CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID DISPENSERS BOARD
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MEMORANDUM

DATE	October 12, 2026
TO	Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board
FROM	Cherise Burns, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 8: Executive Officer's Report

This report and the statistical information are provided by leadership and staff to update members on the current operations of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (Board).

a) Administration Update

The Board is currently fully staffed in all positions that have ongoing funding.

b) Outreach Update

Since the Board's July meeting, the Board's Executive Officer attended a conference call with representatives from the California Speech Language Hearing Association (CSHA), to discuss issues affecting Speech-Language Pathologists in California.

On September 25, 2026, the Board's Vice Chair, Dr. White and Dr. Sanders presented at the 2026 CAA Annual Conference on the Board's behalf. The Board's Executive Officer helped develop the presentation materials for Dr. White and Dr. Sanders but was unable to attend due to State travel restrictions and lack of remote presentation options at the conference this year. Dr. White and Dr. Sanders delivered a presentation that included updates on the Board's Sunset Review Process, changes to its laws and regulations, and Board Strategic Plan initiatives that may have an impact on licensees and their practice.

c) Budget Report

Included in your Board meeting materials is the FY 2025-26 Budget Report – FM 13 that reflects operating expenditures through the fiscal month 13 (July 31, 2026) of the 2025-26 budget year. Due to extremely high Office of Attorney General (OAG) and Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) expenditures, the Board requested and was approved for a statutorily authorized current year augmentation to the Board's budget authority for OAG and OAH costs. With the current year AG and OAH augmentation, along with cost saving measures implemented by the Board and case settlements achieved towards the end of the Fiscal Year, the Budget Report shows a higher-than-normal reversion of approximately $140,430, which is a surplus of 4.23 percent of the Board's budget.

Also included in your materials is the Board's Fund Condition Report prepared on September 14, 2026. This report is a snapshot of the Board's fund condition and shows the Board's revenue and budget allocation for the current 2026-27 budget year plus two future years. The Fund Condition continues to look healthy into the future.

d) Regulations Report

The Board does not have any rulemaking packages in the official rulemaking process with the Office of Administrative Law. 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 of the packages we have been able to complete over the last six years. Specifically, Board staff have been diligently finalizing a multi-year effort to review, update and prepare a rulemaking package for Board review at the December 2026 Board Meeting that will update the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines and strengthen consumer protections and the Board's Enforcement program.

e) Licensing Report

In 2025-26, the Board saw a small decline in the number of applications received and licenses issued, but the overall total is still significantly more than the Board's pre-pandemic workload. The Board estimates that it will continue to see modest growth in license application workload in the future.

Board staff have continued to maintain excellent licensing cycle times. Board staff work diligently to maintain processing time while also working to continuously improve the Board's online applications. Board management evaluates the online licensing program and application processes on an ongoing basis.

Average Processing Times in Weeks (Complete Applications)												
Year	January	February	March	April	May	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	1	1	1	1	2
2026	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2			
Average Reduction	55%	75%	76%	68%	69%	73%	80%	75%	79%	82%	80%	75%

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

Licensing Cycle Times	8/8/25	11/21/25	3/27/26	6/22/26	8/10/26	10/4/26
Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) and Audiologists (AUD) Complete Licensing Applications	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	2 weeks	1 week
Review and Process SLP and AUD Supporting Licensing Documents	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week
Review and Process RPE Applicant's Verification of Experience Forms for Full Licensure	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	2 weeks	1 week
Hearing Aid Dispensers (HAD) Complete Applications	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	2 weeks	1 week

f) Practical Examination Report

The next practical examination will be held on November 6 and 7, 2026

The most recent practical examination was held on September 18 and 19, 2026. The results from this examination are not yet available.

The previous practical examination was held on July 24 and 25, 2026. Those examination results are noted below.

Future practical exams are posted on the website.
https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/applicants/exam_dates.shtml

HAD Practical Examination Results for July 24 – 25, 2026					
Candidate Type	**Number of Candidates**	**Passed**	**%**	**Failed**	**%**
Applicants with Supervision (Temporary Trainee License)					
Hearing Aid Dispensers	21	15		6	
Audiologists	5	4		1	
Required Professional Experience	6	4		2	
Aide					
Applicants Licensed in Another State (Temporary License)					
Hearing Aid Dispenser					
Audiologist	1	1			
Applicants without Supervision					
Hearing Aid Dispensers	9	5		4	
Audiologists	10	9		1	
Total					
Total Number of Candidates	52	38	73%	14	27%

g) Enforcement Report

The Board has received 72 complaints and subsequent arrest notifications through the first quarter of 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. During that same period, the Board has issued 14 citations and fines (including CE/CPD-related citations and fines). Additional data through the first quarter is available in the separate Enforcement Report attachment.

Currently, there are five (5) formal discipline cases pending with the Attorney General's Office. The Board is currently monitoring 13 probationers of which eight (8) probationers require drug or alcohol testing and four (4) are in a tolled status.

The following disciplinary outcomes have been taken by the Board in the last 12 months:

Name	License No.	License Type	Case No.	Effective Date	Action Taken
Gebroe, David Brian	HA 8326	Hearing Aid Dispenser	1C-2020-010	May 17, 2026	Voluntary Surrender of License
Tubbs, Sean Michael	AU 1896	Audiologist	1I-2024-051	April 2, 2026	Voluntary Surrender of License
Ortiz, Ivanna Lisette	SP 23998	Speech-Language Pathologist	1I-2026-50	March 25, 2026	Disciplinary Suspension – Penal Code 23 Order Issued
Cruz, Zeth Anne R.	SPA 2498	Speech-Language Pathology Assistant	1I-2024-057	March 22, 2026	Revocation Stayed, Five Years Probation with Specified Terms and Conditions
Spejcher, Bryn Pearce	AU 3215	Audiologist	1I-2018-151	February 20, 2026	Revocation of License
Tubbs, Sean Michael	AU 1896	Audiologist	1I-2024-051	January 29, 2026	Revocation Stayed, Five Years Probation with Specified Terms and Conditions
Plotkin, Alexander	HA 7818	Hearing Aid Dispenser	1C-2022-018	November 21, 2025	Voluntary Surrender of License

CE/CPD Audits

Since the Board restarted ongoing continuing education audits in the Fall of 2024, the Board has now completed audits of the continuing education requirements of five (5) percent of licensees who renewed in 2024, excluding a small number of licensees that have approved extensions for providing their documentation.

The Board is now working on preparing audit materials and data to start the random selection process of licensees who renewed from January through March of 2025. The Board expects to send those audit notices prior to the end of the calendar year.

The results for the 2024 audits are provided below.

CE/CPD Audit Results											
Audit Period	**Number Audited**	**Passed**	**%**	**Failed**	**%**	**Exemption Granted**	**%**	**Pending**	**%**	**Citation Issued**	**%**
January 2024	38	23	61%	9	24%	6	16%	0	-	8	21%
February 2024	39	22	56%	11	28%	6	15%	0	-	6	15%
March 2024	43	21	49%	15	35%	7	16%	0	-	8	19%
April 2024	49	28	57%	9	18%	11	22%	1	2%	7	14%
May 2024	40	23	58%	9	23%	8	20%	0	-	4	10%
June 2024	40	22	55%	11	28%	7	18%	0	-	3	15%
July 2024	42	27	64%	8	19%	7	17%	0	-	4	10%
August 2024	55	25	45%	19	35%	11	20%	0	-	10	18%
September 2024	38	17	45%	16	42%	4	11%	1	3%	8	21%
October 2024	20	8	40%	9	45%	3	15%	0	-	3	15%
November 2024	35	18	51%	10	29%	7	20%	0	-	7	20%
December 2024	29	16	55%	6	21%	6	21%	1	3%	2	7%
* Audit is in progress											