



AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Walnut, CA
September 5, 2024

1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

Dr. Amy White, Committee Chair, called the Audiology Practice Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. Dr. White called roll; four members of the Committee were present and thus a quorum was established.

Board Members Present

Amy White, Dispensing Audiologist, Chair
Karen Chang, Public Member
Charles Sanders, Dispensing Audiologist
Tamara Chambers, Otolaryngologist, Public Member

Staff Present

Paul Sanchez, Executive Officer
Cherise Burns, Assistant Executive Officer
Maria Liranzo, Legislation/Regulation/Budget Analyst
Yuping Lin, DCA Legal Counsel

2. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Dr. White asked for public comment for items not on the agenda. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Amend Regulations Regarding General Application Requirements and Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Aide Requirements as Stated in Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Sections 1399.151.2, 1399.151.3, 1399.151.4, 1399.154 through 1399.154.12, and 1399.157

Dr. White invited Maria Liranzo to provide an update on possible action to amend the regulations regarding audiology aides. Ms. Liranzo provided a background, summary of changes to the proposed regulatory language since the last committee meeting and issues the board should consider for Board discussion.

Dr. White provided a background on audiology aide, industrial audiology aide, and the Council of Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC) certification. Dr. White commented on Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) responsibility of industrial audiology aides and asked if DIR has a registration process for industrial aides.

Ms. Liranzo replied that CAOHC has a provider list and stated that it doesn't appear there is a registration for industrial aides with DIR. Ms. Cherise Burns stated that the Board may want to revisit the exemption if there isn't a licensing or registration with the DIR.

Dr. Charles Sanders asked if anyone could identify themselves as an industrial audiology aide. Dr. White replied that her understanding is anyone can identify themselves as an industrial audiology aide.

Dr. Sanders asked if there is a regulatory body that looks into them. Ms. Burns replied that the Board is not aware of it. Ms. Liranzo replied that an audiologist might be part of a hearing conservation program and they might have an aide who helps them with the program.

Dr. White commented on audiologists running a hearing conservation program for Department of Defense and stated that she isn't familiar with hearing conservation programs in the private sector.

Dr. White commented on the level of supervision for an industrial audiology aide and how it is different from an audiology aide. Dr. White stated that their supervision has to allow them to perform tasks independently. Dr. White commented on audiology aides who are CAOHC certified and how regulations will apply to them.

Paul Sanchez stated that the Board is the only entity that licenses and registers audiology aides and read the Business and Professions Code section 2530.2 (m) which states the Board "may by regulation exempt certain functions performed by an industrial audiology aide from supervision provided that their employer has established a set of procedures or protocols that the aide shall follow in performing these functions." Mr. Sanchez asked what the criteria would be for exemption of industrial audiology aides and suggested that this can be certification or a work setting.

Dr. White asked if CAOHC certification is a requirement. Ms. Liranzo replied that it is not a requirement and stated that supervisors report to the Board the duties the aide will perform and training they will receive.

Dr. Sanders asked if there is a way to differentiate an industrial audiology aide from an audiology aide. Ms. Burns replied that they are all identified as an aide and stated that she hasn't seen many who identify as an industrial audiology aide. Mr. Sanchez stated that applicants may not know to tell the Board.

Mr. Sanchez asked if there are industrial audiology aide requirements in regulations and commented on the Board's statutory authority. Dr. White commented on clarifying what the requirements are for CAOHC certified audiology aides.

Dr. Sanders asked if CAOHC certification includes ear mold impression. Dr. White replied that an aide may be taking an impression of an ear to order and properly fit hearing protectors and commented that their day-to-day function is different from an audiology aide.

Ms. Liranzo suggested the Committee to review the definition of industrial audiology aide. Dr. White suggested if the definition can include that their primary role and duties of their position is being part of a hearing conservation program.

Dr. Sanders asked if this would include CAOHC certification. Dr. White replied that the proposed text already includes CAOHC certification and suggested that it includes the work setting.

Ms. Burns asked if the definition should include "under the supervision of an audiologist." Dr. White replied that it would be whoever is authorized to supervise.

Dr. White asked if the Board could require proof of CAOHC certification. Ms. Burns replied that it could be part of the application process.

Dr. White asked if changes have been made to require aides to renew. Ms. Liranzo said that this is the regulation that will implement that change. Dr. White suggested that their CAOHC certification should be reviewed. Ms. Burns stated the supervisors will have to provide the Board information on what the aide is doing at the time of renewal.

Dr. White recommended that industrial audiology aide should not be exempt from registration with the Board. Ms. Liranzo noted the change.

Ms. Liranzo asked if CAOHC certification is required for the hearing conservation program or just common practice to be certified and stated that a technician can be someone who satisfactorily demonstrated competence in administering audiometric examinations, obtaining valid audiograms, and properly using, maintaining and checking calibration and proper functioning of the audiometers being used. Dr. White and Dr. Sanders replied that it's their understanding that CAOHC certification is required for aides and not the audiologist.

Dr. White asked if the condition for specific supervision requirements for an industrial audiology aide would be the work setting. Ms. Liranzo replied that the text can say that indirect supervision can be provided when services are provided for a hearing conservation program.

Dr. Tamara Chambers asked if the Board registers those working under an otolaryngologist or physician for a hearing conservation program. Ms. Liranzo replied that it will only be aides under an audiologist. Dr. White replied that an aide working under an otolaryngologist or physician are not audiology aides but most likely medical assistants. Ms. Burns replied that the Board does not have jurisdiction over support personnel in other professions. Dr. Sanders commented on individuals in private practice who can work under a physician without registering or licensing.

Dr. White and Dr. Sanders commented that the Board may learn how many aides work this in setting from this regulation.

Ms. Liranzo suggested the Committee review the supervision of industrial audiology aide. Dr. White stated that supervision restrictions cannot be the same for industrial audiology aide and suggested if the DIR's regulation can be referenced in this section. Ms. Liranzo noted the changes.

Ms. Burns asked if the training of industrial audiology aides should be specified or is the certification sufficient. Dr. Sanders replied that it would be the completion of the CAOHC training and certification. Dr. White replied that the proposed text is already specific, and a list of criteria is not necessary.

Ms. Burns asked about the impedance battery tests. Ms. Liranzo commented that it was brought up at the last meeting and she wasn't sure how it was supposed to be used in 1399.154.11(a). Dr. White replied that tympanometry is one of multiple tests involved.

Ms. Liranzo asked if impedance battery test will replace tympanometry. Dr. Sanders replied that it would. Ms. Burns asked if it was battery testing. Dr. White replied that it would be impedance test battery. Ms. Liranzo noted the changes.

Dr. White asked for public comment for items not on the agenda. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

Dr. White asked if the Committee needs to make a motion. Ms. Burns replied that the Committee should look at it one more time as staff needs to draft language for items discussed today and stated that the Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee may want to revisit the proposed text.

Board staff was directed to include today's discussion in the text and bring it back for discussion.

4. Future Agenda Items

Dr. White asked what the procedure is for committees to add items for a future agenda. Ms. Burns replied that it should be brought to the Board and the Board Chair delegates it to the Committee and it can also be emailed or the Board Chair. Mr. Sanchez stated that it can also be brought up during committee reports at a regular Board meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Walnut, CA

September 5-6, 2024

1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

Gilda Dominguez, Board Chair, called the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (Board) meeting to order on September 5, 2024, at 1:06 p.m. Ms. Dominguez called roll; seven members of the Board were present and thus a quorum was established.

Board Members Present

Gilda Dominguez, Speech-Language Pathologist, Board Chair

Amy White, Dispensing Audiologist, Vice Chair

Tod Borges, Hearing Aid Dispenser

Karen Chang, Public Member

John Dandurand, Hearing Aid Dispenser

Charles Sanders, Dispensing Audiologist

Tamara Chambers, Otolaryngologist, Public Member

Staff Present

Paul Sanchez, Executive Officer

Cherise Burns, Assistant Executive Officer

Maria Liranzo, Legislation/Regulation/Budget Analyst

Yuping Lin, DCA Legal Counsel

2. Swearing in New Board Member

Ms. Dominguez swore in Dr. Tamara Chambers as a member of the Board, whereupon Dr.

Chambers took the oath of office administered by Ms. Dominguez.

Dr. Chambers introduced herself to the Board and public.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

Ms. Dominguez appointed Dr. Chambers to the Audiology Practice Committee.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comment for items not on the agenda.

There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

The Board then recessed to the Audiology Practice Committee meeting.

4. Review and Possible Approval of the March 1, 2024, Hearing Minutes

Ms. Dominguez opened the discussion on the review and possible approval of the minutes. Maria Liranzo provided a summary of the minutes.

Ms. Dominguez asked for Board discussion. There was no Board discussion.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

Tod Borges moved to approve the March 1, 2024, Hearing minutes.

Amy White seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0. (Ayes: Dominguez, White, Borges, Chang, Dandurand, Sanders, Chambers)

5. Review and Possible Approval of the June 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

Ms. Dominguez opened the discussion on the review and possible approval of the minutes. Maria Liranzo provided a summary of the minutes.

Ms. Dominguez asked for Board discussion. There was no Board discussion.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

Charles Sanders moved to approve the June 2024, Board Meeting minutes.

Karen Chang seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0. (Ayes: Dominguez, White, Borges, Chang, Dandurand, Sanders, Chambers)

6. Review and Possible Approval of the July 18, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

Ms. Dominguez opened the discussion on the review and possible approval of the minutes. Ms. Liranzo provided a summary of the minutes.

Ms. Dominguez asked for Board discussion. There was no Board discussion.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

John Dandurand moved to approve the July 18, 2024, Meeting minutes.

Tamara Chambers seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0. (Ayes: Dominguez, White, Borges, Chang, Dandurand, Sanders, Chambers)

7. DCA Update – DCA Board and Bureau Relations

Ms. Dominguez invited staff from DCA Board and Bureau Relations to provide an update. Yvonne Dorantes welcomed Dr. Chambers to the Board and provided an update on Budget Letter 24-20 regarding vacancy savings and position elimination, Budget Letter 24-24 regarding government efficiencies reductions, and Best of California Award winner, Jason Piccione, for the implementation of the Federal Professional License Portability and State Registration.

Ms. Dominguez asked for Board discussion. There was no Board discussion.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

8. Board Chair's Report

Ms. Dominguez reported the next Board meeting needs to be rescheduled and asked if November 15th and 16th would work for the Board and if it will be in-person. Paul Sanchez replied that in-person is preferred as there may be a petition hearing, but it may be remote if the budget doesn't allow it. Dr. Amy White and Yuping Lin replied that they are not available on November 15th and 16th.

Mr. Sanchez asked if November 12th and 13th. Karen Chang replied that she is not available that week. Cherise Burns stated that there will be a practical examination on November 22 and 23, 2024.

Ms. Burns suggested November 14th and 15th. Mr. Lin replied that he is not available on November 14th.

Ms. Burns suggested the first week of December. Board members expressed agreement to December 5th and 6th.

Ms. Dominguez invited Dr. White to provide a report on the discussion from the Audiology Practice Committee. Dr. White provided a report on what the Committee reviewed.

Ms. Dominguez commented on committee membership, appointments made, and vacancies.

Ms. Dominguez asked for Board discussion. There was no Board discussion.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

9. Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Dominguez invited Mr. Sanchez to provide the Executive Officer's report.

Mr. Sanchez provided an administration update on in-person Board meetings, staff vacancies, and the filling of all vacancies. Mr. Sanchez commented on a new position to audit continuing education and a new licensing technician.

Mr. Sanchez reported on the budget including savings necessary to address the state deficit, 2023-2024 year-end budget report, and Board's surplus.

John Dandurand asked why the printing cost increased. Ms. Burns replied that this is the contract amount and not the actual amount the Board spent. Ms. Burns stated that Board recently changed vendors, therefore the projected amount includes contracted amount for both vendors but will not incur all those expenditures.

Mr. Sanchez commented on the Board's use of overtime. Ms. Burns stated that this line item also includes retirement payouts when applicable.

Mr. Sanchez commented on printing costs for renewals. Ms. Burns stated that it also includes initial license, wall certificate, and pocket license. Ms. Burns commented that the large number of printings is renewals that are done online and not mailed back to the Board.

Ms. Dominguez and Tod Borges asked if digital license could be an option. Ms. Burns replied that other boards and bureaus are looking into it. Mr. Borges stated that the laws and regulations would have to change regarding the display of license. Ms. Burns stated that other boards and bureaus are considering postcards for renewal reminders as a cost saving measure.

Mr. Sanchez reported the fund condition and highlighted the total revenue, total expenditures, fund balance, and months in reserves.

Mr. Sanchez reported on outreach efforts including a meeting with the California Speech-Language Hearing Association leadership, California Academy of Audiology (CAA) conference committee, and CAA Board of Directors.

Mr. Sanchez reported on licensing including processing times and practical examination results. Mr. Sanchez highlighted statistics on the number of licenses issued and the licensee population.

Mr. Sanchez reported on enforcement data including complaints, citations and fines, and formal discipline for the last twelve months.

Mr. Sanchez provided a brief report on the Board's regulations and deferred to the regulatory report. Mr. Sanchez highlighted the number of regulations the Board has completed in the last two years.

Mr. Borges asked about outreach with Hearing HealthCare Providers. Mr. Sanchez replied that he has heard back from them.

Ms. Dominguez and Mr. Borges commended Board staff efforts to reduce processing times.

Dr. Charles Sanders asked what month is processing the highest. Ms. Burns replied that the processing time peaks in July and August. Ms. Burns stated that she will provide more data at the next meeting.

Ms. Dominguez asked if there is an increase at the beginning of the year. Ms. Burns replied that there is a small increase in the beginning of the year for speech-language pathology assistants, off season graduates, and audiology required professional experience temporary licenses. Dr. Sanders commented on the delayed degree designation at California State University, Sacramento.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

10. Board 2025 – 2028 Strategic Plan Review and Approval

Ms. Dominguez invited Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Burns to report on the draft strategic plan. Mr. Sanchez stated that the Board will review the goals to determine if they need revisions or to be numbered differently to identify priority levels of the goals. Ms. Burns stated that grammatical corrections should be identified as they can be changed.

Mr. Sanchez asked for comments or questions on the cover through page 3 and stated that Dr. Chambers is listed on page 3. No comments or questions from the Board.

Mr. Sanchez asked for comments or questions on page 3 through 6. No comments or questions from the Board.

Mr. Sanchez asked for comments or questions on page 7 and stated that the Board's values were narrowed down to: integrity, inclusion, efficiency, transparency, and accountability, and consumer protection on page 7. Mr. Sanchez also asked if there are any questions on how the vision is written. The Board expressed agreement with how the vision is written.

Ms. Burns asked for comments or questions on licensing goals and stated the statement to described was revised. Ms. Burns also stated that the goals should be listed in priority order and recommended that the Board review the order of goals. Dr. White suggested moving goal 1.4 toward the top of the list. Mr. Borges, Ms. Chang, and Mr. Dandurand suggested that it be goal 1.2. Dr. White suggested moving goal 1.6 higher to the list. Ms. Dominguez suggested switching goal 1.3 with 1.6. Ms. Dominguez suggested switching goal 1.1 with 1.3. Ms. Chang suggested that goal 1.1 be 1.3, goal 1.5 be goal 1.4, and 1.6 will be goal 1.5.

Mr. Sanchez stated that goal 1.1 was formerly goal 1.2, goal 1.2 was formerly goal 1.4, goal 1.3 was formerly goal 1.1, goal 1.4 was formerly goal 1.5, goal 1.5 was formerly goal 1.6, and goal 1.6 was formerly goal 1.3. Ms. Burns noted the changes.

Mr. Borges asked what the issue with increased access to the hearing aid dispensers practical examination. Mr. Sanchez replied the goal is broad, but one way would be to meet the capacity of those who want to take it or having the examination at locations outside of Sacramento. Mr. Borges commented on how the examination were twice a year, one in northern California and another in southern California.

Mr. Borges asked if access to the hearing aid dispensers practical examination is a higher priority than creating educational materials to explain the application and licensing process. Dr. White replied that it should be access to the hearing aid dispensers practical examination because it creates a barrier to licensure. Mr. Sanchez commented on the difference in impact with reducing barrier to licensure and creating educational materials. Ms. Burns commented on the number of people that would be impacted by the educational materials and the workload related to increasing access to the hearing aid dispensers practical examination. Dr. White commented on the problem of measuring the impact of people not entering the field because of the examinations.

Ms. Dominguez asked if the goals are completed one at a time or simultaneously. Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Burns replied that they are completed simultaneously, but sometimes have to be prioritized with limited resources.

Mr. Sanchez asked if there were additional questions regarding the order. Mr. Dandurand replied that the order is good. Dr. Chambers commented on being comfortable with leaving hearing aid dispensers practical examination a higher priority.

Mr. Sanchez asked for comments or questions on enforcement goals. Dr. White suggested moving goal 2.3 to the top. Mr. Sanchez commented on the goal to review and update of the Board's disciplinary guidelines. Ms. Burns commented on funding needs to complete goal 2.3 and current state budget conditions.

Mr. Sanchez commented on the overlapping expectations of goal 2.1 and goal 2.3. Mr. Borges expressed agreement with Mr. Sanchez's comment. Ms. Burns stated the goal 2.1 would be a temporary solution for goal 2.3. Mr. Sanchez suggested expanding it. Dr. White, Ms. Dominguez, and Mr. Borges suggested goal 2.2 should be goal 2.1. Mr. Borges suggested combining goal 2.1 with goal 2.3. Ms. Dominguez suggested that they should be separate so that other solutions are implemented for goal 2.1 while goal 2.3 is being worked on.

Ms. Dominguez asked for clarification of the word "expectations" in goal 2.1. Mr. Sanchez replied that it would be what the complainants expect from the Board such as a letter of acknowledgement or complaint outcome. Mr. Sanchez commented on the challenges of disclosing information when a complaint is opened. Ms. Burns suggested that it should include respondents. Dr. Sanders and Mr. Borges expressed agreement with Ms. Burns suggestion. Ms. Dominguez stated that the word "expectations" was still vague and suggested adding a word or phrase. Ms. Burns suggested replacing the word "expectations" with the words "enforcement process." The Board expressed agreement with Ms. Burns suggestion.

Ms. Burns noted the changes discussed and stated goal 2.1 was formerly goal 2.2, goal 2.2 was formerly goal 2.1 with amendments, and goal 2.3 remained the same.

Ms. Burns asked for comments or questions on outreach and communication goals. Ms. Chang asked about the issue or problem regarding caseloads in schools. Ms. Burns replied that it would be educating the public about the Board's jurisdiction in school settings and noted that the Board does not have jurisdiction in those settings. Ms. Chang suggested goal 3.2 to be goal 3.1. Dr. White stated that goals 3.2, 3.4, and 3.6 are related and important. Mr. Borges suggested goal 3.4 to be goal 3.1.

Mr. Borges asked how many comments were received regarding over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids. Ms. Burns replied that it was identified as a threat. Mr. Borges suggested goal 3.1 should be goal 3.6. Ms. Chang and Dr. White expressed agreement with Mr. Borges' suggestion. Mr. Dandurand asked Dr. Chambers if she get questions about OTC hearing aids as an otolaryngologist. Dr. Chambers replied that she doesn't get questions. Ms. Burns stated that it might be helpful as a consumer protection agency to have information where people can go with their complaint. Mr. Dandurand suggested goal 3.4 and goal 3.2 to be either goal 3.1 or goal 3.2.

Ms. Burns asked about goal 3.6. Ms. Chang replied that it should stay there. Mr. Borges and Dr. White suggested that it should be moved higher.

Mr. Borges stated that goal 3.1 was formerly goal 3.2, goal 3.2 was formerly goal 3.4, goal 3.3 remained the same, goal 3.4 was formerly goal 3.5, goal 3.5 was formerly goal 3.6, and goal 3.6 was formerly goal 3.1. Ms. Burns noted the changes.

Mr. Sanchez commented on the issue of Board jurisdiction in school settings. Ms. Chang asked if there is a shortage of speech-language pathologists (SLP) in schools and speech-language pathology assistants (SLPA) are having too many students. Mr. Sanchez replied that he has heard that this is a problem, among other problems. Ms. Dominguez commented that she has heard that SLPAs are given caseloads when it should be the SLP. Ms. Chang asked if this issue comes to the Board. Ms. Burns replied that they do ask the question of the Board and commented that there could be a webpage that directs licensees where to go for different school issues.

Ms. Dominguez asked if the concerns are from members of the public or licensees. Ms. Burns replied they are from the licensees. Ms. Dominguez suggested to replace the word "public" with the word "licensees" in goal 3.5. Mr. Borges suggested keeping the word "public." Ms. Burns suggested the word "stakeholders." Ms. Dominguez and Mr. Borges expressed agreement with Ms. Burns suggestion. Mr. Sanchez stated that the Board doesn't deal with complaints on caseload because it is outside the Board's jurisdiction. Mr. Sanchez commented on unlicensed people working in schools for speech services and suggested expanding it to be more than caseload issues. Dr. Chambers asked if it's a caseload or case complexity. Mr. Sanchez replied that it is case load and also licensing issues. Ms. Liranzo commented on various inquiries received through emails and phone calls about caseloads and supervision issues.

Mr. Dandurand asked if this should be changed or removed. Ms. Liranzo replied that the Board directs caseload issues to the Department of Education but issues about SLPA supervision and what a SLPA can or cannot do are handled by the Board.

Mr. Dandurand asked if this should be directed to credentialing and not caseload. Mr. Sanchez replied that this should be an opportunity to educate stakeholders on what they can do with their license or in the practice of a SLPA. Ms. Burns suggested removing the word “caseloads.” Ms. Chang suggested moving it to goal 3.5. Mr. Dandurand expressed agreement with Ms. Chang’s suggestion.

Ms. Burns stated that goal 3.1 was formerly goal 3.2, goal 3.2 was formerly goal 3.4, goal 3.3 remained the same, goal 3.4 was formerly goal 3.6, goal 3.5 remained the same, and goal 3.6 was formerly goal 3.1.

Ms. Dominguez asked about the materials the Board currently has about the regulatory process. Ms. Burns replied that the Board has information on the stages of the regulatory process and not specifically on the public comment period. Ms. Burns commented on how comments for regulatory changes are different from legislative changes. Ms. Dominguez suggested revising the goal statement as the materials have already been developed. Mr. Borges suggested “develop further” or “continue to.” Ms. Burns noted that the statement will now say “continue to develop.” Ms. Burns suggested changing “increase engagement” to “get it at the right time.” Dr. Chambers suggested the word “timely.” Mr. Borges suggested the word “meaningful.” Ms. Burns noted the changes.

Ms. Dominguez suggested clarifying the Board’s jurisdiction in school settings and asked if most of the comments were about caseload issues. Ms. Burns replied they were. Ms. Dominguez stated that the Board should response to licensees concerns regarding caseloads. Ms. Burns stated that it was suggested earlier to remove the word “caseloads” so that it covers all school issues. Ms. Dominguez suggested keeping the word “caseload” since it was mentioned in the survey comments. Mr. Borges stated the Board doesn’t have jurisdiction. Ms. Dominguez replied that this could be information the Board publishes on its website and directs people to the Department of Education. Mr. Dandurand expressed agreement with Ms. Dominguez’s statement. Mr. Borges stated that caseload is one of the issues and other issues should also be included. Ms. Chang commented on issues of SLPAs in school setting. Mr. Sanchez suggested to include the words “ and other concerns.” Ms. Burns noted the changes.

Mr. Sanchez asked for comments or questions on laws and regulations goals. Mr. Borges asked what “balance in work settings for members of the Board” means in goal 4.5. Mr. Sanchez replied that it would be having Board members from different work settings where licensees are practicing. Ms. Burns stated that the Board doesn’t have authority in who the governor or legislature chooses but the Board can express their desire for future board members to be from a variety of work settings.

Dr. Chambers asked what it means to prioritize regulatory packages. Mr. Sanchez replied that the Board has several rulemaking files in the process which require prioritizing and commented on rulemaking files the Board has such as examination requirements for hearing aid dispensers and dispensing audiologists, and disciplinary guidelines. Ms. Burns commented on what is involved in a preparing rulemaking file and how they are prioritized. Mr. Sanchez commented on other board’s having an ad hoc committee for regulation and suggested expanding the legislative ad hoc to include regulations. Mr. Sanchez also commented on goal 4.1 and suggested being more specific with the goal.

Mr. Dandurand stated that the order of goals was fine. Ms. Chang suggested moving goal 4.2 because of its importance for licensees to know the recent changes to regulations. Ms. Chang

commented on goal 4.5 and suggested that it say, “advocate for different types of work settings for members of the board during the appointment process to achieve a more balanced input” with a recommendation to replace the words “work setting.”

Ms. Chang commented on goal 4.1 in regard to telehealth and artificial intelligence and suggested it say, “continue periodic review of Board regulations to reflect current professional practices and technology.” Ms. Burns asked if it should say, “use of technology.” Ms. Chang asked if hearing aids use apps. Mr. Borges replied that they are used.

Ms. Burns stated that she couldn’t find another word for “work setting.” Dr. White stated that “work setting” is commonly used by academic and training programs. Mr. Sanchez asked if it should specify speech language pathologist. Ms. Burns replied that it should apply to other board members. Mr. Borges and Ms. Dominguez expressed agreement with Ms. Burns comment.

Mr. Borges asked if goal 4.2 should be 4.1. Ms. Chang replied that the public should be educated on regulatory changes regarding continuing education and asked if there are email lists. Ms. Burns stated that the information is provided through emails and on the website and enforcement will educate the public when it begins auditing continuing education.

Ms. Chang asked about educating the public on how to comment on proposed regulations. Ms. Burns asked if it should be moved from outreach and communication goals to laws and regulation goals. Ms. Chang replied that it should be moved. Mr. Borges expressed agreement with Ms. Chang’s comments. Dr. White suggested replacing the words “work setting” with “specialty area.” Ms. Chang expressed agreement with the suggestion.

Ms. Chang suggested the creation of a list of speech language pathologists interested in being a board member to provide to the governor. Ms. Burns stated that they are directed to apply through the Governor’s website. Ms. Chang suggested providing information at conferences and asked if there is a separate contact for appointments. Mr. Sanchez replied that there is a contact for appointments in the Governor’s office and stated that those interested in being a board member are directed to apply through the Governor’s website. Ms. Chang asked who else appoints board members and stated that she was appointed by the Speaker’s Office. Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Burns replied that public members are appointed by the State Legislature. Mr. Sanchez stated that he recently contacted the Senate regarding a vacancy. Dr. Sanders stated that the Governor’s office reached out to him.

Mr. Sanchez asked for comments or questions on Board administration goals. Mr. Dandurand suggested moving goal 5.1. Mr. Sanchez commented on the difference between filling vacant positions and having enough positions. Ms. Burns commented on having authorized positions. Ms. Chang commented on the need for more positions which would require a budget change proposal (BCP). Mr. Sanchez commented on the BCP process.

Ms. Chang asked if goal 5.3 can be clarified. Mr. Sanchez replied that the Board has one person supervising most of the staff and the Board will need more managers to provide effective supervision. Ms. Chang asked if the extra managers would require BCP. Mr. Sanchez replied that it will. Ms. Chang asked if goal 5.1 and goal 5.3 go together. Ms. Burns replied that they are sometimes together, but they are separate items. Ms. Burns stated that often times outside studies are required to request supervisory or managerial positions and commented on what happens to boards as they grow in staff but not in managers. Ms. Chang asked if the managers would be staff

services managers (SSM) or executive officers. Mr. Sanchez replied that it depends on the level of staff and stated that it would mostly likely be SSM. Ms. Chang asked how associate governmental program analysts (AGPA) are requested. Ms. Burns replied that it doesn't need outside studies because they can be done by identifying the workload and cost for an analyst to complete the workload in BPC. Mr. Sanchez commented on how strategic plans help with the BPC process. Ms. Chang suggested specifying the positions needed at the end of goal 5.3.

Mr. Dandurand suggested moving goal 5.2 to the top of list. Mr. Borges asked about goal 5.2 regarding plain language and stated that he thinks user friendliness is a separate issue. Mr. Borges noted issues with the Board's website. Mr. Sanchez replied that this was to align with efforts throughout the state to use plain language and suggesting reversing the language so that it can also include issues with the website. Mr. Borges suggested it say, "improving the Board's website to make it more user friendly while using plain language to increase accessibility." Ms. Burns stated the Board is on the old website platform and could move to the new website platform. Ms. Dominguez suggested it say, "improve the Board's website to increase accessibility and users friendliness. Ms. Chang expressed agreement with Ms. Dominguez's suggestion.

Dr. Chambers suggested changing the goal statement to remove or modify the words "efficiently and effectively" so it's less quantifiable and add a reference to finance or budget. Dr. White stated that all the other goal statements are not all quantifiable. Mr. Borges suggested removing the words "efficiently and effectively." Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Burns commented on how goals can be quantified. Dr. White replied that the goal statement is a commitment to being efficient and effective. Ms. Dominguez stated that those are the Board's values and suggested that it remains.

Ms. Burns suggested moving the goal 5.2 to outreach and communications. The Board expressed agreement with the suggestion. Ms. Chang and Ms. Dominguez suggested adding it to the end of goal 3. Dr. White suggested that it shouldn't be the lowest priority. Ms. Chang asked if there is a need to communicate risks and limitations to OTC hearing aids to increase consumer awareness. Mr. Borges replied that there is some value to the information. Ms. Burns stated it could also include where consumer can complain. Dr. White stated that the website is related to goal 3.3 and goal 3.4. Ms. Chang suggested that it should be goal 3.5 with goals regarding school speech therapist as goal 3.6 and communication regarding OTC hearings aids as goal 3.7. The Board agreed with this prioritization.

Ms. Chang suggested goal 5.3 should specify management position. Mr. Sanchez suggested it say, "supervision of staff." Ms. Chang asked if AGPA's can supervise staff. Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Burns replied that AGPA's cannot supervise staff. Ms. Burns stated that most of the Board is made up of AGPA or staff services analysts. Ms. Chang asked if the Board would want another SSM. Ms. Burns replied that most boards of this board's size get to that level of organizational structure as they grow. Ms. Chang asked if BCP process should be specified in goal 5.1. Mr. Sanchez recommended specifying the budget process to distinguish it from temporary help. Ms. Burns noted the changes.

Mr. Sanchez stated that Board staff will present the strategic plan with revisions for Board approval at its next meeting. Ms. Dominguez requested the updated wording regarding the goal related to the Board's website. Ms. Chang commented on the changes to the language, Ms. Burns noted the changes.

Ms. Dominguez asked that the goals and numbers in Goal Area 5 be read. Mr. Sanchez read the priority order and language for the goals. Ms. Burns noted the changes.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

11. Petition for Reinstatement of Revoked License – Miriam (Blanchard) Ramirez, License # SP 8627, Case # 11-2022-034

A petition for reinstatement of revoked license was heard with Administrative Law Judge Thomas Heller presiding. The people were represented by Deputy Attorney General Brian Bill. The petitioner, Miriam (Blanchard) Ramirez, represented herself.

A written transcript of the proceeding was transcribed by a court reporter.

12. Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(3), the Board will Meet in Closed Session to Discuss Disciplinary Matters Including Proposed Decisions, Stipulated Decisions, Defaults, Petitions for Reductions in Penalty, Petitions for Reconsideration, and Remands.

The Board met in closed session to discuss disciplinary matters.

13. Regulatory Report: Update, Review, Consideration and Possible Action on the Following Board Regulation Packages Regarding:

Ms. Dominguez invited Ms. Liranzo to provide the regulatory report. Ms. Liranzo provided an update on the Board's regulatory packages and noted items that require Board review and approval.

Mr. Dandurand commented on proposed regulations regarding hearing aid dispenser trainees and temporary licensee supervision and a letter he received from Dr. Thomas Tedeschi. Mr. Dandurand asked if he can submit it to the Board under items for future agenda. Ms. Burns replied that he can.

Ms. Dominguez invited Ms. Liranzo to present on proposed changes to regulations regarding processing times. Ms. Liranzo provided a background on the proposed changes and a summary of changes to the proposed text since it was last adopted.

Ms. Dominguez asked for Board discussion. There was no Board discussion.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

Charles Sanders moved to approve the proposed regulatory text for 16 CCR sections 1399.113, 1399.141, 1399.151.1, 1399.153.2, 1399.160.6, 1399.170.4, and 1399.170.13 with the changes discussed at this meeting, direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency for review, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested. If no adverse comments are received during the 45-day comment period and no hearing is requested, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking, including any non-substantive changes to the package, and adopt the proposed regulations at 16 CCR sections 1399.113, 1399.141, 1399.151.1, 1399.153.2, 1399.160.6, 1399.170.4, and 1399.170.13 as noticed.

Tamara Chambers seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0. (Ayes: Dominguez, White, Borges, Chang, Dandurand, Sanders, Chambers)

14. Legislative Report: Update, Review, and Possible Action on Proposed Legislation

Ms. Dominguez invited Ms. Liranzo to provide the legislative report. Ms. Liranzo reported on the legislative calendar and deadlines, implementation of legislation, Board-sponsored legislation, and bills with recommended watch status.

Ms. Liranzo stated that five (5) bills died: Assembly Bill (AB) 1028, AB 2269, AB 2862, and AB 3127 and Senate Bill 802; three (3) bills were chaptered: AB 1900, 2011, and 2908; and all other bills were on their way to the governor.

Ms. Burns stated that SB 1451 was brought to Board staff attention regarding the use of the prefix "Dr." Dr. White stated the Board's advertising guidelines requires the use of educational degree when using the prefix "Dr." and suggested reviewing them. Ms. Burns expressed agreement with Dr. White's suggestion. Dr. White asked if the prohibited term is saying the word out loud or putting it in writing. Ms. Burns replied that the language specifically states that it is in signs, business cards, letterhead or advertisement and noted that there is an exception for other licensed professions. Mr. Dandurand asked if there was a way to reach out to other boards to see what they will do. Ms. Burns replied that there is an exception and stated that the Board staff will seek guidance from the Department of Consumers Affairs (DCA) legal office to ensure that the Board is in compliance with this law. Mr. Sanchez asked if this is a bill the governor is signing. Ms. Burns replied that it is at his office and stated that it is a business and profession bills with various boards. Ms. Dominguez asked if it is okay to say the word "doctor" in board meetings. Ms. Burns replied that Board staff will get further clarification from DCA.

Ms. Dominguez asked for Board discussion. There was no Board discussion.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

15. Legislative Items for Future Meeting

Ms. Dominguez asked for Board discussion. Ms. Liranzo stated that Board staff has no items for future agenda.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside agencies, or associations.

16. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Dominguez asked for future agenda items. Mr. Dandurand submitted Dr. Thomas Tedeschi's letter regarding hearing aid dispenser's trainees for a future agenda item.

Ms. Dominguez asked for public comments. There were no comments from the public, outside

agencies, or associations.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned on September 6, 2024, at 2:20 p.m.