

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY & HEARING AID DISPENSERS BOARD 1601 Response Road, Suite 260, Sacramento, CA 95815 P (916) 287-7915 | www.speechandhearing.ca.gov



MEMORANDUM

DATE	August 19, 2025
ТО	Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board
FROM	Cherise Burns, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 7: Executive Officer's Report

This report and the statistical information provided by staff is to update you on the current operations of the Board.

a) Administration Update

The Assistant Executive Officer position was filled on July 25, 2025, Michael Magat was selected to fill the position and will transfer into the position starting on August 22, 2025. Michael comes to our Board from the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology where he has been a licensing manager for a unit of 13 staff.

b) Outreach Update

On June 25, 2025 I, along with other state licensing board representatives, attended a virtual ASHA Town Hall to discuss the recent developments regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) interpretation of "licensure" for speech-language pathologists, particularly its significant impact on provisional licensees, like the Board's Required Professional Experience (RPE) temporary licensee, and their ability to bill CMS for outpatient services.

On July 11, 2025 I attended the Practice Committee meeting of the California Board of Occupational Therapy to engage in discussions related to the educational and training requirements for Occupational Therapists to obtain advanced practice approval to provide swallowing assessment, evaluation, or intervention. During this meeting I was asked questions about our Board's requirements for Speech-Language Pathologists in relation to flexible fiber optic transnasal endoscopic procedures and modified barium swallow procedures.

c) Budget Report

The Board continued to actively reduce current year expenditures and closely monitor spending through the end of the 2024-25 budget year. This was done to ensure the Board had adequate funding to continue upholding consumer protection through enforcement actions as well as fund Board operations while also achieving savings mandated by the Governor and Department of Finance in this fiscal year and ongoing.

Included in your Board meeting materials is the FY 2024-25 Budget Report – FM 12 that reflects operating expenditures through the fiscal month 12 (June 30, 2025) of the 2024-25 budget year. Due to fiscal restraint and the settlement of one of the Board's disciplinary cases prior to hearing, the report shows a reversion of approximately \$113,229, which is a surplus of 3.29 percent of the Board's budget.

Also included in your materials is a Fund Condition Report prepared August 12, 2025. This report is a snapshot of the Board's fund condition and shows the Board's revenue and budget allocation for the current 2024-25 budget year plus three future years. Despite conservative revenue projections, the Board's fund condition outlook is extremely healthy for the next three years.

d) Regulations Report

Below is a table with the Board's pending rulemaking files that are already in the Official Rulemaking Process with the Office of Administrative Law. The Board is making great strides in completing rulemaking files with the help of each Board member, staff, and DCA Legal. The Board is currently working on getting more packages ready to enter the Official Rulemaking Process, however these packages are larger and more complex than some packages we have been able to complete over the last five years.

Rulemaking	Final OAL	Status	Comments
File	Filing Date		
Processing	3/13/2026	8/11/2025 – Submitted to OAL	Office of
Times		7/14/2025 – Submitted for DCA review	Administrative
		6/12/2025 – Submitted for Budget review	Law (OAL) will
		6/12/2025 – Submitted for Legal review	have a
		3/14/2025 – Initial 45-day comment period	decision by
		2/26/2025 – Submitted to OAL	September 23,
		1/29/2025 – Submitted for Agency review	2025.
		1/27/2025 – Submitted for DCA Director review	
		12/18/2025 – Submitted for DCA Legal & Budget review	
		9/6/2024 – Board approved revised language	
		12/1/2023 – Board approved revised language	
		10/8/2021 – Board approved language	

Rulemaking File	Final OAL Filing Date	Status	Comments
Audiology Supervised Clinical Experience	5/1/2026	8/11/2025 – Submitted to OAL 7/24/2025 – Submitted for DCA review 6/18/2025 Submitted for Budget review 6/18/2025 – Submitted for Legal review	OAL will have a decision by September 23, 2025.
		5/2/2025 – Initial 45-day comment period 4/22/2025 – Submitted to OAL 3/13/2025 – Submitted for Agency review	
		3/5/2025 – Submitted for DCA Director review 1/8/2025 – Submitted for DCA Legal & Budget review 12/6/2024 – Board approved revised language 12/1/2023 – Board approved language	

e) Licensing Report

Licensing cycle times continue to be dramatically better than previous years, with an overall reduction of 71 percent compared to 2020, 2021, and 2022. We evaluate the online licensing program and application processes on an ongoing basis.

	Average Processing Times in Weeks (Complete Applications)													
Year	January	February	March	April	Мау	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
2020	4	3	4	3	3	3	5	7	6	4	3	5		
2021	5	5	6	4	5	6	6	8	9	8	9	7		
2022	4	5	4	3	3	3	4	5	7	7	7	10		
2023	11	11	11	13	13	12	11	12	11	10	10	8		
2024	5	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1		
2025	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD		
Average Reduction	61%	75%	74%	68%	69%	48%	57%	68%	86%	82%	80%	86%		

<u>Licensing Cycle Times</u> – The chart below provides a snapshot of the Board's current and past licensing processing times.

Licensing Cycle Times	8/23/24	11/22/24	2/5/25	5/5/25	6/26/25	8/8/2025
Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) and Audiologists (AUD) Complete Licensing Applications	2	1	1	1	2	1
	weeks	week	week	week	weeks	week
Review and Process SLP and AUD Supporting Licensing Documents	2	1	1	1	1	1
	weeks	week	week	week	week	week
Review and Process RPE Applicant's Verification of Experience Forms for Full Licensure	2	1	1	1	1	1
	weeks	week	week	week	week	week
Hearing Aid Dispensers (HAD)	2	1	1	1	2	1
Complete Applications	weeks	week	week	week	weeks	week

f) Practical Examination Report

The previous practical exam was held on June 13-14, 2025. The exam results are noted below.

The next practical exam will be held on September 26-27, 2025 and the filing period ends on August 21, 2025. Additional future practical exams are posted on the website at https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/applicants/exam_dates.shtml

HAD Practical Examination Results for June 13 and June 14th 2025											
Candidate Type	Number of Candidates	Passed	%	Failed	%						
Applicants with Supervision (Temporary Trainee License)											
Hearing Aid Dispensers	23	17		6							
Audiologists	2	1		1							
Required Professional Experience	14	9		5							
Aide											
Applicants Licensed in	Another State (Temporary	/ License	e)							
Hearing Aid Dispenser											
Audiologist											
Applicants	s without Super	vision									
Hearing Aid Dispensers	2	0		2							
Audiologists	9	7		2							
Total Number of Candidates	50	34	68%	16	32%						

g) Enforcement Report

The Board has received 269 complaints and subsequent arrest notifications through the end of the 2024-2025 reporting year. During this same period, the Board has issued 36 citations and fines (including CE/CPD related citations and fines issued through June 30, 2025).

There are currently five (5) formal discipline cases pending with the Attorney General's Office. The Board is currently monitoring 14 probationers of which five (5) probationers require drug or alcohol testing and three (3) are in a tolled status.

The following Attorney General outcomes have been adopted by the Board during the past 12 months (this list includes actions taken while a licensee was on probation):

Name	License No.	License Type	Case No.	Effective Date	Action Taken
Avina, Arturo Frank	SP 27490	Speech- Language Pathologist	11-2019-032	April 3, 2025	Petition for Early Termination of Probation Granted. Probation Terminated.
Lenhares, Susannah Corwin	SP 12116	Speech- Language Pathologist	1I-2019-194	March 29, 2025	Revocation of License
Hamburger, Howard	AU 2092	Audiologist	11-2014-029	March 17, 2025	Voluntary Surrender of License
Berger, Claire	SP 25040	Speech- Language Pathologist	11-2023-084	February 28, 2025	Revocation Stayed, Three Years Probation with Specified Terms and Conditions
Godinez, Andres	AU 2267	Audiologist	11-2015-077	January 5, 2025	Probation extended 2.5 Years with Specified Terms and Conditions
Williams, Jacob Tanner	HA 8116	Hearing Aid Dispenser	1C-2021-011	December 15, 2024	Revocation Stayed, Three Years Probation with Specified Terms and Conditions
Malek, Natalia Chojnacka	SP 22694	Speech- Language Pathologist	11-2019-175	October 21, 2024	Revocation of License
Moreland, Michele Kathleen	HA 7507	Hearing Aid Dispenser	1C-2012-040	August 7, 2024	Revocation of License

CE/CPD Audits

In December 2024, the Board completed its first continuing education audit since 2018. The first audit was a 5 percent random selection of Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech-Language Pathology Assistants, Audiologists, and Hearing Aid Dispensers who renewed in January of 2024. Since that time, the Board has now completed audits of 5 percent of the licensees identified above through June of 2024, excluding a small number of licensees that have approved extensions for providing their documentation.

The results for the January through June 2024 audits are provided in the table below.

	CE/CPD Audit Results														
Audit Period	Number Audited	Passed	%	Failed	%	Exemption Granted	%	Citation Issued	%						
January 2024	38	23	61%	9	24%	6	16%	8	21%						
February 2024	39	22	56%	11	28%	6	15%	6	15%						
March 2024	43	21	49%	15	35%	6	14%	8	19%						
April 2024	49	26	53%	12	24%	4	8%	TBD							
May 2024	40	22	55%	10	25%	4	10%	TBD							
June 2024	40	20	50%	14	35%	3	8%	1	3%						

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board - 0376 FY 2024-25 BUDGET REPORT - FM 12

August 21-22, 2025 Board Meeting

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24			FY 2024-2	25	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	GOVERNOR'S	CURRENT YEAR			
	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	%	PROJECTIONS	UNENCUMBERED
OBJECT DESCRIPTION	(Prelim FM13)	(Prelim FM13)	(Prelim FM13)	(Prelim FM13)	2024-25	6.30.2025	SPENT	TO YEAR END	BALANCE
PERSONNEL SERVICES					ı		Ī	1	I
Salary & Wages (Staff)	599,726	746,598	842,376	809,790	950,000	887,428	93%	887,428	62,572
Statutory Exempt (EO)	92,318	106,164	114,225	111,479	114,000	107,349	94%		6,651
Temp Help	38,449	57,039	56,831	4,749	1,000	0	0%	4	1,000
Board Member Per Diem	1,700	5,100	5,600	2,400	6,000	4,000	67%	4,000	2,000
Overtime/Flex Elect/Lump Sum	54,620	67,286	67,655	75,927	5,000	39,985	800%		(38,000
Staff Benefits	418,932	489,282	582,080	581,545	634,000	582,184	92%	582,184	51,816
TOTALS, PERSONNEL SVC	1,205,746	1,471,470	1,668,767	1,585,890	1,710,000	1,620,946	95%	1,623,961	86,039
OPERATING EXPENSE AND EQUIPME	NT						Ī	1	
General Expense	67,144	74,273	59,288	54,010	65,000	49,033	75%	54,562	10,438
Printing	19,251	40,231	42,470	86,218	34,000	40,540	119%		(17,890
Communication	7,482	3,518	3,158	1,725	13,000	1,443	11%		10,734
Postage	1,725	6,407	4,232	4,943	15,000	6,800	45%		8,000
Insurance	158	22	17	23	0	0,000	0%		(23
Travel In State	9,148	11,088	15,381	15,534	27,000	32,836	122%		(6,000
Training	0	175	2,845	0	11,000	8	0%		10,992
Facilities Operations	82,568	126,495	140,624	143,422	148,000	143,038	97%	148,642	(642
Utilities	,,,,,,	,	420	605	0	0	0%		(605
C & P Services - Interdept.	70	82	83	0	24,000	0	0%		24,000
Attorney General	298,782	200,014	86,055	151,478	338,000	336,297	99%	372,624	(34,624
Office Ådmin. Hearings	128,785	38,496	30,808	24,708	61,000	46,668	77%		11,907
C & P Services - External	79,957	64,415	73,311	103,164	116,000	122,609	106%		(23,053
DCA Pro Rata	355,665	463,371	138,234	441,400	826,000	773,991	94%		45,702
DOI - Investigations	32,198	96,124	58,523	7,262	7,000	6,793	97%		207
Interagency Services	2,196	118	621	633	1,000	495	50%		505
IA w/ OPES	24,264	47,009	17,086	46,414	62,000	61,923	100%	61,923	77
Consolidated Data Center	14,553	20,198	23,753	23,517	29,000	7,081	24%		21,899
Information Technology	5,210	4,171	5,115	8,928	17,000	14,444	85%	21,444	(4,444
Equipment	30,670	1,193	2,236	1,239	0	5,470	#######	5,470	(5,470
Other Items of Expense	2,553	1,746	2,076	462	0	620	0%	620	(620
TOTALS, OE&E	1,117,103	1,194,721	706,337	1,115,687	1,810,000	1,650,130	91%		77,190
TOTAL EXPENSE	2,322,849	2,666,191	2,375,104	2,630,237	3,520,000	3,271,076	93%	3,356,771	163,229
Reimbursments					0			33,000	(33,000
Budget Letter 24-20: Vacancy Reduction					0	0		29,000	(29,000
Budget Letter 24-24:									,
7.95% Budget Efficiency Reduction					0	0		21,000	(21,000
NET APPROPRIATION					3,437,000	3,271,076	95%	, ,	113,229
Indated 8/20/2025							SURPLU	JS/(DEFICIT):	3.29%

2025 Budget Act with FM 12 Projections

	Actuals 2023-24	20	PY)24-25	20	CY 025-26	BY 2026-27		_	BY +1 027-28
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 1,634	\$	1,927	\$	2,174	\$	2,546		2,819
Prior Year Adjustment	\$ -39	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	
Adjusted Beginning Balance	\$ 1,595	\$	1,927	\$	2,174	\$	2,546	\$	2,819
REVENUES, TRANSFERS AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS									
Revenues									
4121200 - Delinquent fees	\$ 34	\$	37	\$	36	\$	36	\$	36
4127400 - Renewal fees	\$ 2,370	\$	2,466	\$	2,613	\$	2,613	\$	2,613
4129200 - Other regulatory fees	\$ 59	\$	75	\$	37	\$	37	\$	37
4129400 - Other regulatory licenses and permits	\$ 730	\$	739	\$	899	\$	899	\$	899
4163000 - Income from surplus money investments	\$ 87	\$	81	\$	75	\$	42	\$	44
4171400 - Escheat of unclaimed checks and warrants	\$ 6	\$	5	\$	-	\$	-	\$	=
Totals, Revenues	\$ 3,286	\$	3,403	\$	3,660	\$	3,627	\$	3,629
TOTALS, REVENUES, TRANSFERS AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS	\$ 3,286	\$	3,403	\$	3,660	\$	3,627	\$	3,629
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$ 4,881	\$	5,330	\$	5,834	\$	6,173	\$	6,448
Expenditures:									
1111 Department of Consumer Affairs (State Operations)	\$ 2,648	\$	3,308	\$	3,118	\$	3,212	\$	3,308
9892 Supplemental Pension Payments (State Operations)	\$ 38	\$	28	\$	28	\$	-	\$	-
9900 Statewide General Administrative Expenditures (Pro Rata) (State Operations)	\$ 268	\$	150	\$	142	\$	142	\$	142
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES AND EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENTS	\$ 2,954	\$	3,486	\$	3,288	\$	3,354	\$	3,450
FUND BALANCE									
Reserve for economic uncertainties	\$ 1,927	\$	1,844	\$	2,546	\$	2,819	\$	2,999
Months in Reserve	6.6		6.7		9.1		9.8		10.1

NOTES:

- 1. Assumes workload and revenue projections are realized in BY and ongoing
- 2. Expenditure growth projected at 3% beginning BY.

Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board

	FY							
LICENSES ISSUED	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
								QTR 4
AIDE	33	32	44	22	44	52	60	53
AU	77	63	63	71	79	51	89	98
DAU	30	35	31	23	28	26	33	31
AUT	2	4	3	1	4	1	0	2
PDP	20	15	5	13	14	10	29	19
RPE	945	977	1,059	1,039	1,177	1,095	1,469	1,305
SLP	1,482	1,446	1,444	1,621	1,782	1,664	2,129	2,296
SPT	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	3
SLPA	558	602	615	505	649	640	914	821
HAD	137	135	95	55	108	83	145	139
HAD Trainee	169	156	116	93	124	142	173	153
HAD Licensed in Another State	20	17	12	11	22	7	13	13
HAD Branch	341	333	312	249	263	162	256	247
TRP (Military Temporary)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	1
TSA (Military Temporary)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	0
TSP (Military Temporary)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	0
TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	3,781	3,783	3,755	3,681	4,251	3,934	5,322	5,181

LICENSEE POPULATION	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25
LICENSEE I OI ULATION	17/10	10/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	ZZIZS	23/24	QTR 4
1 TD F	216	2.45	272	200	20.6	210	2.4.4	,
AIDE	216	245	273	290	306	310	344	295
AU	720	831	837	830	869	840	869	907
DAU	1,246	1,334	1,384	1,375	1,416	1,453	1,487	1,505
Both License Types	1,966	2,165	2,221	2,205	2,285	2,293	2,356	2,412
AUT	2	4	7	8	8	7	7	8
PDP	177	178	165	160	152	141	160	161
RPE	1,232	1,364	1,595	1,626	1,740	1,871	2,304	1,656
SLP	19,161	21,374	22,527	23,309	24,894	25,929	27,403	28,956
SPT	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	5
SLPA	4,118	4,822	5,297	5,538	5,962	6,260	6,825	7,215
HAD	1,266	1,380	1,407	1,398	1,439	1,399	1,429	1,479
HAD Trainees	204	214	237	243	267	297	314	227
HAD Licensed in Another State	28	31	42	47	66	59	66	72
HAD Branch Office	1,297	1,347	1,401	1,411	1,429	1,267	1,297	1,256
TRP (Military Temporary)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	1
TSA (Military Temporary)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	0
TSP (Military Temporary)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	0
TOTAL LICENSEES	29,451	32,879	34,899	35,945	38,243	39,834	42,516	43,743

^{*} Data as of July 1, 2025

Legend:

AID = Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology Aide HTL = Hearing Aid Dispenser Temporary (1-year)

AU = Audiologist HT = Hearing Aid Dispenser Trainee

DAU = Dispensing Audiologist BR = Hearing Aid Dispenser Branch

AUT = Audiologist (6-month Temporary) TIA = Military Spouse/Domestic Partner 1- Year Temporary AID

PDP = Continuing Education Provider TAU = Military Spouse/Domestic Partner 1- Year Temporary AU

RPE = Required Professional Experience TRP = Military Spouse/Domestic Partner 1- Year Temporary RPE
SP = Speech-Language Pathologist TSP = Military Spouse/Domestic Partner 1- Year Temporary SP

SPT = Speech-Language Pathologist (6-Month Temporary) TSA = Military Spouse/Domestic Partner 1- Year Temporary SPA

SPA = Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

THA = Military Spouse/Domestic Partner 1- Year Temporary HAD

HAD = Hearing Aid Dispenser THT = Military Spouse/Domestic Partner 1- Year Temporary HT

Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board Enforcement Report

COMPLAINTS AND	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY 2024-25
CONVICTIONS	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Q4
Complaints Received	164	91	79	89	80	198
Convictions Received	103	45	48	60	67	71
Average Days to Intake	1	5	7	4	5	4
Closed	17	2	0	0	0	0
Pending	1	6	0	0	4	0

	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY 2024-25
INVESTIGATIONS Desk	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Q4
Assigned	260	131	131	151	148	270
Closed	189	193	178	143	113	192
Average Days to Complete	222	380	598	289	185	224
Pending	260	198	132	130	149	237

		FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY 2024-25
INVESTIGATONS	DOI	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Q4
Assigned		9	0	1	0	8	10
Closed		10	8	6	1	8	4
Average Days to Complete		770	839	1,409	150	207	139
Pending		19	11	2	1	6	13

	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY 2024-25
ALL TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Q4
Closed w/o Discipline Referral	181	187	178	140	104	189
Cycle Time - No Discipline	251	368	491	285	147	185

	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY 2024-25
CITATIONS/CEASE & DESIST	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Q4
Citations Issued	11	6	7	6	4	36
Avg Days to Citation & Fine	336	429	1,138	439	211	128
Cease & Desist Letters Issued	0	2	0	1	0	0

	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY 2024-25
ATTORNEY GENERAL CASES	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Q4
Pending at the AG	23	21	10	3	10	5
Accusations Filed	8	8	5	1	4	2
Statement of Issue (SOI) Filed	1	2	0	0	0	1
Accusation Withdrawn, Dismissed,						
Declined	1	0	1	3	0	0
SOI Withdrawn, Dismissed,						
Declined	1	0	0	0	0	1
Average Days to Discipline	824	2,245	1,362	1,221	405	1428

Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board Enforcement Report

ATTORNEY GENERAL	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY 2024-25
FINAL OUTCOMES	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Q4
Probation Only	5	1	1	4	2	3
Surrender of License	3	3	2	0	0	2
License Denied (SOI)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Suspension & Probation	0	0	2	0	0	0
Revocation-No Stay of Order	3	2	4	1	0	3
Public Reprimand/Reproval	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Disciplinary Actions Taken	12	6	10	5	2	8

Note: All data provided prior to FY 2022-23 uses complaint open date as the start to any "Days to" data provided in this report.