



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 14, 2026

Members Present: Adrienne Williams, Branden Murphy, Lynee Anderson, Shawn Binn, William Fox, Jennifer Joy-Cornejo

Members Absent: 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), Janessa Bolenbaugh (Applicant), Marcie Cathey, Christy Fleck (NSU/Licensee), Laura Gumina, Alexandria Kelly (Applicant), Nancy Kuhles (NSHA/Licensee), Justin Menesini (Licensee), Morgan Partyka (Applicant), Sabrina Petrel (Cartwright NV Government Affairs), Kim Reddig (NSHA/ Licensee), Shawna Ross (NSHA/Licensee),

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 then called for public comment. Katie Allen, NSHA President, offered the following public comment: *"My name is Katie Allen, President of the Nevada Speech-Language Hearing Association, or NSHA. We have two brief items for the Board's consideration. First, NSHA is seeking formal clarification regarding the telesupervision language recently added to NAC Chapter 637B. Our members have expressed uncertainty regarding the scope of these provisions, and we'd like the Board to confirm that the use of telesupervision, as outlined in Section 2, applies specifically to speech-language pathology assistants, or SLPAs and does not extend to bachelor's level exempt school-based licensees. Second, following the passage of AB230, our members are eager for updates regarding Nevada's transition to becoming operational with the compact, and specifically, we're interested in the status of the required background checks and would like to offer our assistance. If it would be helpful to the Board, we'd be happy to reach out to states that are operational to see how they're managing these background checks."* There was no additional public comment.

Approval of the Minutes: Board Meeting and Public Hearing of October 15, 2025

Chair Williams asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of the meeting and public hearing of October 15, 2025 and hearing none, called for a motion. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Shawn Binn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Welcome New Member: William Fox, AuD, with Consideration for Appointment to Both Advisory Committee on Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids and as ASLP-IC Temporary AuD Representative

Chair Williams introduced and welcomed Dr. Fox to the Board and called for a motion. Branden Murphy made a motion to appoint Dr. Fox to both the Advisory Committee on Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids, and as the Board's ASLP-IC Audiology Temporary Representative. The motion was seconded by Shawn Binn and passed unanimously.

Disciplinary/Administrative Matters and Applications for Board Review

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 Ms. Pierce summarized that the matter was brought before the Board pursuant to NAC 637B.0355(4) and NAC 637B.0398(4), which states that *"An apprentice shall not maintain, run or operate an office or a satellite office in which hearing aids are fitted and dispensed without the approval of the Board."* Ms. Bolenbaugh applied for a hearing aid specialist apprentice license but 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. The application was previously heard in the October 2025 meeting, but Ms. Bolenbaugh was not in attendance and had not yet submitted the requested information to complete her application, resulting in concerns around transparency in the application. Chair Williams noted that Ms. Bolenbaugh was present in this meeting via Zoom and invited Ms. Bolenbaugh to make a statement to the Board. Ms. Bolenbaugh stated that she would like to move forward with becoming an apprentice in Reno and indicated that she had not seen Ms. Pierce's August email asking for more information to fill in the application. Ms. Bolenbaugh reiterated that she has no ownership in the hearing aid business owned and operated by her husband, Aaron Bolenbaugh, but acknowledged that their website and other marketing materials list her as an owner. She further shared that she has requested that their website vendor remove all references to her as an owner of the company. Ms. Bolenbaugh was asked about her goals and prior experience, and shared that she previously worked at a hearing center front desk, always wanted to pursue dispensing, and was briefly licensed in Oregon before COVID. Chair Williams called for a motion and Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to approve the apprentice application pending receipt of the outstanding information requested from Ms. Bolenbaugh and documentation of the ownership rights in her husband's practice. Branden Murphy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Alexandria Kelly: Application for an Apprentice License to Practice Hearing Aid Fitting and Dispensing: Submitted October 5, 2025: Ms. Kelly's application was received on October 5, 2025 and is before the Board for further review based on NAC 637B.0398(4), which states that *"An apprentice shall not maintain, run or operate an office or a satellite office in which hearing aids are fitted and dispensed without the approval of the Board."* At the time of application, Ms. Kelly answered "no" to this question, but following her application, was promoted to a supervisory role in the Carson City Costco to oversee the hearing aid department. Ms. Kelly and her manager reported that her Carson City responsibilities will be administrative, and she will complete her apprentice training two days a week under her Sponsor at the Sparks Costco. Ms. Pierce asked Board Member Lynee Anderson to share her perspective, as she has experience working in similar settings, and Ms. Anderson asked about the sponsorship/training plan and who Ms. Kelly would be working with/under. Ms. Kelly was present in the meeting via Zoom and joined by her supervisors Marcie Cathey and Laura Gumina, and Sponsor Justin Menesini, who all reiterated that she will not supervise hearing aid dispensers in Carson City. Instead the Carson City staff will receive supervisory support from senior staff in Reno, Sparks, or the regional office. Ms. Anderson confirmed that given the structure of these offices, the plan for Ms. Kelly to only engage in administrative duties as a manager while training at a separate location was reasonable and

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appropriate. Chair Williams called for a motion and William Fox made a motion to approve the apprentice application. Lynee Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Case #UP25-05 Morgan Partyka, License #SP-3316 (Expired): Administrative Unlicensed Practice Case and License Reinstatement Application: Chair Williams introduced the agenda item and called for questions or comments from the members. Ms. Pierce was asked to clarify the length of the unlicensed practice for the purpose of calculating a fine based on prior cases, and confirmed that it was approximately five and a half months, though Ms. Partyka was on medical leave and had not practiced for approximately 6 weeks just before the license expired. Ms. Partyka was present in the Reno Board office and Chair Williams invited her to make a statement. Ms. Partyka read the following from a prepared statement: *"First, I would like to thank you all for your time dedicated to reviewing and considering the reinstatement of my license. There is no excuse for failing to remove my license and for continuing to practice with an expired license. I can assure you, it was an honest mistake, and I can guarantee it will never happen again if I am fortunate enough to have my license reinstated. In March of 2025, I began a temporary medical leave due to a back surgery on April 3. And I returned to the office 6 weeks later on May 26th, shortly before my license expiration date, which unfortunately was not on my radar. I typically rely on the reminder emails to renew my license, and I do so as soon as I receive them. However, due to my own failure to update my email address with the board, these reminders were sent to an inactive email. And I therefore never received them. On November 24th, I was updating my CAQH profile and I went to upload my license, which was when I discovered I did not have a current one. I immediately went to the board website and followed all necessary steps listed for an expired license. I canceled all clients for the remainder of the day, and I have not practiced since. I never would have continued to practice if I was aware that my license was expired. I am deeply ashamed and embarrassed and regretful to have made this detrimental mistake and cause the families that I see to go without speech services. If the board sees fit to have my license reinstated, I can assure you I've already taken measures to ensure that a mistake like this will never happen again. Again, thank you very much for your time and your willingness to review potential reinstatement of my license."* Ms. Partyka was asked to explain how long she had been licensed and what measures she has since put in place, confirming she has been licensed for four years and explaining a number of calendar and other tools she plans to utilize for reminders. Chair Williams called for a motion and Shawn Binn made a motion to approve the reinstatement application without conditions and impose an administrative fine of \$200.00 for the unlicensed practice. William Fox seconded the motion, and the motion 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/LCB File R026-25 Workplan, Application/Website Revisions, and Manual Conversion of Dispensing Audiologist Licenses: Ms. Pierce provided an update on the AB177 workplan and the delayed regulations in LCB File R026-25. As AB177 took effect January 1, the Board is now operating under new requirements in NRS, however as the regulations are not yet approved, the current version of NAC 637B still applies. All dispensing audiology licenses were successfully converted to standard licenses on January 1, the Board began accepting SLPA applications and has issued 3 licenses to date, and NBC-HIS is no longer required for a HAS license. However, due to the delayed regulations, much is still in limbo, including the revised online applications. SLPA applications are currently being accepted in paper form, and the Board must charge the fees currently listed in NAC 637B. Despite these challenges, things are going smoothly, though there are no regulations in place for SLPA scope of practice, supervision, or clinical training plans. The regulation issue has been included in a later agenda item for discussion and possible action. Ms. Pierce also addressed the public comment received earlier in the meeting, confirming that we are still awaiting FBI approval to conduct background checks for the

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ASLP Interstate Compact. As to the question regarding clarification regarding the telesupervision language recently added to NAC Chapter 637B, Ms. Pierce confirmed that the “*telesupervision*” definition in Section 7 of AB177 and the “*direct supervision*” and “*indirect supervision*” definitions in NAC 637B LCB File R026-25 only reference supervision of speech-language pathology assistant licensees, speech-language pathology provisional licensees, and speech-language pathology students, and as such would not apply to a person who is exempt from licensure by this Board as a bachelor's level employee providing school-based speech-language pathology services. No action was taken on the matter.

Review and Consideration to Amend LCB File R026-25 (NAC 637B), adopted October 15, 2025 Based on Objection of the Legislative Commission with Consideration to Authorize Board Chair and/or One or More Board Members to Appear on Behalf of the Board in Front of the Legislature or Committee: Ms.

Pierce summarized that the Board's adopted regulations in LCB file R026-25 were heard by the Legislative Commission on December 17, 2025 and deferred to the next meeting due to concerns regarding the deletion of NAC 637B.042(15)(b) in Section 28, which proposed removal of the requirement for a licensee to report a criminal charge to the Board. Ms. Pierce explained that the matter is now brought to the Board to determine whether to retain or amend the revision as adopted based on the Legislative Commission's objection. The Board may also consider authorizing its Chair, Vice Chair, or other members to appear on its behalf in front of the Legislature or a Committee regarding the proposed regulations. Procedurally, the following options are available to the Board: 1) Reaffirm the revisions as adopted in October 2025 and request placement on the next Legislative Commission meeting agenda on February 26, 2026; or 2) Approve a revision to reinstate the previously deleted requirement in Section 28, which requires another public hearing and readoption. A public hearing requires 30 days' notice and could be scheduled for late February/early March. If readopted, the regulations could then be heard again by the Legislative Commission during an anticipated April 2026 meeting. There was a great deal of discussion on the matter and consideration of how the Board and staff would handle such a report. Ms. Pierce explained the due process rights afforded to licensees in the disciplinary process, and explained that in the event a licensee reported a charge within the required timeframe, it would likely be held under advisement until there was a disposition, unless the crime was so egregious to require a different course of action within the bounds of NRS 637B, NAC 637B, and *Board Policy 07 - Moral Character Criminal History*. A report of a charge received by the Board outside the required timeframe would be grounds for disciplinary action. A report of a conviction could also be handled in multiple ways, possibly resulting in the filing of an administrative complaint and/or the matter being brought before the Board. Discussion resulted in consensus that while the Board believed the revision was important to ensure fairness for licensees, the regulations contain a number of other sections that are critical for licensing and operations and would be more detrimental to hold the process up for one small section, which may be reconsidered at a later date. Chair Williams called for a motion, and Branden Murphy made a motion to approve revision of NAC 637B.042(15)(b) in LCB File R026-25 Section 28, to retain the requirement for a licensee to report a criminal charge to the Board. The previously adopted change to extend the reporting timeframe from 10 days to 30 days remains unchanged. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Consideration to Waive/Refund Fees for Dispensing Audiologists and/or NDE SLPA Applicants

Ms. Pierce confirmed the successful conversion of dispensing audiology licenses to standard audiology licenses on January 1, 2026. Ms. Pierce further shared that most licensees paid endorsement fees at license issuance or renewal that extend into 2026 unnecessarily and explained that a refund of these fees would total approximately \$3,900. Chair Williams called for discussion/questions and hearing none, called for a motion. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to issue refunds of \$50.00 to licensees who paid for the full year (December 31 renewals) and \$4.00 per month prorated for the rest. William Fox seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Consideration to Approve Revised Apprentice Sponsorship & Training Agreement: Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the current form and a proposed revision in the meeting packet, explaining that the current version contains minimal details on training requirements, while the revision includes detailed information that sponsors and apprentices must acknowledge/initial to ensure they are aware of all relevant requirements in NRS 637B and NAC 637B. The revised version also includes a highlighted “disclosure of relationship” section on page 3, derived from the Board’s adopted but not yet approved regulations. Chair Williams called for discussion/questions and hearing none, called for a motion. William Fox made a motion to approve the revised version for immediate use without the “disclosure of relationship” section and delegate authority to the Executive Director to revise the form and include the section when the regulations in LCB File R026-25 are approved. Lynee Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Consideration to Approve Drafted Correction to Board Policy 05 - License Renewal, Conversion, & Reinstatement: Ms. Pierce explained that the Board approved revisions to this and several other policies in the October 15, 2025 meeting to conform with AB177. Staff subsequently found an omission in this policy that did not address conversion of a temporary HAS license to a standard HAS license. Chair Williams called for discussion/questions and hearing none, called for a motion. Shawn Binn made a motion to approve the revised/corrected policy, seconded by William Fox, and passed unanimously.

Request to Consider Definition of SLPA Degree Requirements in Assembly Bill 177: The Board office was contacted by Christy Fleck, CCC-SLP and Assistant Professor of Speech Language Pathology at NSU in December 2025 regarding whether NSU graduates holding a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Health Sciences (HHS) with a Concentration in Speech Pathology would qualify for an SLPA license issued by the Board under AB177. Per AB177, an applicant must hold a “*bachelor’s degree or master’s degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders.*” Dr. Fleck was present in the meeting to provide additional information and explained that NSU’s HHS program includes most of the required courses for an SLP degree, with the substitution of a few education classes for more science courses, but ensures these graduates are eligible for admission to an SLP graduate program. The Board discussed the matter and came to the consensus that while there is overlap, the degree would not qualify as defined in AB177. Chair Williams called for a motion, and Shawn Binn made a motion for the Board to take a formal position that the NSU Bachelor’s Degree in Human Health Sciences (HHS) with a Concentration in Speech Pathology would not be a qualifying degree to obtain an SLPA license from the Board. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Executive Director’s Report with Consideration to Approve Revised FY26 Budget

Licensure Statistics: Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the written Executive Director’s Report and verbally corrected the report data, which should have listed 39 SLP licenses added, and 38 expired. The remaining data in the report was correct, and reflected that FY26 Q2 saw a net increase of 5 licenses, a .3% increase from the prior quarter. This is consistent with prior Q2 totals, which have been below a 1% increase since 2020, an unusual year due to the pandemic. Q2 data might also not reflect license expirations, as a significant number of Board licenses expire on 12/31, but due to the 30 day late renewal period, won’t be counted until Q3. No action was taken on this matter.

FY26 Q2 Financial Summaries: The Executive Director’s Report summarized the FY26 Q2 financial summary, with both income and expenses almost at budget, totaling 49.85% and 50.40% of budget respectively. Net income was -\$6,680.52, which is unsurprising given the planned deficit budget. Legal

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fees, worker's compensation insurance, and website/database support costs all increased, and a revised budget was planned for a later agenda item. No action was taken on this matter.

FY24-FY25 Biennial Audit Submission: The biennial audit covering FY24 & FY25 was presented to the Board as received and accepted by the Board Chair and Executive Director on November 17, 2025 per the Board's delegation. The audit was submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau on November 18, 2025. No action was taken on this matter.

FY26 Budget Revised for Review & Approval: Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the draft revised FY26 budget, adjusted to increase funding in several areas: Legal fees will increase due to an hourly rate increase by the Office of the Attorney General to \$250.60/hour from the prior rate of \$157.04/hour (increase of \$93.56/hour). The increase is also retroactive to July 1, 2025, so without advance notice we were unable to consider limiting our use of legal services between July and November 2025. Worker's compensation insurance will increase per a required switch to the Nevada Risk Management Division mandated in NRS 331.187 from ProGroup Management. This change resulted in an annual assessment totaling \$2,692.50 for calendar year 2026, almost four times what the Board historically paid ProGroup. Website/database support fees will increase to make necessary revisions to online applications and the licensing system in accordance with the revisions to NRS 637B/AB177 and NAC 637B/LCB File R026-25. Chair Williams called for comments and questions, and hearing none, called for a motion. Shawn Binn made a motion to approve the revised budget as presented, and William Fox seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Williams called for comments and question on the following remaining sub-items in this agenda item, including the Update on Proposed Regulations from the Office of Boards & Commissions, Reminder of Attorney General Boards & Commissions Training, January 28, 2026, Board Member Appointments/Reappointments and Update on Appointment of Banking Signatories, and Complaints. Per the written Executive Director's Report, we are still awaiting an appointment for one SLP seat for which a candidate must work in a university/school setting. Regarding complaints, there were two open complaint cases following the October 2025 meeting, and two new complaints received to date, totaling four open cases. One report of unlicensed practice was received following the October 2025 meeting, which related to the license reinstatement application approved earlier in this meeting, leaving no open unlicensed practice cases. 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 the need to schedule a brief, intervening meeting/public hearing in February or March to consider readoption of LCB File R026-25. This was scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2026 at 4:30pm as a teleconference meeting hosted in Reno. The Board also agreed to postpone the original plan for an in-person meeting in April in Las Vegas to a later date, and change the meeting date to Tuesday, April 7, 2026, also as a routine teleconference meeting hosted in Reno.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:05pm.