

**BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT AD HOC COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 2, 2016**

- TIME AND PLACE:** The Speech-Language Pathology Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 2, 2016, at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room 3, Henrico, Virginia.
- PRESIDING OFFICER:** Laura Verdun, MA, CCC-SLP, Board Member
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marie Ireland, SLP, Department of Education (DOE)  
Karen Lindberg, SLP, DOE  
Scott Rankins, SLP, Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV)  
Darlene Robke, SLP, SHAV
- MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Angela Moss, MA, CCC-SLP, Board Member
- QUORUM:** With five members of the Committee present, a quorum was established.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst  
Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director  
Carol Stamey, Operations Manager
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Heidi Dellert, New Kent Public Schools  
Marie Owens, SLP, New Kent Public Schools  
LaVae Hoffman, SLP, University of Virginia
- ORDERING OF AGENDA:** No changes were made to the agenda.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment was presented.
- DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
- Review in-process regulatory action related to assistant speech-language pathologists**  
Ms. Yeatts provided a brief history regarding the Committee's previous work to develop proposed regulations consisting of licensed speech-language pathologist's (SLP) supervisory responsibilities and qualifications of assistant speech-language pathology assistants as required by 2014 legislation. Ms. Yeatts indicated that the regulations are in the final promulgation stage.
- Review legislation and purpose of Committee**  
Ms. Yeatts reported that the 2016 General Assembly passed HB252 which directs the Board to review the need for and impact of licensure or certification of assistant speech-language pathologists. She reviewed a draft work plan to address the Committee's responsibilities.
- Ms. Ireland moved to accept the Work Plan with amendments. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Ms. Yeatts provided an overview of the differences and usage of licensure, certification and registration and the criteria for evaluating the need for regulation referred to in the Board of Health Professions' *Policies and Procedures for Evaluation of the Need to Regulate Health Occupations and Profession*. The Committee reviewed and discussed the various criteria for licensure and noted the following concerns about regulating assistant

speech-language pathologists:

- 1) No national examination currently exists;
- 2) Limited number of educational programs in the United States;
- 3) No specific educational programs in Virginia; and
- 4) No significant identified risk of harm to the public that would indicate the need to license, certify or register.

### **Review of additional information**

Ms. Yeatts provided an overview of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) information and research on Speech-Language Pathology Assistants that included the following:

- Support Personnel Requirements in School Settings by State
- Support Personnel Excluding School Settings by State
- Scope of Practice
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Model Bill for States
- Technical Training Programs for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

The Committee discussed the need to recommend changing *assistant speech-language pathologist* to *speech-language pathology assistant* in §54.1-2605 of the Code of Virginia to be more consistent with other states and ASHA. Ms. Yeatts indicated that this could be added to the report.

Ms. Knachel provided an overview of her conversation with the program director for the closest technical training program located at Caldwell Community and Tech Institute in North Carolina. She noted that this training program was specifically developed to meet the North Carolina laws related to speech-language pathology assistants.

Ms. Yeatts reviewed the laws and regulations from neighboring states related to speech-language pathology assistants.

Ms. Knachel reported that the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) webpage on the use of speech-language pathology assistants was provided as a "for your information" for the Committee's review. When asked about the number of assistants used by VDOE, Ms. Ireland stated that it would be difficult to determine the number because the job titles and duties among the schools districts are inconsistent.

The Committee's next steps were discussed and the following information will be collected by board staff or considered for inclusion in the report to the legislature:

- Additional information will be requested from ASHA to determine availability regarding education, examinations and statistics about potential SLPAs.
- Laws and regulations will be collected for additional states (Minnesota, Utah and Oregon).
- A recent legislative change granting authority to the Board to be the single licensing entity for SLPs took effect on July 1, 2015. Information is not yet available on how this change affects the practice of SLPs in the public schools and whether an increase in the use of assistants is needed.
- Committee members are to respond to staff generated questions related to the discussion during the meeting. The comments will be

- submitted to staff for inclusion in the next committee meeting.
- Potential fiscal impact of the licensure, certification, or registration will be discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business was presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

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Laura P. Verdun, MA, CCC-SLP  
Chair

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Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H  
Executive Director

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Date

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Date