



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

**Board Meeting and Public Hearing on Regulations LCB File #R026-25
October 15, 2025**

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

Members Absent: Lynee Anderson, Vacant SLP

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

Public Present: Katie Allen (NSHA/Licensee), Shannon Figueroa (Licensee), Christy Fleck (Licensee), Karen Gaines, Michelle Gordon (Licensee), Karen Klopfer (Licensee), Zoe Lindberg (Licensee), Edyl Zarah Peck (Licensee), Deanna Pollock (Applicant), Thomas Rainford (Licensee), Shanda Roderick (NCSD), Katie J. Rose (Applicant), Sabrina Schnur (Cartwright NV Government Affairs), Sarah Simminger (Applicant), Verona Sutton-Dunn (CCSD/Licensee), De Yates, Christine Zinn (Licensee), Kelby (No Last Name Given), Laura (No Last Name Given)

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

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

Public Comment

Chair Williams introduced the agenda item and read the instructions for a member of the general public to call in to the meeting and provide public comment, pursuant to NRS 241.023(5). Chair Williams called for public comment, advising that any pertaining to the Public Hearing on LCB File R026-25 could be held until that agenda item. There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes: Board Meeting and Public Workshop of July 9, 2025

Chair Williams asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2025 and hearing none, called for a motion. Timothy Hunsaker made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Branden Murphy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Disciplinary/Administrative Matters and Applications for Board Review

Case #UP25-02 Sarah Simminger, License #SP-3635 Provisional (Expired): Administrative Unlicensed Practice Case and License Reinstatement Application: Chair Williams introduced the agenda item and called for questions or comments from the members. Timothy Hunsaker clarified the length of time of unlicensed practice, which was just over 30 days given the retroactive expiration after the 30 day grace period. Ms. Simminger was in attendance via Zoom and Chair Williams offered her the opportunity to make a statement. Ms. Simminger read from a statement to the Board, extending her sincere apologies and explaining the mistake that led to the license expiration and subsequent unlicensed practice. Ms.

Simminger assured the Board that she had learned from the experience and would ensure it did not happen again. Chair Williams called for a motion and Timothy Hunsaker made a motion to approve the reinstatement application without conditions and impose an administrative fine of \$200 for the unlicensed practice. Shawn Binn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Case #UP25-04 Deanna Pollock, License #SP-2135 (Expired): Administrative Unlicensed Practice Case and License Reinstatement Application: Chair Williams introduced the agenda item and called for questions or comments from the members. Shawn Binn disclosed that she needed to recuse herself, and after direction from Counsel Rasul, explained that she previously worked with and trained Ms. Pollock. Ms. Pierce shared that Ms. Pollock reported though her license expired in June 2025, she did not work over summer break, so technically she practiced without a license between August 18, 2025 and October 3, 2025. Jennifer Joy Cornejo asked about the Board's reminder emails and Ms. Pierce confirmed that the database sends automatic reminder emails, and Board staff send additional emails manually, but nothing is sent via postal mail. Ms. Pollock was in attendance via Zoom and Chair Williams offered her the opportunity to make a statement. Ms. Pollock explained that she was in the process of changing email accounts over the summer and had not forwarded Board emails to her new address. Additionally, she spent much of the summer out of town traveling to access medical care for her child with a chronic illness. Ms. Pollock apologized and assured the Board she would not have continued practicing if she had been aware of the lapse. Chair Williams called for a motion and Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to approve the reinstatement application without conditions and impose an administrative fine of \$200 for the unlicensed practice. Timothy Hunsaker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Shawn Binn abstained from voting per her recusal.

Katherine Rose: Application for a license to practice audiology for Board review, submitted July 25, 2025: Chair Williams introduced the agenda item and acknowledged that Ms. Rose was in attendance in person at the Reno Board office. Given that Ms. Rose holds a Master's degree in audiology, has not practiced or held a license in over 20 years, and had a disciplinary record in another state, the matter was brought before the Board pursuant to NAC 637B.0355(4). Chair Williams called for questions or comments from the members and hearing none offered Ms. Rose the opportunity to make a statement. Ms. Rose thanked the Board for considering her application and acknowledged that she has not held an active license for 20 years. She shared that she remains deeply committed to the field and its vital role in helping people communicate and improve their life through quality hearing healthcare. She reported that she has continuously maintained the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence since 1992 and her long hiatus from practice was due to raising a family and supporting her spouse in his career. She stated that she is now ready to return to clinical practice on a part-time basis, and is motivated to do so in service of her rural community where access to hearing health care is limited. Ms. Rose shared a written summary of her professional roles, which Ms. Pierce read aloud and would be added to the license file. Ms. Rose acknowledged that the audiology profession has changed significantly and she will need to get caught up and be aware of what she is not proficient in. She shared that she has been approached by a hearing aid dispensing business in her community and would be comfortable with dispensing after January 1, 2026 and educational audiology, but would not be interested in working with cochlear implants, or doing balance or electrophysiological testing. Chair Williams called for a motion and Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to approve the license application. Timothy Hunsaker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jenessa Bolenbaugh: Application for an apprentice license to practice hearing aid fitting & dispensing for Board review, submitted August 25, 2025: Chair Williams introduced the agenda item and noted that Ms. Bolenbaugh was not in attendance. Ms. Pierce confirmed that she was provided with notice in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law but did not confirm that she planned to attend and had not responded to the last email sent to her asking for additional information to support her application.

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The matter was brought before the Board pursuant to NAC 637B.0355(4) and NAC 637B.0398(4) as Ms. Bolenbaugh applied for a hearing aid specialist apprentice license, owns a hearing aid dispensing business with her husband who will also be her Sponsor, recently sat as her husband's test subject for the dispensing practical exam, and did not provide all required/requested information in her initial application or when asked in a follow up email. Board members expressed concern that Ms. Bolenbaugh's application and responses lacked transparency and did not appear "forthcoming", given the need for integrity in healthcare. Consensus among members was to table the matter for the next meeting and specifically request that Ms. Bolenbaugh appear to answer questions regarding her application. Chair Williams tabled the matter, and no action was taken.

Recommendation for Dismissal - Case #S25-02: Chair Williams called for questions or comments, and hearing none, called for a motion. Branden Murphy made a motion to dismiss the case as recommended and Timothy Hunsaker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Hearing to Consider Public Comment on the Proposed Adoption, Amendment, or Repeal of Regulations NAC 637B, LCB File R026-25

Chair Williams introduced the agenda item, directed the Board and the public to the drafted regulations, and called for public comment. No oral comment was offered, and Ms. Pierce confirmed that no written comment was received. Chair Williams closed the Public Hearing.

Consideration to Adopt, Amend, or Repeal Proposed Regulations NAC 637B LCB File R026-25 Based on Comments Received at Public Hearing

Chair Williams called for comments or questions from members and hearing none, called for a motion. Shawn Binn made a motion to adopt the regulations as drafted, and Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Work Session on Licensing, Website, and Policy Revisions, Fee Waivers, and Licensee/Stakeholder Outreach & Education Related to AB177 & ASLP Interstate Compact

Chair Williams introduced the matter and asked Ms. Pierce to summarize each item.

Update on AB177/AB230 Workplan and Application/Website Revisions & Plan to Manually Convert Dispensing Audiologist Licenses: Ms. Pierce provided an update on the AB177 workplan and reported that after some difficulty with the database vendor not being ready for testing as promised, staff were able to begin testing revised applications on October 1, 2025 and are proposing to make them available online beginning Monday, December 15, 2025, barring any delays. This will ensure time to test the applications live before the holidays, though new applications under AB177 won't be issued until January 1, 2026. No action was taken on the matter.

Discussion on AUD-D License Conversion & Waiver and/or Reimbursement of Fees Impacted by AB177: Ms. Pierce explained the process to manually convert current dispensing audiology licenses to standard audiology licenses, keeping the original number but dropping the word "dispensing", with plans to do so on January 1, 2026. Ms. Pierce briefly summarized options for reimbursing licensees for endorsement fees paid, but there was no discussion, and no action was taken on the matter.

Consideration to Approve New SLP Assistant Clinical Training Plan Forms: Ms. Pierce explained that in January 2025, the Board reviewed a draft version of the Clinical Training Plan forms that will be used on approval of the proposed regulations in NAC 637B regarding SLPA clinical training requirements. Chair Williams called for comments or questions and hearing none, called for a motion. Branden Murphy made a motion to adopt the forms as drafted and delegate authority to the Executive Director to make

conforming changes to them as needed based on the regulations. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ASLP-IC Update (AB230) & Report-Out on ASLP-IC Annual Commission Meeting: Adrienne Williams and Jennifer Joy-Cornejo reported out on their experience attending the September 20, 2025 ASLP-IC Annual Commission Meeting as delegates, and Chair Williams also discussed the NCSB Conference. Ms. Pierce summarized that the Compact now anticipates opening privilege applications in late 2025 as it works to stand up its licensing data system and complete testing with states that will be early adopters. The Board's request to conduct FBI criminal background checks was sent to FBI through the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) on July 9, 2025, and on October 2, 2025 DPS confirmed it has not yet received a response from the FBI. No action was taken on this matter.

Board Policy Revisions for Review & Approval: Ms. Pierce summarized that revisions to four of the Board's eight policies have been revised to reflect changes to AB177 and have been pre-screened by Board Counsel. Additional revisions related to the ASLP-IC may be considered at a later meeting. Chair Williams called for comments or questions and hearing none, called for a motion. Shawn Binn made a motion to approve the revised policies as drafted with an effective date of January 1, 2026. Branden Murphy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Consideration of Licensee & Stakeholder Outreach & Education Plan Related to AB177 & AB230, Including Partnering with NSHA and Other Stakeholders: Ms. Pierce presented the draft guidance statement that will be revised as needed and sent out as we approach the January 1, 2026 effective date for AB177. There were no questions or comments, and no action was taken on this matter.

Executive Director's Report

Licensure Statistics: Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the written Executive Director's Report and summarized that FY26 Q1 saw a net increase of 14 licenses, a 1% increase from the prior quarter. Ms. Pierce noted that this is the second lowest average since FY16, and expired licenses were fewer than totals in Q1 for the last two years. No action was taken on this matter.

FY25 Q4 and FY26 Q1 Financial Summaries: Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the FY25 Q4/End of Year Summary, which is the final version of the report provided at the July 2025 meeting, as it includes all final June 2025 expenses paid through August 2025. As was expected, net income was negative, at -\$19,724 due to the lobbying costs associated with the legislative session. In FY26 Q1 revenue totaled \$57,280.74 (26.16% of budget) and expenses totaling \$46,896.67 (20.70% of budget). Deferred revenue totaled \$90,446.64 with a net income of \$10,384.07. Deviations from budget included no invoices received from the Attorney General's office which has been experiencing billing issues that were exacerbated by the state cybersecurity incident. Additionally, out of state travel costs are over budget and proposed for an increase later in this agenda item. No action was taken on this matter.

FY24-FY25 Biennial Audit Update with Consideration to Delegate Authority to Board Chair & Executive Director to Accept Audit & Submit to LCB: Ms. Pierce reported that the FY24-FY25 biennial audit is underway by Connie Christiansen of Christiansen Accounting Network. The report is due to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) Audit Division by December 1, 2025 and Ms. Christiansen reports that the audit is on track with plans to finalize in early November 2025. Chair Williams called for comments and questions, and hearing none, called for a motion. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to delegate authority to the Board Chair and Executive Director to accept and submit the final report to LCB. Shawn Binn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FY26 Budget Revised for Review & Approval: Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the draft revised FY26 budget, adjusted as follows: increased out-of-state travel and board salaries to cover the annual ASLP-IC

and NCSB (National Council of State Boards of Examiners) meeting & conference open to any interested Board members; in-state travel increased to cover annual in-person Board meetings, alternating April meetings between Las Vegas and Reno; and decreased costs for exam materials per the AB177 removal of AUD exam requirements. Chair Williams called for comments and questions, and hearing none, called for a motion. Branden Murphy made a motion to approve the revised budget as drafted. Shawn Binn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NCSB Annual Conference Report-Out: Chair Williams did not report out as she had already done so in the prior agenda item. No action was taken on this matter.

Update on Proposed Regulations from the Office of Boards & Commissions: Ms. Pierce shared that the Department of Business & Industry's scheduled Public Workshop was cancelled and is now proposed for late November 2025. There were no questions, comments, or suggestions for feedback on the proposed regulations, and no action was taken on the matter.

Chair Williams called for comments and question on the following remaining sub-items in this agenda item, including the Update on CMS Reimbursement for Provisional SLP Licensees, Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearings' 2025 October Town Hall Tour and 2025 Engagement Conference, Board Member Appointments/Reappointments and Update on Appointment of Banking Signatories, and Complaints. Per the written Executive Director's Report, we are still awaiting appointments for the AUD & SLP seats held by Timothy Hunsaker and Andrea Menicucci, and were recently advised that no decision has been made by the Governor. Regarding complaints, there was one open complaint case following the July 2025 meeting, and two new complaints received to date, totaling three open cases. One open case is awaiting a future meeting date to revisit a Consent Decree, and one open case was approved for dismissal in this meeting, leaving two open cases. Three reports of unlicensed practice were received following the July 2025 meeting, of which one case remains open and in the investigation phase. The remaining two cases were related to reinstatement applications, both approved earlier in this meeting, leaving one case open. There were no questions or comments, and no action was taken on these matters.

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. Ms. Pierce summarized her proposal to schedule the next two meetings in 2026, with a routine teleconference meeting hosted in Reno on January 14, 2026, and a full-in person meeting in Las Vegas on April 15, 2026, hosted by Adrienne Williams. All members present agreed to the proposed dates.

Public Comment

Branden Murphy publicly praised Chair Williams for doing an excellent job running her first meeting as the Board Chair.

Adjournment

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:53pm.