



**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PRACTICE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**Radisson Hotel/San Francisco Airport**

**February 6, 2014**

5000 Sierra Point Parkway  
Brisbane, CA 94005

**Committee Members Present**

Patti Solomon-Rice, Chair, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Dee Parker, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Debbie Snow, Public Member

**Committee Members Absent**

Rodney Diaz, Otolaryngologist

**Board Member Present**

Alison Grimes, Dispensing Audiologist  
Marcia Raggio, Dispensing Audiologist  
Amnon Shalev, Hearing Aid Dispenser

**Staff Present**

Breanne Humphreys, Interim Executive Officer  
Sabina Knight, Legal Counsel

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Solomon-Rice called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

**II. Approval of the June 12, 2013 Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee Meeting Minutes**

**M/S/C Parker/Snow**

**Minutes were accepted as written.**

**III. Introductions**

There were no introductions.

#### **IV. Consider Amendments to the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant's (SLPA) Regulations (16 CCR 1399.170-1399.170.170.20.1 – Scope of Responsibility & Supervision Provisions**

Ms. Solomon-Rice stated that at the October meeting the proposed regulatory amendments were adopted and the Board requested they be sent to interested parties for comments on the proposed regulation changes.

The proposed changes were reviewed:

- Supervisor must have a minimum of two (2) years of full-time experience providing services.
- Direct supervision definition now includes electronic means.
- SLPA Program Director must hold a valid and clear license in speech-language pathology or equivalent credentials.
- Update the ASHA reference document to the Guidelines for the Training, Use, and Supervision of SLPA as the current 2004. [Note: This document was replaced in 2013 entitled the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Scope of Practice.]
- During the first 90 days of the employment of a SLPA, the supervisor is to provide 20% immediate supervision per week. Immediate supervision is defined as the supervisor must be physically present.
- Direct supervision now is defined as observation and guidance via on-site or live electronic means by the supervising SLP.
- Minimum required field hours is increased from seventy (70) to one-hundred (100) hours.
- Six (6) hours of continuing education (CE) in supervision is required prior to commencement of supervision.
- Three (3) hours of supervision training of CE is required every four (4) years.

The Board received nine (9) public comments.

- ASHA document is incorrect. The 2004 document was rescinded and replaced by the 2013 document.
- Asked if these revisions apply to SLPAs in training or licensees: applies to licensees only.
- Concerns about enforcing the regulations, individuals out of compliance, want signed statement from supervisor acknowledging the changes.
- Asked what the effective date is.
- Four individuals praised the proposed changes.

Ms. Parker stated that electronic could be both pre-recorded and live and the intent is to have supervision live/interactive. The committee agreed to add 'live' to the definition.

Discussion was held on how to enforce these regulations. Ms. Solomon-Rice commented that it is a contractual agreement between the supervisor and SLPA. Ms. Knight suggested we notice it for public comments and ask the stakeholders how we should ensure adherence. Ms. Parker commented that the lack of supervision is a problem; the supervisors do not have to document

like the RPE supervisors. Ms. Knight suggested we could add a regulation and have a supervision audit, much like our continuing education audit.

- Ms. Knight will inquire with other healthcare Boards on how they monitor supervision regulations.
- Ms. Solomon-Rice will inquire with the national board of speech pathologists.
- Ms. Humphreys, Solomon-Rice, and Parker will review the current RPE supervisor forms.

The committee will recommend to the full Board that we make the changes to reflect the new 2013 ASHA document and the enhanced definition for direct supervision to read as live electronic means.

#### **V. Report from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) Regarding Credential Waivers Issued to Speech-Language Pathologists**

CCTC was unable to attend our meeting today because of travel restrictions but will attend the May Board meeting in Sacramento. Ms. Solomon-Rice will send emails inviting CSHA President/President Elect/Lobbyist, and CAPCSD to attend the meeting.

Following are the questions we would like CCTC to address:

- a) Process for applying for Variable Term Waiver (VTW)
- b) Minimum qualifications of the VTW
- c) Pre-requisites for being a VTW SLP
- d) Scope of practice of the VTW SLP
- e) Oversight mechanism of the CTC over school districts granting VTWs
- f) Statistical information as available
  - i) Number of VTWs and number of SLP service credentials/rehab services credentials over the past 5 years
  - ii) Full-Time Equivalent of both VTWs and SLP service credentials/rehab services credentials over the past 5 years

The concern is that the speech-language pathologist working under a waiver is not practicing at a minimal level of competency. The waived SLP does not have a master's degree, has not passed the Praxis, and has not completed the required 300 clock hours of clinical work under supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist.

Ms. Solomon-Rice reviewed the statistics for 2012:

- 415 variable term waivers were issued. (This is not the total number, it represents only what was issued and renewed for 2012.)
- 2000 credentials were issued or renewed.

Twenty percent (20%) of the issuances were for variable term waivers. The Board is interested in identifying how many are working with a variable term waiver. Districts typically do not report this data because it would indicate to parents that their child may not be receiving treatment from a credentialed speech-language pathologist.

To obtain a waiver in speech-language pathology, one must have a bachelor's degree (in anything) and be enrolled into a speech-language pathology post bachelor program for a minimum of two courses (6 units).

Ms. Parker commented that districts also use another category, TOSA, Teacher on Special Assignment. Districts are able to remove a teacher from the classroom and make them a speech-language pathologist. We do not know how many are in this category as there are 1000 districts throughout the state.

Ms. Knight distributed CTC's Waiver Book Guidelines for all types of waivers that the school system can issue. It is not just for speech-language pathology. Ms. Humphreys will include this document in the next Board packet for the May meeting.

## **VI. Update on the Speech-Language Pathology Occupational Analysis/Related Link to English Language Competency**

Ms. Solomon-Rice explained that an Occupational Analysis (OA) defines a profession in terms of the actual tasks that new licensees must be able to perform safely and competently at the time of licensure.

To begin this study, the Office of Professional Exam Services (OPES) initially conducted telephone interviews with eight speech-language pathologists to gain a better understanding of the profession and its three practice settings: public schools, medical, and private practice.

Ms. Humphreys thanked Barbra O'Hara of the California Speech-Hearing Association (CSHA) for sending out an email blast to their 5000 members. As a result the Board received approximately 50 licensees volunteering to participate in the OA.

The first two-day workshop was held in January and was comprised of 8-10 speech-language pathologists representing the three practice settings. The second workshop was held earlier this week.

In April a sample of the speech-language pathologist population will be invited to complete a survey of the clinical activities and tasks that the first two workshops identified as the minimum standards of competencies. Ms. Humphreys stated that the survey will take approximately two hours to complete and that the Board will grant two (2) continuing education hours for those licensees who participate.

Upon completion of the survey, OPES will compile the data and present it to the remaining two workshops which are scheduled in June. OPES anticipates to have completed the survey in August and will present the OA to the Board at the August meeting.

Chairperson Solomon-Rice adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.