



**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PRACTICE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**November 4, 2009**

Long Beach Memorial Medical Center  
2801 Atlantic Avenue  
"Conference Room E"  
Long Beach, CA  
(562) 933-2000

**Committee Members Present**

Lisa O'Connor, M.A., Chairperson  
Carol Murphy, M.A. Cynthia  
Jennifer Hancock, M.A.

**Staff Present**

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

**Board Members Present**

Alison Grimes, Au.D. Paul  
Naomi Smith, Au.D.  
Robert Hanyak, Au.D.  
Monty Martin, M.A.

**Board Members Absent**

Donald, M.D.

**Guests Present**

Tim Shannon, Hearing Health Care Providers California  
Steven Paulson, California State University Los Angeles  
Dennis Van Vliet, California Academy of Audiology  
Sherry Foldvary, California State University Northridge  
Kathleen Venne, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Monica Porter, Santa Anna Community College  
Jane Moir, Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Deena Sharp, Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Susan Kidwell, San Joaquin Delta Community College  
Robert Powell, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Rosemary Scott, Pasadena City College  
Donna Perrelet, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Tricia Hunter, Hearing Health Care Providers California  
Cindy Peffers, Hearing Health Care Providers California  
Linda Pippert, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson O'Connor called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

### **III. Discussion of Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Training in California**

- A. Update on New Training Programs**
- B. On-line Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Training**
- C. Clinical/Fieldwork Opportunities for Bachelor Degree Holders and Relevant Ethical/Professional Issues**

Chairperson O'Connor opened the discussion regarding the issues surrounding training speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs), both at the community college level and at the undergraduate level, in terms of offering coursework and clinical training to bachelor degree holders who are seeking registration as an SLPA in the state.

Chairperson O'Connor stated that all institutions involved or interested in training students to become SLPAs were invited to attend the Committee meeting to discuss the current challenges and opportunities in providing such training to California students and to students who wish to transfer to a California institution to complete a course of study in SLPA.

The participants outlined the following challenges facing both California institutions where SLPAs are trained and the impact SLPAs have on the profession of speech-language pathology:

- The vast number of bachelor students seeking registration as SLPAs may be saturating the field of speech-language pathology and may be displacing speech-language pathologists in certain employment settings where the paraprofessionals may be used as independent practitioners.
- There is a concern that there are not enough supervisors willing and/or appropriately trained to oversee the services of the growing number of registered SLPAs.
- There may be limited employment opportunities for registered SLPAs due to insurance reimbursement restrictions and the overall down-turn of the economy.
- There are limited field-work sites to provide clinical training to SLPA students. Community college programs and undergraduate programs are competing for field-work sites.
- There are ethical considerations for training programs to accept transfer students into the SLPA field work courses, as program personnel have no experience or knowledge of the student academic potential or interpersonal character.
- On-line SLPA programs operating in other states are seeking to place students in field-work placements in California by independently vetting the site field work contracts. Such on-line programs have not been reviewed and approved by the Board nor has there been a review of the coursework by an SLPA training program expert to determine whether the program offers an equivalent course of study to that offered by a California approved SLPA program.
- Employers of SLPAs are making hiring decisions based on degree merit, thus creating competition for jobs between associate level SLPAs and those who hold a bachelor's degree.
- The coursework offered in undergraduate speech-language pathology programs differs from that afforded to students in community college SLPA programs in that SLPA training programs

instruct students on how to be competent support-level personnel, whereas undergraduate programs are designed to train students in independent practice.

Information was shared regarding the training programs, both undergraduate and at the community college SLPA campuses that currently offer clinical training to bachelor degree holders. These programs are as follows: San Jose State, San Joaquin Delta, San Francisco State, University of the Pacific, University of Redlands, California State Los Angeles, and Long Beach State.

Ms. Del Mugnaio closed and thanked those in attendance. She stated that the Board will examine the issues above to determine if any regulation changes or educational efforts should be considered.

Chairperson O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.