



**Board Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2008**

Department of Consumer Affairs
2005 Evergreen Street
"Hearing Room"
Sacramento, CA
(916) 263-2666

Board Members Present

Lisa O'Connor, M.A., Chairperson
Alison Grimes, Au.D.
Naomi Smith, Au.D.
Robert Hanyak, Au.D.
Carol Murphy, M.A.
Jennifer Hancock, M.A.

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer
Cynthia Alameda, Staff Analyst
Lori Pinson, Staff Analyst
George Ritter, Legal Counsel

Board Members Absent

Paul Donald, M.D.

Guests Present

Nina Lorber
Jessica Amgwerd, Deputy Attorney General
Johnathan Lew, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings
Rebecca Bingea, University of California San Francisco
Robert Pulleo, Deputy Director Legislative & Regulatory Review Unit
Kinzie Murphy, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Jan Prior, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Ian McDonald, Achieva Corporation
Abhay Upadhyaya, ACREVS
Sam Meinsheni, Consultant
Pradessh Thomas, AlphaVista Services
Samir Rahman, AlphaVista Services

I. Call to Order

Chairperson O'Connor called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 27-28, 2008 full Board Meeting

The Board discussed minor grammatical edits to the minutes.

M/S/C: Smith/Hanyak

The Board voted to approve the February 27-28, 2008 Board meeting minutes and Closed Session Minutes as amended.

IV. Hearing on Petition for Reinstatement of Revoked/Surrendered License-LORBER, NINA SP 4001

The Board heard the Petition Hearing for the Reinstatement of the Surrendered License of Ms. Nina Lorber.

The Board adjourned into closed session at 10:45 a.m. to deliberate the decision of the Petition Hearing and to consider the other Administrative Actions below.

- V. Closed Session (pursuant to Government Code Subsections 11126 (a)(1) (c)(3)) Proposed Decisions/Stipulations/ Other APA Enforcement Actions**
- A. To Deliberate on Petition for Reinstatement**
 - B. Proposed Stipulation and Settlement for Probation In the Matter of the Accusation Against Heather Marie Booth, AU 1629**
 - C. Proposed Stipulation and Settlement for Surrender of License in the Matter of the Accusation Against Meredith Nunally, SP 12617**

The Board reconvened into open session at 11:00 a.m. and introductions were made by all present.

VI. Chairperson's Report (Lisa O'Connor)

Chairperson O'Connor announced that Suzanne Moineau, Program Director for the California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) new Master's level program in Communicative Sciences and Disorders, contacted her and Robert Hanyak to withdraw her request for the Board to independently review and approve the CSUSM program. Chairperson O'Connor reported that CSUSM will be seeking accreditation through the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, as the two organizations typically coordinate the site review process.

Chairperson O'Connor also announced that Chapman University has submitted application to CAA in an effort to seek candidacy status for its new Speech-Language Pathology master's program.

A. Update on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing's Credential Reform Recommendations

Chairperson O'Connor referenced the written Chairperson report included in the meeting packets and summarized the main topics of her report as follows:

In the past four months the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) has held at least two meetings to help establish the standards for training and more clearly define the role for the new specialist credential, the Communication Development Credential. On March 26, 2008, the CTC convened two groups of individuals to serve on "Topic Discussion Panels." Chairperson O'Connor participated in the Discussion Panel Group II. The questions for Group II to consider were:

- What content and performance expectations (knowledge, skills and abilities) should the candidate demonstrate?

- How do we prepare candidates for this credential?

The discussion of these questions was varied and lengthy. Chairperson O'Connor referenced handouts that were provided at the meeting, noting a comparison chart illustrating the differences between the speech-language pathologist and the proposed new communication development specialist. She also referenced a document outlining the expected changes in the speech-language pathology credential program preparation. Chairperson O'Connor stated that there was significant objection by the speech-language pathology professionals regarding the proposed scope of responsibility of the new communication development specialist, as the proposed duties significantly overlap with speech-language pathology, yet the training for the communication development specialist is abbreviated and not as rigorous.

Panel I members were to answer:

- What services should this credential provide to students?
This discussion focused on language and literacy issues and how the person with this new credential could help individuals with limited English proficiency and literacy issues. Everyone on this panel seemed to feel this person would be ideal for the new Response to Intervention (RTI) model. Everyone expressed a desire to have this person serve individuals who were at risk but who might not have any formal Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
- What should the authorization for this credential be?
Considerable time was spent trying to define the authorization standards for this new credential (e.g., training competencies, etc.). A draft paragraph was presented from each panel for consideration by the Design Team.

The Design Team members were present at the meeting. Dee Parker and Terry Saenz from university settings and Marty Cavanaugh from Sacramento County Office of Education will be key players, as currently they are on the Team and they are all speech-language pathologists. There was another meeting on May 14, 2008.

Chairperson O'Connor questioned the CTC's authority to fully implement the new standards of the communication development credential without seeking a legislative initiative, or at the very minimum, a regulatory change incorporating the new credential classification.

Mr. Hanyak indicated that he attended the May 14, 2008 meeting as a public observer and reported that the discussion centered on the number of units that would be required in the proposed communication development specialist program and stated that the units were considerably more than what is required for other undergraduate degree programs. Mr. Hanyak commented that while the purpose for developing the new credential was to help alleviate the severe shortages in speech and language personnel in the public schools, it does not appear that inventing a new credential category will provide a short-term solution, as it will take considerable time to develop the training module, design the curriculum, market the program, and enroll and ultimately graduate students. He reported that two additional public meetings are scheduled for July 15, 2008 in Sacramento again in August (date and time TBD).

B. New Supervision Documents from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Since our February 2008 meeting, the ASHA Board of Directors has approved the three new policy documents on supervision and they are now posted on the ASHA Web Site. These can be a valuable resource to individuals who want to participate in supervisory experiences. In addition, the documents would be helpful as a link on the Board's website. Also available is a

knowledge and skills document pertaining to the supervision of assistants. References for these documents are:

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2008a). *Clinical supervision in speech-language pathology* [Technical report]. Available from www.asha.org/policy
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2008b) *Clinical supervision in speech-language pathology* [Position statement]. Available from www.asha.org/policy
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2008c). *Knowledge and Skills Needed by Speech-Language Pathologists Providing Clinical Supervision*. Available from www.asha.org/policy
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2002). *Knowledge and skills for supervisors of speech-language pathology assistants*. Available from www.asha.org/policy.

C. Early Start Stakeholders Meeting Regarding New Personnel Model

As Board Chair, Ms. O'Connor was invited to participate in a stakeholders meeting to respond to proposed changes in the Early Intervention Personnel Model. The revised Early Start Personnel Model, which hopefully will be completed by spring 2009, is designed to be of benefit to the early intervention field from the level of family empowerment and self-advocacy, to early intervention practice, and to the level of higher education and policymaking. Unfortunately, it does not seek to effect changes in current legislation, and while speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) are now mentioned as a category of paraprofessional in the proposed model, there is no movement to change the California Code of Regulations Title 17 authorizing the use of SLPAs.

D. University Training Directors Meeting – April 25, 2008 Long Beach

Chairperson O'Connor reported on the following issues related to licensure and/or the Board at the University Training Directors meeting:

- Potential Sunset of Board as of July 1 – Assurance was provided of the temporary status of moving to a bureau and of how this move would have minimal impact on the functioning of staff and their responsibilities.
- Proposed new Communication Development Specialist – Jan Jones Wadsworth from CTC was present and distributed draft documents pertaining to the new credential. Many in attendance were very concerned about the actions of the CTC in moving to this new credential. All agreed that the title needed to be changed to clearly differentiate the roles of a speech-language pathologist and a communication development specialist. Robert Powell had suggested Language/Literacy Development Specialist, but it will be the decision of the Design Team to make the recommendation for a change in title to the CTC.
- Regulation pertaining to qualifications for supervisors of students and RPE candidates – Several training directors expressed concern about the new RPE supervisor requirement regarding availability of professional development opportunities for supervision training. On behalf of the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA), Mr. Hanyak advised that he would recommend to the CSHA leadership that continuing education opportunities be available at all future CSHA conventions. Chairperson O'Connor provided information regarding the on-line courses available at speechpathology.com, as well as confirmed dates for training during the remainder of this year. Thus far, the following courses are planned for summer/fall 2008:

July 12th or 19th – CSU East Bay – 6 hour workshop
September 4th – LAUSD – 6 hour workshop
September 6th – UOP – 6 hour workshop
September 26th and 27th – Pasadena – 6 hour workshop
Early October – District 8 – 6 hour workshop

- Update on Assistants – Ways in which BA level individuals may register as assistants was the main topic of discussion. So far, Sacramento State, Long Beach, and University of the Pacific have mechanisms in place to provide the necessary training and fieldwork hours for their BA level graduates. Others stated they were exploring similar program opportunities.
- Issue of foreign-trained students and licensure applicants – Chairperson O'Connor provided information on issues facing the Board in licensing these individuals. There was a lengthy discussion about individuals from other countries who enter the Master's program and have difficulty with English language proficiency. Fullerton shared a document they have developed to establish a policy regarding language proficiency requirements for their program. They are proposing a process for assessing the English communication skills of all students admitted to their graduate program. Some expressed concern about the Board recommending that individuals who do not meet licensure requirements contact one of the training programs to see if the training they received in their country would meet the graduation requirements of that program. Chairperson O'Connor reported that she assured everyone that the Board was not referring students to them for transcript review purposes, and that the letter sent to the person interested in meeting the requirements for licensure simply suggests that they may be able to cure the training deficiency by enrolling in one of the training programs in California. The Board may need to revisit the wording used in the letter so that the individual does not feel they can seek a second transcript review from a California training program if the evaluation they obtained from a foreign transcript evaluation agency does not reflect equivalency.

E. Board Presentation at California Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Long Beach- April 10-13, 2008

Ms. Del Mugnaio, Mr. Hanyak, Ms. Hancock, Ms. Murphy and Chairperson O'Connor were present on Sunday, April 13, 2008, for a 90-minute session at CSHA to discuss licensing issues, including the sunset process, and to answer questions from the audience. Mr. Hanyak provided an update on audiology issues pertaining to licensure; Ms. Hancock talked about suctioning and swallowing problems in health care settings; Ms. Murphy reviewed the issues pertaining to the use of foreign-trained individuals, particularly in the public schools; and Chairperson O'Connor provided an update on the use of assistants. Ms. Del Mugnaio reviewed issues pertaining to our Sunset Review and recent changes in the laws and regulations, including supervisor qualifications for students and RPE candidates.

VII. Vice Chairperson's Report (Alison Grimes) – Notice Regarding the Education and Standards Summit of the American Academy of Audiology, January 2009- Dallas, Texas

Vice Chairperson Grimes reported that the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) will be sponsoring a series of educational standards summits, the first being held January 12-14, 2009 in Dallas, to examine the transition of audiology education from Masters' training to doctoral training with an emphasis on ensuring that the new doctoral training standards appropriately reflect a higher and more rigorous model. Vice Chairperson Grimes stated that one of the focuses of the summit will be to examine other professional doctoral programs, including medicine, where larger cohorts of graduating students (greater than the ten or less that graduate from an audiology

program) provide a larger group of new professionals ready to enter the workforce. She reported that there is a goal within the profession to improve efficiency in training audiology students. Vice Chairperson Grimes announced that the American Board of Audiology (ABA) launched its first specialty certification in cochlear implants two years ago. She stated that applicants seeking the new certification must present a portfolio of professional credentials and take the specialty certification examination in order to be granted the specialty certification. Vice Chairperson Grimes reported that the ABA is in the process of developing a new specialty certification in pediatric audiology and is working on the new examination. She stated that the certification should be available in approximately two years. Vice Chairperson Grimes commented that the credential designating an audiologist as a pediatric audiologist will serve a vital role in assisting consumers, other professionals, and state programs (such as the Newborn Hearing Screening Program) in identifying audiologists who have focused experience and training working with the pediatric population.

Chairperson O'Connor stated that she is aware that a council within the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is also working toward a new subspecialty certification in pediatric audiology and is concerned that two separate certifications may be confusing for the general public and may not be entirely uniform.

Vice Chairperson Grimes recommended that the Board write a letter to both the ABA and the Council on Specialty Certification of ASHA requesting the two bodies to collaborate on their efforts to develop the new specialty certification in pediatric audiology.

M/S/C: Smith/Grimes

The Board voted to delegate Chairperson O'Connor and Vice Chairperson Grimes to draft a letter to the ABA and the Council on Specialty Certification of ASHA expressing the Board's concerns with the simultaneous, yet separate, development of new subspecialty certification in pediatric audiology that may not be uniform and would likely create considerable confusion for the public and the professional community. The letter will request collaboration of the two bodies with regard to this effort.

VIII. Executive Officer's Report (Annemarie Del Mugnaio)

Ms. Del Mugnaio provided an overview of the written executive officer's report as included in the meeting packets.

A. Budget Update

Ms. Del Mugnaio distributed a budget expenditure and projection report as of April 30, 2008 for FY 07/08. She reported that the Board had to redirect funding in the amount of \$16,400 to the attorney general line item, as the appropriated funding for enforcement is insufficient. In the past 4-plus years, the Board has had to redirect funding to support on-going enforcement efforts, especially disciplinary cases. As such, the Board is pursuing a budget change proposal for FY 09/10 in the amount of \$22,000 to fund the on-going enforcement efforts. Also, the Board is encumbering roughly \$35,000 of the \$72,000 budget augmentation for the examination validation study for the audiology report as is included later in the executive officer update. Only half of the money is being utilized this year because the Board will only conduct the one validation study over the course of the next several months. The speech-language pathology study has been placed on hold until the national workforce study on speech-language pathology is updated, which is expected to be sometime in 2010. The money will need to be requested through a budget change

proposal for the speech-language pathology study at a future date.

B. Review/Status and Implementation Issues of Proposed Regulations

1. Qualifications for Clinical Supervisors of Students and Individuals Completing the Required Professional Experience (New Continuing Professional Development Requirements) - California Code of Regulations Section 1399.152.2- 1399.153

The Board is waiting for final approval of the Department of Finance for the rulemaking file. The file will then be transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). OAL has 30 days to review the file and to issue a decision. As such, the final regulations should be in effect by late July 2008.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the Board has received a number of inquiries from the professional community regarding the proposed changes and stated that some were apparently unaware of the proposed regulatory change even though the proposed changes were noticed to the public and have been discussed at each of the professional association conferences over the past year. Ms. Del Mugnaio outlined the concerns that have either been reported to the Board office or to other Board members as follows:

- Not enough supervision training opportunities
- Cost of the training in addition to other CE requirements
- Timeframe allowed for existing supervisors to obtain the initial 6 hours of CPD training
- Type of supervision training acceptable (i.e., SLPA supervision training, general health care practitioner supervision/preceptor training, AuD preceptor training)
- Supervisors providing supervision out of the state to those seeking California licensure (Should out-of-state supervisors be subject to the same CPD requirements?)

Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced the recently developed frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding the new clinical supervisor qualifications and indicated that the FAQs have been posted on the Board's website to help explain the implementation process for the new provisions. She commented that the Board does need to address how the changes will impact individuals completing their RPE in other states where the supervisor does not hold a California license and, therefore, is not subject to the new provisions.

Mr. Ritter suggested that the Board consider developing some equivalent qualifications that supervisors in other states must meet in order to qualify that experience for licensure.

Mr. Hanyak commented that he does not believe that it is in the best interest of consumers or licensees to create additional barriers to licensure in the state considering the severe shortages.

Ms. Del Mugnaio agreed but stated that at this point there is a disparity in the standards required for RPE experience obtained in California and that completed in another state in terms of the supervisor criteria.

Chairperson O'Connor stated that the matter should be examined further and that the Board should consider options for defining an equivalent supervisor standard at its next scheduled meeting.

2. Board Approved Institution Regulations – California Code of Regulations Section 1399.152 (e)

Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced an analysis by Mr. Ritter as included in the meeting packets regarding the current regulations providing the Board with discretion when considering the merits of professional training programs that are not accredited by a recognized accrediting body.

Both Mr. Ritter and Ms. Del Mugnaio suggested that the existing language in subsection (e) regarding the Board's independent review and approval authority is convoluted and is difficult to apply or enforce as currently written.

Mr. Ritter prepared draft language that more clearly defines the Board's purview in independently reviewing the merits of new or unaccredited training programs.

Chairperson O'Connor commented that she recalled that subsection (e) was re-written at the advice of the OAL, as the agency determined that the provision authorizing the Board to approve any unaccredited program was inconsistent with the other provisions in Section 1399.152.

Ms. Del Mugnaio suggested that the language reflect that the program must offer academic and clinical training consistent with that offered in an accredited speech-language pathology graduate program and/or audiology doctoral program. She stated that this may resolve the consistency objection raised by OAL.

M/S/C: Hanyak/Grimes

The Board voted to delegate to Mr. Ritter and Ms. Del Mugnaio the task of developing language for California Code of Regulations Section 1399.152 (e) regarding the Board's authority to independently approve professional training programs that do not meet one of the identified accreditation provisions.

C. Examination Validation Study Schedule- Office of Examination Resources

The Board was scheduled to conduct its examination validation studies for both the speech-language pathology and audiology licensing examinations this fiscal year. However, after gathering the pertinent job analysis reports from ASHA and the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the DCA's Office of Examination Resources concluded that the reports available to date were much too antiquated to use as relevant "practice analyses" in order to validate the national examinations as required for licensure in California. Ms. Del Mugnaio has been in contact with representatives from ASHA to obtain, once available, current job studies for audiology and speech-language pathology as developed by ETS. She reported that ASHA should have the audiology practice analysis available by July 2008. ASHA reported that a practice analysis for speech-language pathology should begin in 2008 with a prospective completion date of fall 2009. The Office of Examination Resources has agreed to use the half of the appropriated funds in 2007/2008 for the work they will complete on the audiology validation study. The remaining funding must be requesting again for the FY 09/10 in order to complete the speech-language pathology study.

D. DCA Board & Bureau Summit – Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust November 19-20, 2008 Los Angeles

The Department of Consumer Affairs has identified the name "Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust" (PACTs) for its collaborative conference joining together all DCA boards, bureaus, and many consumer advocacy groups during a week-long consumer summit. DCA will convey to consumer advocates and the general public that it is committed to transparency in

government by making all open regulatory board meetings accessible to anyone who wishes to participate. DCA is in the process of approving a contract with the Westin LAX for the conference meeting space. The date is tentatively set for the week of November 17, 2008. Once the contract is in place, a notification will be sent out so individuals may make the proper arrangements. A block of sleeping rooms will be reserved at the state rate of \$110.00. DCA is working to create an informative, inspiring, and meaningful agenda for Wednesday, November 19, 2008, with numerous workshops, panel discussions, and keynote speakers. There will be three different workshop topics: Board Development, Consumer Issues and Trends, and Professional Licensing and Enforcement. A web site will be set up around mid-May to reserve rooms and select workshops. The Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2008.

E. Update on Board Action Items

Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced the Board action item table as included in the meeting packets. She reviewed both the completed action items from previous Board meeting discussions and discussed the new assignments as delegated in the current meeting.

F. Miscellaneous - Recent Website Changes/2008 Continuing Professional Development Audit

The Board recently updated its website with new forms and frequently asked questions. Staff is in the process of updating all of the recommended links to other professional or consumer sites. As such, any recommendations for new links should be forwarded to Ms. Del Mugnaio. The recommended links may be found at <http://www.slpab.ca.gov/links.shtml>.

The Board is in the process of sending the 2008 Continuing Professional Development audit notices to the select licensing and provider populations. The letter should be mailed sometime in early June 2008.

The Board office finally relocated on March 21, 2008. The transition was a bit trying for the staff and the Board's clients for the first few weeks, as staff experienced difficulties with the telephone lines, but all was resolved within a month of the move. Ms. Del Mugnaio acknowledged Ms. Pinson for her dedication and efforts in managing the logistics of the move. She took the lead in troubleshooting many of the communication issues and was instrumental in returning the operation to full capacity.

Ms. Del Mugnaio provided an update on the site review of the San Joaquin Delta Community College (SJDCC) Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Program and stated that on May 1-2, 2008, the Board commissioned a site review team to visit the SJDCC campus and the satellite campus at Santa Rosa Community College. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that deficiencies in the administration of the program were found, primarily at the Santa Rosa site, and such deficiencies were noted in a formal site review report that was provided to the Program Director. Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the SJDCC Program has an opportunity to correct or respond to the noted deficiencies within a specified timeframe. She stated that once a final site review findings and recommendations report is developed, the report will be brought before the Board for consideration of further action.

IX. Committee Reports

Vice Chairperson Grimes provided an overview of the matters discussed at the Audiology Practice Committee meeting and outlined the topics discussed and the recommendations before the Board (included under the Audiology Practice Committee Meeting Minutes).

M/S/C: Hanyak/Smith

The Board voted to accept the report and recommendations of the Audiology Practice Committee

Chairperson O'Connor summarized the discussion and recommendations from the Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee Meeting (included under the Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee Meeting Minutes).

M/S/C: Smith/Hancock

The Board approved the report and recommendations of the Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee.

X. Legislation

A. SB 797 – SLPAB Sunset Transition Legislation - Discussion of Transition to Bureau Under the Department of Consumer Affairs – *(Representative from Department of Consumer Affairs)*

Robert Pulleo, Deputy Director of the Legislative, Regulatory and Review Office, DCA, reported that Senate Bill 797, an urgency measure, provides continuity in the operation and leadership of the Board once the Board transitions to a bureau on July 1, 2008. He stated that the DCA is in support of the bill and its provisions and is committed to assisting the Board with the transition as Board members elect to become Advisory Committee Members for the DCA.

Chairperson O'Connor inquired about how disciplinary proceedings are handled for a bureau.

Mr. Ritter explained that the members of the bureau are no longer adjudicators but are advisors to the Director of the DCA. He stated that bureau staff will still process complaints and accusations working with the Attorney General's Office; however, once there is a proposed decision or settlement, the Advisory Committee members will serve as advisors to the Director who will make the final decisions. Mr. Ritter stated that in petition hearings the Director would hear the matter and would act independently; however, there is still some uncertainty as to whether the Advisory Committee may provide any input for the Director to consider.

Chairperson O'Connor inquired whether the Advisory Committee members may still represent the state licensing agency in professional meetings.

Mr. Pulleo responded and indicated that bureaus still engage in professional meetings and that the operation and policy decisions should not be impaired by the transition; however, if there are controversial issues or high-profile matters that members are engaged in, those matters should be appropriately discussed with the Executive Officer who will consult with the Director.

Ms. Bingea inquired whether Board members who become Advisory Committee members may serve as Board members again when the Board is reauthorized if, by including the time spent as Advisory Committee members, they have served two consecutive terms.

Mr. Ritter indicated that he is uncertain about the restrictions on Board members who have served two consecutive terms serving in an interim capacity, but he stated he believes the interim role would be permissible. However, he did state that Board members who have served two consecutive terms would not be eligible for reappointment.

B. AB 1545 – Eng – Re-establish Department of Consumer Affairs Boards

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that Assembly Bill 1545 is a measure that will authorize the Board, along with the Dental Board of California, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, and the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, until January 12, 2012. The bill would require the boards to appoint an executive officer and would authorize the executive officer of a previous board to serve as interim executive officer of a board until the appointment of a permanent executive officer. It would also provide that members of a previous board would serve temporarily as interim board members until the appointment of members to the board. She stated that the DCA is supporting the measure and the bill has no opposition to date.

Ms. Del Mugnaio reiterated for the record that the Board has been supportive of a measure such as this since SB 797 was inadvertently not passed during the 2007 legislative session.

C. Other Legislation of Interest to the Board

Ms. Del Mugnaio provided an overview of Senate Bill 1540, a vehicle intended to make various Legislature findings and declarations related to the need to provide comprehensive health care coverage and programs for children in the state. This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to launch a pilot program in Orange County to improve key health care services to children.

The Board discussed the provisions of the bill as intended to support families with incomes at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level and indicated the desperate need to health care coverage for working families who do not qualify for Medi-Cal support but yet have no healthcare coverage and cannot afford to pay out-of-pocket for an independent plan.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the bill was withdrawn from the Committee hearings; however, there are two other similar legislative initiatives, SB 32 and AB 1, which the Committee heard and passed.

Ms. Del Mugnaio agreed to track the progress of the related bills and report back to the Board.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that Senate Bill 1186 regarding teacher credentialing was crafted to provide, among other changes to the teacher credentialing system, an exemption from the state basic skills proficiency test for an applicant seeking an eminence credential and an applicant who achieves scores on the writing, reading, and mathematics sections of the College Board SAT Reasoning Test, the enhanced ACT English and mathematics tests, or the California State University Early Assessment Program that are sufficient to waive the English placement test and the entry level mathematics examination administered by the California State University. The bill would delete the requirement that the Superintendent establish passing scores on the specified tests that would be substituted for a passing score on the state basic skills proficiency test. The bill would extend the authority to hire a certificated teacher who has not been afforded an opportunity to take the state basic skills proficiency test to county offices of education and would apply this exemption to certificated personnel rather than certificated teachers.

The Board discussed the intent of the legislation, but did not take a position on the bill.

Ms. Del Mugnaio agreed to track the progress of the SB 1186.

XI. Status of Legislative Proposal Amending Entry-Level Licensing Requirements For Audiologists & Discussion of the Provisional Licensing of Audiology Doctoral Students Completing the Final Clinical Externship

Ms. Del Mugnaio reported that she has submitted to the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee, for consideration as a Committee-sponsored amendment, the Board-approved statutory proposal regarding raising the entry-level licensing requirements for audiologists to the doctoral training standard and the equivalency provisions for audiologists completing their clinical externship in other states under the auspices of a Board-approved audiology doctoral training program where provisional licensing is not required. She stated that G.V. Ayers, the Committee consultant, indicated that the amendments would not be considered for an omnibus bill since there could be some opposition or concern about degree inflation, even though the amendments are updating licensing provisions that no longer reflect the professional training standards in audiology. Ms. Del Mugnaio reported that Mr. Ayers indicated that he would review the proposed amendments with the other Committee staff to determine whether the provisions would be acceptable to incorporate into an existing Committee legislative vehicle. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she will contact Mr. Ayers again in early June if she has not heard back from him regarding the Committee's decision.

Ms. Del Mugnaio reported that the California Academy of Audiology has also been in contact with the Committee to express their support of the proposed amendments.

XII. Licensing/Enforcement Statistical Data

The Board reviewed the statistical data as provided by staff.

Chairperson O'Connor inquired whether the Board's licensing database is equipped to capture data on settings where Required Professional Experience temporary license holders are completing their experience. She stated that statistical documentation of the number of RPEs that work in private settings versus public schools may be helpful in identifying workforce shortages.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she would investigate whether the Board's databases have fields to capture the requested information.

XIII. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Representatives from the Academic & Credential Records, Evaluation & Verification Service, Inc. (ACREVS) addressed the Board and requested the Board consider approving the organization as a recognized transcript evaluation service that may evaluate speech-language pathology or audiology foreign transcripts for individuals seeking state licensure. The representatives provided an in-depth overview of the organization, including the training and expertise of its evaluators, its reference library, and its endorsements and approvals by other auditing agencies.

Chairperson O'Connor indicated that the matter would be placed on the next agenda for consideration by the future Advisory Committee.

XIV. Announcements

Next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 21-22, 2008 San Diego, and November 19-20, 2008, Los Angeles

Ms. Smith announced that there is consideration within the Department of Education to eliminate the rehabilitative services credential in audiology and instead require only the license as the practice authorization for audiologists to work in public schools.

XV. Adjournment

Chairperson O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Annemarie Del Mugnaio
Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer