the worst case scenario is that Nevada will not be able to fully participate - only able to accept privilege requests from out of state licensees but not able to send anyone from Nevada to the compact - until/unless additional legislation is passed in 2027 to amend NRS 637B with the needed verbiage.

**Public Workshop on Proposed Regulations NAC 637B (No LCB File #) (informational only)**

Dr. Hunsaker introduced the agenda item, and Ms. Pierce directed the Board and the public to the drafted regulations. Dr. Hunsaker then called for public comment on the proposed regulations. No oral comment was offered, and Ms. Pierce read the following written public comment received from ASHA in a letter dated July 9, 2025:

*RE: Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Regulations. Dear Chair Hunsaker: On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to comment in support of the proposed regulations to license speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs). ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 241,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Over 1,100 ASHA members reside in Nevada. Between 2022 and 2032, Nevada is expected to have a 26% increase in demand for SLPs. We believe licensing appropriately trained and supervised SLPAs can help to address this increased demand, alleviate staff shortages, and tackle the critical needs of those with communication and related disorders. As such, we offer the following recommended changes to the proposed legislation. In NAC 637B., ASHA recommends the following amendments: Speech-language pathology assistant: clinical training experience. ASHA recommends substituting "educational institution" with "accredited institution" in the following section: "1. An applicant for a license to practice as a speech-language pathology assistant who is a new graduate holding a bachelor's degree or master's degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders awarded by an educational institution and does not currently or has not previously held a license as a speech-language pathology assistant issued by the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States must provide one of the following with the application for licensure." ASHA supports the proposed option of the clinical training experience to be completed by meeting the requirements for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Certification (C-SLPA) as a pathway and the option of clinical training on the job.<sup>3</sup> However, ASHA's SLPA scope of practice requires 100 hours of supervised clinical experience (80 direct, 20 indirect) under the direct supervision of an ASHA-certified SLP for its SLPA certification. For this section, ASHA recommends the following language: "(b) Proof satisfactory of 75 hours of clinical training, made up of at least 25 hours of clinical observation experience and 50 hours of clinical assisting experience obtained while earning Certification as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association." Speech-language pathology assistant: clinical training plan. ASHA recommends increasing the direct supervision listed below from 25% to 100%, as part of the clinical training plan because most academic programs implement this requirement. "3. All hours worked by the licensed speech-language pathology assistant must be under the direct supervision of the licensed supervising speech-language pathologist identified in the Clinical Training Plan. Direct supervision must total no less than 25% of the speech-language pathology assistant's total contact with each client/patient." In the section below, ASHA recommends extending the clinical training plan completion timeline from 60 to 90 days to allow the SLP supervisor greater flexibility. "4. Clinical Training Plan hours must be successfully completed within 60 days of the issuance of the speech-language pathology assistant license." Speech-language pathology assistant prohibited from performing certain activities; disciplinary action. ASHA believes that medically fragile clients require real time clinical judgement, immediate responses, and treatment decisions beyond the training and skill of an SLPA. Therefore, ASHA recommends that the section below specify "100%" direct supervision for medically fragile students, patients or clients. "(n) Treat a medically fragile client*

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*without direct supervision.” Other Language. ASHA supports the ratio recommendation for the supervising SLP to no more than two SLPAs at the same time. ASHA also supports the supervising SLP workload considerations “while maintaining the highest level of quality services.” ASHA believes that the number of SLPAs who can be appropriately supervised by a single SLP will depend on a variety of factors, including caseload characteristics, SLPA experience, and SLP experience. The SLP is responsible for determining how many SLPAs they can supervise while maintaining the highest level of quality for services provided. ASHA supports the telepractice options for the SLPA. Thank you for considering ASHA’s comments on the SLPA regulations. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA’s director of state association relations, at [ecrowe@asha.org](mailto:ecrowe@asha.org). Sincerely, A. B. Mayfield-Clarke, PhD, CCC-SLP 2025 ASHA President*

### **Consideration of Proposed Regulations NAC 637B Based on Comments Received at Public Workshop**

There was lengthy discussion by the Board and stakeholders regarding ASHA’s public comment and suggestions. Kim Reddig, who chaired the SLP Subcommittee, shared her thoughts, which prompted additional discussion on the section relating to SLP supervision ratios.

Discussion resulted in an initial motion by Timothy Hunsaker to approve changes to the following sections of the proposed regulations, with all other sections approved as drafted, except *NAC 637B.NEW Authority and qualifications to act as a supervising speech-language pathologist; supervision ratios*, to be addressed in a separate motion. Lynee Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- *NAC 637B.014 Applicability of provisions to person who holds credential issued by Department of Education.* Section 2, correct numbering error to redesignate as (1)(c).
- *NAC 637B.NEW Speech-language pathology assistant: clinical training experience.* Section 1, revise “an educational institution” to “an accredited institution” per ASHA public comment and consensus that the term is more appropriate.
- *NAC 637B.NEW Speech-language pathology assistant: clinical training plan.* Sections 4, 7, and 7a, revise “60 days” to “90 days”. Section 7.b. revise “120 days” to “180 days”, per ASHA public comment and consensus that 90 days is reasonable to allow for completion of the Clinical Training Plan.
- *NAC 637B.NEW Speech-language pathology assistant prohibited from performing certain activities; disciplinary action.* Section (1) (n) revise “Treat a medically fragile client without direct supervision” to “Treat a medically fragile client without 100% direct supervision” per ASHA public comment and consensus that the addition of “100%” will clarify the language to ensure patient safety.
- *NAC 637B.030 Schedule of fees.* Revise fees from \$50 to \$75 for “renewal of an apprentice or assistant license”, “renewal of a privilege-to-practice”, and “renewal of [a] an inactive or temporary license”, as the Board felt the drafted amounts for apprentices/assistants and ASLP-IC initial privilege-to-practice were appropriate, but that a slight increase in these fees might help offset potential revenue loss due to the compact and/or reduction in apprentice/assistant fees.

ASHA’s public comment on *NAC 637B.NEW Authority and qualifications to act as a supervising speech-language pathologist; supervision ratios* generated significant discussion, particularly around concerns that either increasing or not quantifying the allowable number of supervisees could contribute to SLPs taking on more staff than they could reasonably supervise, especially in school-based settings and particularly if required to do so by an employer. Suggestions to leave the language as-is, remove or increase the number of allowable supervisees (either the total or subtotals of each type), or change “persons” to “full-time equivalent persons” were all considered.

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Dr. Hunsaker made a motion to keep the language as written but revise “persons” to “full-time equivalent persons”. There was no second and the motion died. Subsequent discussion came to consensus that the maximum allowable number of persons should remain at three, that the full-time equivalent verbiage was helpful, and that removing role-specific limits would also be helpful.

Adrienne Williams made a motion to revise section 3 to state *“A supervising speech-language pathologist is responsible for determining the appropriate number of supervisees they can manage within their workload while maintaining the highest level of quality services provided. A supervising speech-language pathologist may not be the supervisor of record for a combined total of no more than three full-time equivalent persons listed below at the same time: (a) Provisional licensees; (b) Speech-language pathology assistants; (c) Students.”* Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **Disciplinary Case # A25-01 Recommended for Dismissal**

Ms. Pierce summarized that the Complaint alleged unprofessional conduct, unauthorized use of client records, soliciting patients from a former employer, 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. As such, the case was recommended for dismissal. Dr. Hunsaker made a motion to dismiss Case A25-01, seconded by Branden Murphy, which passed unanimously.

#### **Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the written Executive Director’s Report and summarized that FY25 Q4 saw a net increase of 24 licenses, a 1.4% increase from the prior quarter. The Board’s census increased by just 2% from FY24 to FY25, the smallest increase in any year since FY16, with the closest margin between licenses issued and expired (40) since June 2020. SLPs represent the majority of our licensees, and of the 67 SLP licenses that expired this quarter, 30 were converted from provisional to standard and 3 Provisionals were not converted. The remaining 34 were standard licenses not renewed and of those, 32 were issued on or after May 2020, with 25 (78%) residing out of state. Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the FY25 Q4/End of Year Financial Report supplement that was sent out/completed prior to the meeting. As anticipated, net income was negative at -\$22,306.75, but is approximately \$14,000 less than originally anticipated for expenses, which totaled \$241,572.40 (94.48% of budget). End of year revenue totaled \$219,265.65 (100.12% of budget), and total equity is \$96,988.89. Deviation from budget included lower than budgeted expenses for Attorney General/Legal Fees 58.69% (still waiting for March - June 2025 invoices), audit fees which will be incurred in FY26, insurance, office supplies, office lease, printing professional/investigation fees, and telephone. Higher than budgeted expenses included bank service charges, board compensation, licensing program/database, postage, professional/accounting fees, and travel. These will be revisited at the next budget review. There were three open complaint cases following the April 2025 meeting, and one new complaint received to date, totaling four cases. Two open cases were screened out, one open case is awaiting a future meeting date to revisit a Consent Decree, and one open case was dismissed earlier in this meeting, leaving one open case. The Board received no reports of unlicensed practice since the April 2025 meeting.

#### **Executive Director Performance Evaluation**

Dr. Hunsaker directed the Board to the *Executive Director Performance Evaluation Form and Summary of Activities* for the Board’s review of the Executive Director’s performance. Board members provided input on each of the seven scoring sections using scale between 1-5, with 5 being the highest. Dr. Hunsaker walked the Board through each section and gathered consensus on scores, with the final evaluation score totaling 35/35.

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Timothy Hunsaker made a motion to approve the evaluation, seconded by Lynee Anderson, which passed unanimously. Board members were complimentary of Ms. Pierce's work, and she thanked them for the positive review.

**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 Hearing on the proposed regulations during the October 2025 meeting. The Board confirmed the next meeting for Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 4:30pm.

**Public Comment**

Branden Murphy publicly thanked Kim Reddig for all of her helpful input and discussion on the Board's regulations and other projects.

**Adjournment**

Vice Chair Hunsaker adjourned the meeting at 6:58pm.