

Call to Order

The Virginia Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology's April 8, 2025, meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 4, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

Presiding Officer

Melissa A. McNichol, AuD, CCA-A

Members Present

Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, OD

Wayne Shaia, MD

Jennifer Radford Gay, MS, CCC-SLP

Member Attending Virtually

Laura H. Vencill, MS, CCC-SLP

Members Not Present

James Wells, RPh

Bethany Rose, AuD

Staff Present

Arne W. Owens, Agency Director

Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director

Claire C. Foley, Deputy Executive Director

Matt Novak, Policy & Economic Analyst DHP

Brent Saunders, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel

Yetty Shobo, PhD, Director of Healthcare Workforce Data Center & Data Analytics Division

Barbara Hodgdon, Deputy Director, Healthcare Workforce Data Center DHP

Kelly Smith, Director of Communications

Laura L. Jackson, Board Administrator

Laura D. Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Tamara Farmer, Senior Licensing Specialist

Public Present

Melanie-Joy H. Dorn, MA, CCC-SLP, RYT-200, Assistant Professor, George Washington University
Kim Small, Vice-President of VisualResearch Inc.

Establishment of Quorum

Four out of the seven board members present in the Richmond office, constituting a quorum for conducting business. Ms. Vencill was approved by the President of the Board to participate electronically due to a scheduling conflict that prevented travel to the Richmond office for the meeting.

Introductions

Dr. McNichol noted that since the Board's last meeting, a new board member has been appointed, a member was reappointed, and there have been changes to staff and board counsel.

Dr. McNichol introduced Dr. Wayne Shaia to the Board, who succeeds Dr. Kesser as the otolaryngologist Board member, and noted Dr. Bethany Rose was reappointed as an Audiologist Board member.

Dr. McNichol welcomed Claire Foley, who succeeded Ms. Moss as the Board's deputy executive director in September and noted that the Board's former counsel, Laura Booberg, accepted a position at DHP in the administrative proceedings division. She introduced Senior Assistant Attorney General, Brent Saunders, who was present as board counsel for this meeting.

Ordering of Agenda

Dr. McNichol opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment

There were no requests to provide public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. McNichol opened the floor to any edits or corrections to the draft minutes of the full board meeting held on July 9, 2024, and the November 26, 2024, telephone conference call. With no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Agency Director's Report

Mr. Owens provided an update on the agency's activities.

Legislative/Regulatory Report

Mr. Novak provided an update on pending regulations and reported on 2025 pending legislation, including bills to license speech-language pathology assistants starting in 2027, eliminate the Board of Health Professions, affect licensure by endorsement, and affect predetermination for licensing eligibility.

Discussion Items

Dr. Hodgdon provided a report on the 2024 Healthcare Workforce Data Center reports for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists.

Ms. Small provided a report on the Sanctioning Reference Points review currently underway for Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology.

Ms. Moss provided an update on the ASLP-IC Licensure Compact, stating the Commission's annual meeting was held on September 28, 2024. Ms. Gay and Dr. Rose are the delegates for Virginia. There are no new meetings scheduled. The Commission must finalize its rules and fees for Board to move forward with proposed regulations. Board cannot issue a privilege until regulations are promulgated in Virginia. Board staff are collecting information needed to implement criminal background checks required for applicants upon enactment of the Compact.

Board Counsel's Report

Mr. Saunders had no information to report to the Board.

Chair's Report

Dr. McNichol had no information to report to the Board.

Board of Health Professions' Report

Ms. Moss stated that legislation passed by the 2025 General Assembly eliminates the Board of Health Professions and transfers certain powers and duties from the Board to the Department of Health Professions effective July 1, 2025. Information will be forthcoming to the Board of Health Professions members and the public.

Staff Reports

Ms. Moss provided updates regarding applications and licensing processes. She reported on outreach by board staff to professional organizations and SLP students at Old Dominion University and University of Virginia, licensing statistics and the revised board meeting calendar.

Ms. Foley provided an update on the open and closed discipline cases.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Next Meeting

The next full board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

Adjournment

With no objection, Dr. McNichol adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli G. Moss". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kelli G. Moss
Executive Director