

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Sacramento and Glendora, CA**  
**Friday, May 16, 2025**

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 May 16, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Dominguez called roll; five 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, Board Vice Chair  
Tod Borges, Hearing Aid Dispenser  
Tamara Chambers, Otolaryngologist, Public Member  
Charles Sanders, Dispensing Audiologist

**Staff Present**

Cherise Burns, Executive Officer  
Maria Liranzo, Legislation/Regulation/Budget Analyst  
Tim Yang, Enforcement Analyst  
Yuping Lin, DCA Legal Counsel  
Grace Arupo Rodriguez, DCA Regulatory Counsel  
Shelly Jones, DCA SOLID  
David Bouilly, DCA SOLID(Web Moderator)

2. 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.

3. Review and Possible Approval of the February 21, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

Ms. Dominguez invited Maria Liranzo to present 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.

**Amy White moved to approve the February 21, 2025, Meeting minutes as noticed.**

**Tamara Chambers seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried 5-0.** (Ayes: Dominguez, White, Borges, Chamber, Sanders)

#### 4. DCA Update – DCA Board and Bureau Relations

Ms. Dominguez invited staff from DCA Board and Bureau Relations to provide an update. Shelly Jones from DCA SOLID provided an update on the Governor's reorganization plan, hybrid telework transition, DCA's Compliance and Equity officer, and public service recognition week.

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.

#### 5. Board Chair's Report

Ms. Dominguez reported on the Board meeting calendar and committee membership.

Ms. Dominguez invited Tod Borges to provide a report on the discussion at the Hearing Aid Dispensing Committee. Mr. Borges provided a report on what the committee discussed.

Ms. Dominguez invited Dr. Amy White to provide a report on the discussion at the Audiology Practice Committee. Dr. White provided a report on what the committee discussed.

Ms. Dominguez provided a report on what the Speech-Language Pathology Practice committee discussed.

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.

#### 6. Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Dominguez invited Cherise Burns to provide the Executive Officer's report.

Ms. Burns provided an administration update including the appointment of a new Executive Officer and the vacancy of the Assistant Executive Officer position.

Ms. Burns reported on outreach efforts including conference calls with representatives from the California Speech Language Hearing Association (CSHA) and California Academy of Audiology, and a presentation with the Board Chair at CSHA's Convergence Conference in March 2025.

Ms. Burns reported that the Board got two questions during the presentation and commented on the question regarding Required Professional Experience (RPE) supervisors countersigning their RPE temporary license holder's documents and issues that could cause a delay in a professional development provider application.

Ms. Burns reported on the budget including the budget reduction, transitioning renewal notices to postcard reminders, an augmentation for Attorney General (AG) and Office of Administrative Hearing (OAH) costs, and the Board's fund condition.

Ms. Burns provided a brief report on the Board's regulations and deferred to the regulatory report.

Ms. Burns reported on licensing including processing times and hearing aid dispensing practical examination results.

Ms. Burns reported on enforcement including complaints and subsequent arrest notifications, citations and fines, formal disciplinary cases with the Attorney General's Office, probationers being monitored, disciplinary actions adopted by the Board, and continuing education and continuing professional development audits.

Mr. Borges asked if the fiscal year is the same as a calendar year or if it is from July 1 through June 30. Ms. Burns replied that it is July 1 through June 30. Mr. Borges noted that the Assistant Executive Officer position will be vacant for two more months.

Mr. Borges asked if the amount of money saved when the Board transitions to renewal postcard reminders include man hours. Ms. Burns replied that it is included.

Dr. Tamara Chambers asked if there was an option to opt-out of the postcard reminder for an electronic reminder. Ms. Burns replied that the current system is not configured to send electronic notification and commented on potential future business modernization projects to update the online renewal system.

Mr. Borges asked if a future business modernization project is something that would be part of Sunrise or Sunset or grant funded. Ms. Burns replied that this was the first time the California Department of Technology offered a grant to modernize technology and said that she hopes that it will become available in the future when the budget improves. Ms. Burns said that the Board can join other boards who are looking to update their online licensing and renewal systems in the budget process as well.

Mr. Borges asked if five (5) percent of renewals for each month in 2024 is being audited. Ms. Burns replied that it is and commented on how other boards are auditing continuing education.

Dr. White asked if the plan is to present to state associations the errors being seen in continuing education audits. Ms. Burns replied that is the plan like the presentation at CSHA's conference and noted that California Academy of Audiology has already reached out to the Board to present at their conference.

Dr. Chambers asked if citations carry a fine. Ms. Burns replied that they can and, in mild cases, it can be an educational letter. Ms. Burns said they will both have an order of abatement, which requires that licensees make up those course hours they are missing.

Mr. Borges asked if there is any information on the Board's website on continuing education audits and recommended that it be added if there is none. Ms. Burns replied that the Board does not have information on the Board's website but a webpage can be created. Dr. Chambers expressed agreement to the recommendation.

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

## 7. 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, Board-sponsored legislation, and bills with recommended watch status.

Ms. Liranzo recommended the Board to discuss Assembly Bill (AB) 45 on privacy, health data, and location and said that it may impact hearing aids that collect location data. Ms. Liranzo advised that dispensers should contact their hearing aid manufacturers to determine the impact of this bill.

Ms. Liranzo recommended the Board discuss AB 485 on nonpayment of wages and said that the bill would require the Board to deny renewals for nonpayment of wages to their employees. Ms. Liranzo further said the Board doesn't have a mechanism to deny renewals and Board staff is working with DCA to amend the text to require the Board to place a hold on the renewal like it does for nonpayment of family support and state tax violation.

Ms. Liranzo recommended the Board discuss Senate Bill (SB) 641 regarding Department of Consumer Affairs and states of emergency waivers and exemptions and said that this would allow the Board to delay certain renewal requirements. Ms. Liranzo further said that, if chaptered, it would be something the Board needs to discuss and add to its Board Administrative Procedure Manual as the intent is to not require any regulations.

Mr. Borges asked what the word "geofencing" means. Ms. Liranzo replied that it is the collection of location data. Dr. White and Dr. Charles Sanders commented on hearing aids remembering locations so that the programming can be used in the future. Dr. White, Dr. Sanders, and Mr. Borges commented on data being collected and opt-out features.

Dr. White said that AB 364 regarding personal information maintenance is similar to AB 45 and said that many hearing aids are owned by a foreign country. Dr. White further said that many dispensers may not know what, where, or how hearing aid data is being stored. Ms. Liranzo said that this is good information for Board staff to know as they are not familiar with the industry and advise dispensers to contact their hearing aid manufacturers to determine the impact of these types of bills.

Dr. Sanders asked if licensees will be held liable for any violations under these bills. Ms. Burns and Ms. Liranzo replied that Board staff would have to look into it.

Dr. White said that AB 410 regarding bots and disclosure is of similar nature to AB 45 and AB 364. Dr. White further said that many practice software includes the use of a bot to schedule or reschedule appointments. Dr. White advised licensees to be aware that AB 410 will require notifying the patient that they are talking to a bot. Dr. Sanders said that this is going to get bigger as artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated and behavioral.

Dr. White said that AB 489 regarding health care professions, deceptive terms or letters, and artificial intelligence is of similar nature to AB 45, AB 364, and AB 410. Dr. White further said that some software can help consumers troubleshoot issues with their hearing aids and advised licensees to be aware that AB 410 will require notifying the patient that they are talking to a bot.

Dr. White asked if the Board has the ability to provide interpreters as required by AB 667. Ms. Burns

replied that it would probably be a contract. Ms. Liranzo said that the Boards rarely get requests for interpreters.

Dr. White asked if there was more information on AB 784 regarding special education and specialized deaf and hard-of-hearing services. Ms. Liranzo replied that there might be confusion in school settings regarding the definition of special education and if it includes deaf and hard-of-hearing related services. Ms. Burns said that the current law may be interpreted as prohibiting deaf and hard-of-hearing related services from individualized education plans and this bill says that it is not prohibited.

Dr. Sanders and Dr. White asked about AB 970 regarding child abuse and neglect reporting. Ms. Liranzo replied that this is a pilot program for mandated reporters in Los Angeles County.

Dr. White asked if the program will be compulsory or opt-in. Ms. Liranzo replied that Board staff would have to look into.

Ms. Burns commented on SB 641 regarding the Department of Consumer Affairs and states of emergency waivers and exemptions and said that it is a delay of renewal s and renewal requirements and it doesn't mean that is waives renewal fees and renewal requirements.

Dr. White asked if the Board took this type of action during COVID. Ms. Burns replied that it did not because the executive order gave DCA the authority to waive requirements and the Board requested waivers from DCA.

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

## 8. Legislative Items for Future Meeting

Ms. Dominguez asked for legislative items for future meeting. Ms. Burns said that Board staff are reviewing and may add the following bills to the Board's watch status:

- AB 1355 reading location privacy;
- SB 82 regarding consumer goods and services, contracts, and dispute resolution provisions;
- SB 294 regarding the Workplace Know Your Rights Act; and
- SB 747 regarding wages and behavioral health and medical-surgical employees.

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

## 9. Update and Discussion on the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC)

Ms. Dominguez invited Ms. Burns to provide an update on the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). Ms. Burns said that the compact is running but it is not issuing privileges. Ms. Burns further said that the system is expected to be up and running by late summer of 2025 and recommended that the Board invites ASLP-IC to do a presentation on how the compact is working. Ms. Burns noted that this item is in the Board's strategic plan and highlighted the issues identified by the Board and Board staff during ASLP-IC's presentation to the Board in

2022. Dr. White expressed agreement to invite ASLP-IC to do a presentation on how the compact is working.

Ms. Burns said that the thirty-four (34) states in the compact are smaller states. Dr. White said that there are a couple states listed whose rules and regulations for audiologist are robust and who do a lot of enforcement.

Dr. White asked if other professions have compact. Ms. Burns replied that nursing and physical therapy may have one but Board staff would have to look into it.

Dr. Chambers asked about information sharing and if states would be able to exchange information. Ms. Burns replied that ASLP-IC didn't have that level of detail. Ms. Burns said that the Board receives subsequent arrest notices for licensees in the state of California and the Board does not receive subsequent federal rap back after the initial background search from fingerprints.

Dr. White and Dr. Sanders asked if the Board should develop a series of questions and start requesting information. Ms. Burns replied that questions could be developed.

Dr. White asked if the Board should wait to develop question until ASLP-IC return to the Board with a presentation on how the compact is working. Ms. Burns replied that the Board will learn from when the ASLP-IC presents to the Board how the compact is working and what additional questions need to be answered at that time. Mr. Borges expressed agreement to wait until ASLP-IC return to the Board with a presentation. Ms. Dominguez said that issuing privileges are anticipated to begin in late summer of 2025. Ms. Liranzo noted that this is an anticipated timeline and information technology projects can get delayed. Ms. Liranzo said that Board staff will continue to monitor the status of the compact issuing privileges.

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

#### 10. Discussion and Possible Action to Review and Revise the Board's Administrative Procedure Manual

Ms. Dominguez invited Ms. Burns to provide an update on revisions to the Board's Administrative Procedure Manual. Ms. Burns said that the revisions include changes to Chapter 7 regarding complaint and disciplinary process and updates to the Board's values.

Dr. White and Ms. Dominguez said that the revisions make it much clearer and easier to understand.

Ms. Dominguez asked if the words "the motion passes" is included in the text regarding the announcement of a vote found on page 9. Ms. Burns replied that it does.

Ms. Dominguez asked if the words most frequently used to announce a vote can be used instead. Ms. Burns replied that it can and noted the change.

Ms. Dominguez asked how often the Board updates the strategic plan. Ms. Burns replied that it is updated every four (4) years and said that it is updated in between Sunsets. Ms. Burns further said that a longer timeframe like five (5) years could be needed if the Board has a large campaign or project.

Ms. Dominguez asked if it would be prescriptive to state four (4) years. Mr. Borges and Ms. Burns replied that the Board would be confined to those years. Ms. Burns said the Board may need a shorter timeframe like three (3) years if the Board has found it is running into difficulties.

Dr. White recommended non-substantive changes throughout the document that correct the placement of commas inside quotation marks. Ms. Burns noted the changes.

Ms. Jones said that the Board should contact DCA SOLID if it plans to update their strategic plan for any reason.

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

**Charles Sanders moved to approve the revised Administrative Procedure Manual as amended.**

**Tod Borges seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried 5-0.** (Ayes: Dominguez, White, Borges, Chamber, Sanders)

#### 11. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Potential Options for Obtaining Authority for and Implementing a Retired License Status for Board Licensees

Ms. Dominguez opened the discussion on possible action to obtain authority for and implementing a retired license status for licensees. Ms. Burns provided a background on retired license status for licensees and questions for Board discussion.

Mr. Borges asked if the Board is no longer tracking licensees who are on retired status and if they fall out of the system. Ms. Burns replied that they don't fall off the system.

Mr. Borges asked if the Board could continue to take action against a licensee if they go on retired status. Ms. Burns replied that the Board can continue to take action against a licensee who goes into retired status and said that licensees on probation would be considered tolled if they are not practicing because they are required to have an active license.

Mr. Borges asked if inactive status means expired. Ms. Burns replied that expired status is when a licensee fails to renew their license.

Dr. White asked what the reasons are for people seeking a retired status. Ms. Burns replied that comments from phones call is that licensees don't want to be delinquent or expired, or cancelled.

Mr. Borges asked if inactive means cancelled. Ms. Burns replied that it doesn't and said that there is an active, inactive, or cancelled status.

Mr. Borges asked why the Board would need to create a retired status when licensee can go inactive. Ms. Burns replied that licenses would have to pay the inactive fee which is the same amount as an active license. Dr. White said the reasons to create the status is reasonable and that, if the status is created, the licensee should be in good standing, allowed to come out of retired status once, and return within a timeframe without needing to re-apply for a licensure such as five (5) years.

Mr. Borges said that three (3) years would be reasonable for hearing aid dispensers because hearing aid technology can change within three (3) years. Mr. Borges commented on the number of hours of continuing education require to return to practice out of retired status.

Mr. Borges asked if licensees on retired status would be excluded from being examiners. Ms. Burns replied that they would be excluded.

Dr. White asked if it would be reasonable to require licensees on retired status for over a decade to re-apply for licensure. Mr. Borges replied that they should. Ms. Burns said that some licensees may keep up with continuing education requirements for professional certification but not everyone is doing that.

Mr. Borges asked if the fee is the reason for a retired status. Ms. Burns and Dr. White replied that is one of the reasons but also the perception. Ms. Burns said that the retired status would also give Board staff better data on who actually has an active, inactive, or expired license status.

Dr. White said it is not unreasonable to require licensees on retired status after period time to re-apply for licensure. Dr. White further stated that the retired status should be used for that purpose and requirements like these would prevent licensees from using it in place of inactive status.

Ms. Dominguez said that licensees should not be allowed to place their license on retired license status if they have a current administrative enforcement or disciplinary action against them at that time, or situations that need to be mitigated first. Ms. Dominguez further said that there should be a limit to the number of times a licensee can enter and exit retired status and recommended that this should be one (1) time. Ms. Dominguez also said that there should be requirements if they are on retired status for a certain time period and want to return, and recommended that it should be no more than three (3) years with the completion of continuing education.

Mr. Borges commented on the number of hours of continuing education and course delivery format that should be required for licensees on retired status to return to practice. Mr. Borges said that finding "live" courses can pose a challenge for hearing aid dispensing. Dr. White expressed agreement that it may be difficult to complete so many hours in a short amount of time if the licensee needs to return to practice. Dr. White said that there is less risk to the public if the time period to return to practice from retired status is three (3) years as opposed to five (5) or ten (10) years. Dr. White also said that the number of continuing education hours doesn't need to be excessive. Dr. Sanders said that licensees may need to return to practice due to an emergency and required to return to practice immediately. Dr. White recommended the number of continuing education hours should be the current year. Ms. Burns and Ms. Liranzo said that there are different renewal requirements for different license types. Ms. Liranzo said that the regulations adopted required that licensees with expired licenses complete the continuing education required for the most recent renewal period.



Dr. Chambers asked if there is a difference between “live” versus “self-study” courses for those that need to return to practice immediately. Dr. White and Ms. Dominguez replied that there are a lot of “live” courses for audiologists and speech-language pathologists. Mr. Borges replied that “live” courses are limited for hearing aid dispensers and getting half of the total required hours in “live” courses may not be feasible for a person in this situation. Dr. Chambers recommended to change the requirement so that it is one hundred (100) percent “self-study” courses. Dr. White said that it should apply to all licensees on retired status and not just hearing aid dispensers. Mr. Borges and Ms. Dominguez expressed agreement with the recommendations.

Dr. Chambers asked if the language would say that all licensees on retired status who want to return to practice can complete all their continuing education hours from “self-study” courses. Ms. Burns replied that Board staff would have to look into it as this is different from other boards retired status.

Ms. Dominguez asked for clarification in the number of hours and years required for continuing education. Mr. Borges replied that it will be one renewal period and said that it is one (1) year or twelve (12) hours for dispensers and two (2) years or twenty-four (24) hours for speech-language pathologists and non-dispensing audiologists.

The Board delegated Board staff to draft text for Board.

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

## 12. Regulatory Report: Update, Review, and Possible Action on Board Regulation Package

Ms. Dominguez invited Ms. Liranzo to provide the regulatory report. Ms. Liranzo reported on Board regulation packages and their status in the rulemaking process.

Ms. Dominguez asked for Board discussion on the report. There was no discussion.

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

Ms. Dominguez invited Ms. Liranzo to provide an update on possible action to proposed regulations regarding processing times. Ms. Liranzo provided an update on the proposed regulations regarding processing times and noted the number of comments received and a drafted Board response to that comment in the meeting materials.

Dr. White asked why there were processing times in regulations. Ms. Burns replied that there was a law that required the Board to specify their processing times in regulations, but that law has since been repealed. Ms. Burns stated that the Board was unable to go through a Section 100 rulemaking process for these sections due to the authority the Board had cited. Ms. Liranzo said that the authority used was from the Board’s Practice Act instead of the law that required it.

Dr. White asked what happened if the Board didn’t meet the processing times. Ms. Burns replied there was no penalty and said it was a goal. Ms. Burns further said that DCA’s goal is thirty (30) days. Dr. White commented on processing times and factors that impact it such as available staff and workload. Ms. Liranzo said that it was stated in the initial statement of reason that there is a statutory requirement to report processing times on a quarterly basis, but the Board tries to report it

on a weekly basis.

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

**Tod Borges moved to accept the proposed Board response(s) to comment(s) on proposed regulatory text 16 CCR sections 1399.113, 1399.141, 1399.151.1, 1399.153.2, 1399.160.6, 1399.170.4, and 1399.170.13 and direct Board staff to provide the response(s) to comment(s) as indicated in the Board memo on pages 1 and 2. Direct Board staff to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking process, including the filing of the final rulemaking package with the Office of Administrative Law, authorize the Executive Officer to make any non-substantive changes to the proposed regulations before completing the rulemaking process, 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.**

**Amy White seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried 5-0.** (Ayes: Dominguez, White, Borges, Chamber, Sanders)

### 13. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Dominguez asked for future agenda items.

Mr. Borges asked if the list of items regarding hearing aid dispensing will be on a future agenda. Ms. Burns replied that it will be on the August agenda.

Dr. White asked if the items raised during the Audiology Practice Committee will be on a future agenda. Ms. Burns replied that it will be.

Mr. Borges asked if hearing dome removal will be on a future agenda. Ms. Burns replied that it will be in the Hearing Aid Dispensing Committee agenda because a motion wasn't made.

Dr. White asked if the Audiology Practice Committee recommendation to not sunrise the Audiology Assistant will be on a future agenda. Ms. Burns replied that it will be in a future agenda.

Ms. Dominguez asked Ms. Burns if agenda items will be determined when preparing for the next meeting. Ms. Burns replied that is correct and said that the Chair can determine whether it needs to go to a Committee or the Board.

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

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

The Board did not meet in closed session.

### 15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.