

Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology

Nevada Revised Statutes: NRS 637B.100 to 637B.150

Board members (NRS 637B.100): The Board consists of 5 members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

- 2 members who have practiced of speech pathology for 2 years or more;
- 1 member who has practiced audiology for 2 years or more;
- 1 member who is a physician, certified by the Board of Medical Examiners as a specialist in otolaryngology, pediatrics, or neurology; and
- 1 member who is a representative of the general public, as provided.

Members of the Board who are speech pathologists and audiologists must be representatives of the university, public school, hospital, or private aspects of the practice.

A members who is a speech pathologist or audiologist must hold a current license issued by the Board or a current certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Powers and duties of the Board:

- The Board may adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of NRS 637B (NRS 637B.150).
- The Board shall issue licenses to qualified applicants (NRS 637B.160), may issue a license without an examination, as provided (NRS 637B.190), and may issue a temporary license without examination, as provided (NRS 637B.200).
- The Board must conduct examinations at least once per year and determine the passing grade (NRS 637B.170).
- The Board may adopt regulations setting standards of ethical conduct and requiring continuing education (NRS 637B.220).
- The Board shall charge and collect fees, not to exceed amounts as provided (NRS 637B.230).
- The Board may investigate complaints and may take disciplinary action following a hearing (NRS 637B.280).
- The Board or its agent may inspect the premises of any licensee to determine if any violations of NRS 637B have occurred (NRS 637B.295).

Operations of the Board: The Board:

- Shall elect its officers from its members (NRS 637B.110);
- May fix the salary paid to members at not more than \$150 per day while engaged in business of the Board and may fix the per diem and travel allowance rate for members (NRS 637B.130);
- May issue subpoenas and adopt a seal (NRS 637B.135); and
- Shall deposit money in State financial institutions (NRS 637B.240).

Background

Legislation: Senate Bill 231 (Chapter 594, *Statutes of Nevada 1979*) was sponsored by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor at the request of the Nevada Speech and Hearing Association.

Legislative history: A legislative history has not been compiled.

According to testimony and exhibits provided in various legislative committees, the bill was supported by the Nevada Medical Society and members of the Nevada boards of examiners for medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, and clinical psychology. The neighboring states of California, Oregon, and Utah had passed licensure bills, leaving Nevada open to inadequately trained persons working in the field. Licensure would ensure professional standards in the field and offer consumer protection.

Members: See the review form.

Reports to the Legislature:

In 2001, the Legislature enacted S.B. 420 (Chapter 193, *Statutes of Nevada*) to require certain regulatory boards to submit a report of activities to the Legislature. The report was to include for the preceding two years the number of licenses and certificates issued, a budget summary, and a report of disciplinary actions. These reports were repealed by the Legislature in 2007 with the enactment of S.B. 310 (Chapter 507, *Statutes of Nevada*).

Records:

- Research Library holdings:
 - *Consulting Report to the Interim Finance Committee*, Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology (2011-2012)
- State Library holdings:
 - *Audiology and Speech Pathology*, Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology, (1996)

Current contact: Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director

Website: <http://www.nvaud-sp.org/>

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY

NRS 637B.100 Creation; number, appointment and qualifications of members; representative of general public not to participate in examination.

1. The Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology, consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, is hereby created.

2. The Governor shall appoint:

(a) Two members who have been engaged in the practice of speech pathology for 2 years or more;

(b) One member who has been engaged in the practice of audiology for 2 years or more;

(c) One member who is a physician and who is certified by the Board of Medical Examiners as a specialist in otolaryngology, pediatrics or neurology; and

(d) One member who is a representative of the general public. This member must not be:

(1) A speech pathologist or an audiologist; or

(2) The spouse or the parent or child, by blood, marriage or adoption, of a speech pathologist or an audiologist.

3. Members of the Board who are speech pathologists and audiologists must be representative of the university, public school, hospital or private aspects of the practice of audiology and of speech pathology.

4. Each member of the Board who is a speech pathologist or audiologist must hold a current license issued pursuant to this chapter or a current certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

5. The member who is a representative of the general public may not participate in preparing, conducting or grading any examination required by the Board.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1254; A 2003, 1195)

NRS CROSS REFERENCES.

Residency requirements, qualifications of representative of general public, NRS 232A.020, 622.205

NRS 637B.110 Officers.

1. The Board shall elect from its members a President, a Vice President and a Secretary-Treasurer. The officers of the Board hold their respective offices at its pleasure.

2. The Board shall receive through its Secretary-Treasurer applications for the licenses to be issued pursuant to this chapter.

3. The Secretary-Treasurer is entitled to receive a salary. The Board shall determine the amount of the salary.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1254)

NRS 637B.120 Meetings; quorum.

1. The Board shall meet at least annually and may meet at other times on the call of the President or a majority of its members.

2. A majority of the Board constitutes a quorum to transact all business.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1254)

NRS CROSS REFERENCES.

Meetings of public agencies, NRS ch. 241, 622.320

NRS 637B.130 Compensation of members and employees.

1. A member of the Board is entitled to receive:

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(a) A salary of not more than \$150 per day, as fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of the Board; and

(b) A per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.

2. While engaged in the business of the Board, each employee of the Board is entitled to receive a per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1254; A 1983, 197; 1985, 445; 1989, 1701; 2007, 2951)

NRS CROSS REFERENCES.

Contracts for services to be in writing and approved, NRS 284.013

Employment of immediate relatives, conditions and limitations, NRS 622.210-622.230

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS.

Salary of members, NAC 637B.020

NRS 637B.135 Subpoenas; oaths; seal. The Board may:

1. Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and production of books and papers;
2. Administer oaths when taking testimony in any matter relating to the duties of the Board; and
3. Adopt a seal which must be judicially noticed by the courts of this State.

(Added to NRS by 1987, 830)

NRS 637B.137 Enforcement of subpoenas by district court.

1. The district court in the county in which any hearing is being conducted by the Board may compel the attendance of witnesses, the giving of testimony and the production of books and papers as required by any subpoena issued by the Board.

2. If any witness refuses to attend or testify or produce any papers required by that subpoena, the Board may report to the district court for the county in which the hearing is pending by petition, setting forth that:

(a) Due notice has been given of the time and place of attendance of the witness or the production of the books and papers;

(b) The witness has been subpoenaed pursuant to NRS 637B.135; and

(c) The witness has failed and refused to attend or produce the papers required by subpoena before the Board in the hearing named in the subpoena, or has refused to answer questions propounded to him or her in the course of that hearing,

→ and asking an order of the court compelling the witness to attend and testify or produce the books or papers before the Board.

3. The court, upon petition of the Board, shall enter an order directing the witness to appear before the court at a time and place to be fixed by the court in the order, the time to be not more than 10 days after the date of the order, and then and there show cause why the witness has not attended or testified or produced the books or papers before the Board. A certified copy of the order must be served upon the witness.

4. If it appears to the court that the subpoena was regularly issued by the Board, the court may thereupon enter an order that the witness appear before the Board at the time and place fixed in the order and testify or produce the required books or papers, and upon failure to obey the order, the witness must be dealt with as for contempt of court.

(Added to NRS by 1987, 831)

NRS 637B.140 Fiscal year. The Board shall operate on the basis of a fiscal year commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1254)

NRS 637B.150 Regulations. The Board may, from time to time, adopt regulations necessary to enable it to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1254)

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS.

Audiologists and speech pathologists, NAC ch. 637B

NRS 637B.160 Qualifications of applicants.

1. An applicant for a license to engage in the practice of audiology or speech pathology must be issued a license by the Board if the applicant:

- (a) Is over the age of 21 years;
- (b) Is a citizen of the United States, or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
- (c) Is of good moral character;
- (d) Meets the requirements for education or training and experience provided by subsection 2;
- (e) Has completed at least 300 clock hours of supervised clinical experience in audiology or speech pathology, or both;
- (f) Applies for the license in the manner provided by the Board;
- (g) Passes any examination required by this chapter;
- (h) Pays the fees provided for in this chapter; and
- (i) Submits all information required to complete an application for a license.

2. An applicant must possess a master's degree in audiology or in speech pathology from an accredited educational institution or possess equivalent training and experience. If an applicant seeks to qualify on the basis of equivalent training and experience, the applicant must submit to the Board satisfactory evidence that he or she has obtained at least 60 semester credits, or equivalent quarter credits, in courses related to the normal development, function and use of speech and language or hearing, including, but not limited to, the management of disorders of speech or hearing and the legal, professional and ethical practices of audiology or speech pathology. At least 24 of the 60 credits, excluding any credits obtained for a thesis or dissertation, must have been obtained for courses directly relating to audiology or speech pathology.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1255; A 1983, 1045; 1997, 2143; 2005, 2741, 2807)

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS.

Application, NAC 637B.035

NRS 637B.170 Examinations.

- 1. Examinations for licensing must be given at least once a year at the time and place fixed by the Board.
- 2. The examination must be fair and impartial, practical in character, and the questions must be designed to discover the applicant's fitness.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 622.090, the Board shall determine what constitutes a passing grade, except that in making that determination, the Board shall act fairly and impartially.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1255; A 2007, 2951)

NRS 637B.200 Temporary license for person licensed in another state.

- 1. The Board shall issue a temporary license to practice audiology or speech pathology, upon application and the payment of the required fee, to any person who is so licensed in another state and who meets all the qualifications for

licensing in this State other than passing the examination.

2. A temporary license issued pursuant to this section is valid until the Board publishes the results of the examination next administered after the license is issued.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1256)

NRS 637B.220 Standards for ethical conduct; continuing education as prerequisite to license renewal.

The Board may adopt regulations setting standards for ethical conduct and requiring continuing education as a prerequisite for the renewal of any license issued under this chapter. Any regulations adopted by the Board under this section shall establish standards which make reasonably current knowledge the basis for a high standard of practice by audiologists and speech pathologists in this State.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1256)

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS.

Continuing education, NAC 637B.400-637B.430

Professional conduct, NAC 637B.040-637B.048



**Information Concerning Board or Commission
Subject to Review by the
Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission**

as required by Nevada Revised Statutes 232B.230



Board or commission name:

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY

Members' names with expiration date of term, and indicate the number of vacancies:

Rebecca Bailey-Torres, SLP, 6/30/16
Richard Johnson, AuD, 6/31/14
Nighat Abdulla, Public Member, 6/31/14
Bonnie Lamping, SLP, 6/30/15
Anthony Zamboni, MD, 6/31/14

There are no vacancies on the Board

Physical address:

1595 Robb Drive, Unit 1, Reno, Nevada 89523
The Board is co-located with the Board of Occupational Therapy

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 34540, Reno, Nevada 89533-4540

Web site address (if any):

www.nvaud-sp.org

Web site developer (if not DoIT, please indicate if DoIT approved the web site):

Victor Polyushko - 5 Pixels Studio
DoIT has been requested to review the website

Executive director's name and contact information:

Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director
P.O. Box 34540
Reno, Nevada 89533-4540
775-787-3421 / 775-746-4105 fax
info@nvaud-sp.org

Staff members' names including titles and status as full-time or part-time (attach additional pages as necessary):

Loretta Ponton, Executive Director - contract position
Angela Nichols, Assistant - part time

Days and hours of operation:

Monday - Friday; office open to the public 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily; contact is available on off hours.

Created by what authority:

NRS 637B

Authority to adopt regulations (NRS) and citation to regulations (NAC), if applicable:

NRS 637B.150 Regulations. The Board may, from time to time, adopt regulations necessary to enable it to carry out the provisions of this chapter. (Added to NRS by 1979, 1254)

NAC CHAPTER 637B - AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

**Information Concerning Board or Commission
Subject to Review by the
Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission**

List by LCB File No. and date of adoption the five regulations most recently adopted by the board or commission, with any applicable deadline for the adoption of any such regulation:

LCB File No. R034-13 adopted 2/8/14; submitted to Legislative Commission, on agenda for March 28th meeting for approval.

List any required regulations that have not been adopted, with any applicable deadline for the adoption of any such regulation. Please identify each such regulation by LCB File No., if available, or by reference to the provision of NRS or Statutes of Nevada requiring adoption of the regulation:

There are no regulations that have not been adopted.

Governing structure of the board or commission pursuant to statute:

NRS 637B.100 creates the Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology. The membership is comprised of two (2) speech language pathologists, one (1) audiologist, one (1) physician certified by the Board of Medical Examiners and one (1) public member.

Duties of the board or commission:

See Powers and Duties of the Board attached as Exhibit A

Statement of the objectives and programs of the board or commission:

The Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology was established in 1979 under the provisions of NRS Chapter 637B to protect the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring that only competent persons practice audiology and speech pathology in the State.

The Board is responsible for administration, enacting regulations and enforcement of the laws and regulations relating to the practice of audiology and speech pathology in Nevada. The Board licenses qualified audiologists and speech pathologists and regulates the professional practice of audiology and speech pathology throughout the State.

Information Concerning Board or Commission Subject to Review by the Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission

Itemized list of services offered by the board or commission:

The Board provides the following services to the public and licensees:
Responds to consumer inquiries regarding audiology and speech pathology services;
Investigates complaints and/or provides referral to appropriate agency;
Informational resource on requirements for licensing in this state; scope of practice and ethical conduct;
Reviews and approves license applications and licenses qualified audiologists and speech pathologists
Provides referrals to state and national organizations;
Holds public workshops and hearings on laws and regulations; and proposed revisions to such
Maintains interactive website - On-line services include verification of individual license credentials and disciplinary actions, access to forms, public meeting info, links to resources, current news of the Board; and payment of fees by credit card; licensees have the ability to renew licenses on-line, update contact information and employment and print licenses through secure log-in access.

Dates of the immediately preceding six meetings:

February 8, 2014; November 22, 2013; September 13, 2013; June 7, 2013; February 9, 2013;
September 28, 2012

Statutory tax exemptions, abatements, or money set aside for the board or commission:

There are no statutory tax exemptions or abatements; money set aside for the board or commission is comprised of fees in excess of expenses which are retained in a savings account for future needs of the Board such as unplanned expenses for legal actions and prosecution of disciplinary actions.
The amount set aside in reserve totals approximately \$162,000.00.

Description of the manner in which the board or commission is funded, including all funding sources:

The Board is funded from licensing fees collected from speech pathologists and audiologists. The Board does not receive funds from the State General Fund.

The Board receives miscellaneous income from interest on board funds on deposit and fees received for a mailing list of all licensees.

Please identify any forms required by the board or commission to be used by members of the public which are not available for downloading from the web site of the board or commission:

All forms required by the board are available for downloading or completion on the Board's website.

**Information Concerning Board or Commission
Subject to Review by the
Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission**

Does the board or commission have any recommendations for consolidation with another board or commission? If so, which one(s) could be revised to include the charge to the board or commission that is the subject of this review?

Yes - The Board recommends the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists be consolidated with this Board. Meetings have been held with the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists to consider the possibility of consolidation with this Board. Currently Audiologists who dispense hearing aids are required to hold dual licenses with both boards. Consolidation would result in a projected reduction of fees for audiologists and hearing aid specialists and eliminate duplication of resources resulting in efficiencies in administration to ensure financial stability in governance of hearing aid specialists.

The Board of Hearing Aid Specialists, at their meeting of February 26, 2014, made a decision to not merge and to retain the licensing of hearing aid specialists under the current Board.

Please see Exhibit B - Consideration of Consolidation

Does the board or commission believe that its objectives and programs have been effective in accomplishing the purposes for which the board or commission was created? Please explain the response with any information the board or commission believes is relevant:

The Board believes that it has been and continues to be very effective in accomplishing the purposes for which it was created which is to license and regulate the practice of audiology and speech pathology to protect the health, safety and well being of the public.

Over the previous 3 years, the Board has strengthened its effectiveness and efficiencies by adopting a new administrative structure; implemented an electronic licensing and regulatory data system; on-line license renewal and credit card payments; and established uniform complaint processing procedures in accordance with administrative requirements. There have been 10 complaints received; 5 of which resulted in disciplinary actions (3 licensees), 4 were dismissed as unsubstantiated and 1 is pending.

Any recommendations for statutory changes which are necessary for the board or commission to carry out its objectives and programs:

The Board will be presenting a Bill at the 2015 Legislative Session to update and revise NRS 637B. A summary of substantive changes and proposed language with comparison to current is provided.

This bill as currently drafted includes authority for the dispensing of hearing aids by Audiologists; new "speech therapist" and "provisional" licenses; and authority for "telepractice" in audiology and speech pathology; as well as significant updates to Board administrative sections.

Please see Exhibit C - Proposed NRS 637B Revisions

If additional space is necessary, please attach additional pages and refer to the attachments on the form.

Please include with this form:

1. The operating budget of the board or commission.
2. A statement setting forth the income and expenses of the board or commission for at least 3 years immediately preceding the date on which the board or commission submits this form, including the balances of any fund or account maintained by or on behalf of the board or commission.
3. The most recent legislative audit or other audit of the board or commission, and any efficiency studies or constituent or staff surveys conducted in the past 3 years.
4. Any reports required to be filed with the Legislative or Executive Branch over the past 3 years. Please indicate if any reports were filed late or have not been filed.
5. Copies of the minutes of the immediately preceding six meetings of the board or commission.
6. A copy of the organizational chart showing the governing structure of the board or commission and its staff.
7. A copy of the most recent strategic plan of the board or commission.

Please submit this form electronically to: cstonefield@lcb.state.nv.us. Submit additional documents electronically in a .pdf format.

If the file is too large for emailing, please submit hard copies to:

Carol Stonefield
Research Division
Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

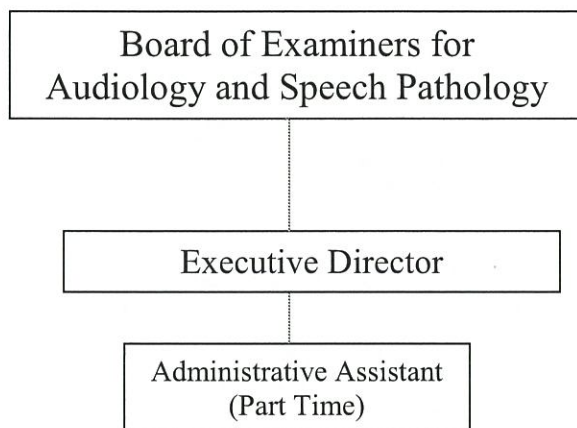


STATE OF NEVADA
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
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Loretta L. Ponton
Executive Director

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





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Executive Director

Exhibit A
Powers and Duties of the Board

1. Enforce the provisions of NRS 637B and NAC 637B regulations;
2. Prepare and maintain a record of its proceedings, including administrative proceedings;
3. Evaluate the qualifications and determine the eligibility of an applicant for a license as an audiologist or a speech pathologist and issue the appropriate license to a qualified applicant;
4. Adopt regulations establishing ethical conduct and standards of practice for persons licensed pursuant NRS 637B and NAC 637B.
5. Require a person licensed pursuant NRS 637B to submit to the Board such documentation as the Board deems necessary to determine whether the licensee has obtained the education and skills necessary to practice audiology, or speech pathology;
6. Investigate any complaint filed with the Board against a licensee; and
7. Hold hearings and make determinations for disciplinary action for violations of this chapter; and
8. When appropriate, forward to the appropriate law enforcement agency any substantiated information submitted to the Board concerning a person who practices or offers to practice audiology or speech pathology without the appropriate license.



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Loretta L. Ponton
Executive Director

Exhibit B

Consideration of Consolidation

Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

The Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology (Board) began the process of reviewing Chapter 637B of Nevada Revised Statutes for the purpose of updating the language to reflect evolutionary changes that have occurred in the practice of Audiology and Speech Pathology professions since the law creating the Board was enacted in 1979. There has been no substantive changes made to NRS 637B since that time.

The original 1997 legislation defining the “practice of audiology” reflected a much narrower scope of practice than the current scope of practice standards adopted by the *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*. The fitting and dispensing of hearing aids is specifically delineated as within the scope of practice for the practice of Audiology.

In Nevada, Audiologists are required to obtain a second license as a hearing aid specialist, or in some cases hearing aid apprentice, from the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists if they wish to fit and dispense hearing aids as part of their audiology practice.

The *National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology* indicates there are currently **35 states that permit hearing aid dispensing under an Audiology license and 12 states have merged boards**. The *American Speech-Language Hearing Association* publication, *State Regulation of Hearing Aid Dispensing*, dated July 2001, lists 25 states that allowed dispensing of hearing under an audiologist’s license at that time. Ten (10) states over the last 12 years have approved the dispensing of hearing aids with an audiology license.

Current statistics on licensed hearing aid dispensers and audiologists are as follows:

Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology

Dispensing Audiologists / dual licensed	66	53%	Dispensing Audiologists / dual licensed	66	67%
Hearing Aid Specialists /Apprentices	59	47%	Audiologists	33	33%
Total Licensees as of 1/1/14	125			99	

Based upon these statistics the Board felt it prudent to contact the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists to inquire into whether they would consider merging with our Board. The Board of Hearing Aid Specialists would be impacted by legislation that would eliminate the requirement for Audiologists to hold a separate Hearing Aid Specialist License as audiologists comprise over 50% of their licensees.

Initial contact was made September 19, 2013 and discussions concluded on February 26, 2014 wherein the Board the Hearing Aid Specialist voted not to support a merger.

At timeline of events is attached delineating the repeated attempts and actions taken by this Board to facilitate a consolidation of the Boards. These attempts included participating in Hearing Aid Specialist Board meetings; conducting a survey of all licensees, developing example language and considering all comments received on the proposal from hearing aid specialists and audiologists.

The **Main Objections to Merging the Two Boards** with comparison of current Boards' member composition is attached.

ADVANTAGES of Consolidation

1. Eliminate the need for Audiologists to have two licenses and report to two boards
2. Lower fees for Audiologists
 - *and Hearing Aide Specialists if merged
3. Streamline application process for Audiologists
 - *apply to one board, lower costs, offer examinations more frequently
4. Eliminate the need for an audiologist to hold an apprentice license at additional cost
 - *required for practice while waiting for an exam date
5. Recognize the national trends/models for regulation and dispensing of hearing aids.
 - *35 states permit hearing aid dispensing with audiology license alone
 - *12 state have merged boards
6. Operational Efficiencies and Customer Service – Consolidated/Merged Board
 - Financial stability for Board operations
 - Full time staff
 - Physical office location
 - Stable office hours
 - Immediate response to telephone calls
 - Electronic licensing and regulatory data system
 - On-line services through website
 - Uniform complaint process
 - One Board for consumers to access hearing related services
 - Ensure compliance with administrative and financial reporting requirements

Based upon current and historical numbers, costs and data, a **Consolidated Board Budget** has been developed for *informational comparison purposes only*; utilizing the new proposed fee structure proposed in the Board's bill.

The Consolidated Budget indicates sufficient funding would be received through licensing fees to support projected expenses; including funding a full time support staff position.

If the Boards are not merged, the Board of Hearing Aid Specialist would not have enough revenue to cover costs and would *possibly have to increase licensing fees* in order to remain viable.

The Board will be presenting a bill at the 2015 Legislative Session which will include provisions that would eliminate dual licensure requirements for audiologists; the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists may oppose the bill as the viability of that Board will be in question due to loss of licensees and associated licensing fees.

The Board remains open to consolidation and would support the initiative both administratively and financially if the Sunset Commission or the Legislature made a determination it was in the best interests of the State.

Attachments:

- Timeline of Events

- NCSB State Data on Merged Boards - Hearing Aid Dispensing

- Main Objections to Merging the Boards / Comparison Board Composition

- Consolidated Board Budget Projections and Analysis / Proposed Fee Structure

- Example of Language for Consolidated Board Structure

Timeline of Events

Efforts to Work with the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

September 19, 2013

Initial Contact by email with Board of Hearing Aid Specialist requesting informal meeting of Board Chairs and staff to discuss potential for merger of Boards.

October 14 Follow up contact

October 24 Follow up contact

November 4 Follow up contact

November 15 **Meeting with Administrator**, Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

December 2 Received email from Administrator – will be on agenda of December 13 meeting of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

December 9 Sent via email – draft of comparison language for distribution to Board members

December 13 **Meeting of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists**

Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Chair, Loretta Ponton, Executive Director and Paul Berkley in attendance to present proposal; Christina Maestos, Chair and licensed hearing aid specialist gave comments in opposition and allowed public comments in opposition prior to hearing the presentation. Outcome was to direct staff to conduct survey of licensees of both Boards.

December 20 **Survey drafted** by Executive Director and sent for approval by email to Board of Hearing Aid Specialists; also requested copy of meeting tape, budget, financial reports and updated listing of licensees.

January 13, 2014 Follow up contact by email regarding approval of licensee survey.

January 15 Received response approving licensee survey, confirming Board members will be **invited to attend the February 8th Board** meeting.

January 16 **Survey sent to all licensed audiologists and speech pathologists**

January 31 **Supporting documents for discussion on bill options at February 8th meeting** sent by email to Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

February 8 **Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology board meeting;** discussion, public comments and decision to allowing dispensing of hearing aids by audiologists be incorporated into board's bill.

February 26 **Board of Hearing Aid Specialists board meeting**, discussion, public comments and decision made not to merge with the Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology. Loretta Ponton, Executive Director and Bonnie Lamping, speech pathologist board member in attendance.

February 28 Received via USPS from Board of Hearing Aid Specialists, copy of December 13th board meeting tape, updated licensee listing, budget and financial statements.

States Permitting Hearing Aid Dispensing with Audiology License

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- New Mexico
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming - Not included in practice act but AG's opinion advised that audiologists can dispense.

States with Merged Licensure Boards

Statute has provisions for the licensing of audiologists and hearing aid dispensers by the same board. In Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, New Mexico, Washington, and Wisconsin, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dispensers, are licensed by the same board. In New Hampshire, SLPs are licensed by a separate board. South Dakota does not regulate speech-language pathology.

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Idaho
- Maine
- Maryland
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- South Dakota
- Washington
- Wisconsin

Main Objections to Merging the Two Boards (public comments, board meetings, survey)

1. **Fear of losing their profession...** fear that Audiologists would try to weaken Hearing Aid Specialists as a profession. No examples have been given that any Audiologist has tried to weaken or harass Hearing Aide Specialists on either board. One third of Nevada audiologists do not dispense hearing aids at all. The revenue generated from dispensing hearing aids is a small percent of a typical audiologist's business.
2. **Will cause higher/more fees...** Comparisons to California were used as examples. We project the opposite, decreased fees for Audiologists and Hearing Aide Specialists. .
3. **Hearing Aid Specialists are not adequately represented.** The current Hearing Aid Board has one Hearing Aid Specialist member, the proposed merged board composition would retain one Hearing Aid Specialist member.
4. **Disciplinary actions will go up.** The Hearing Aid Board has reported one disciplinary action since 2009 according to the Reports of Occupational Licensing Boards records of LCB. It was stated that most of the "complaints" sent to the board concern warranty issues. We do not believe our board would have trouble with that topic and have no reason to believe complaints will increase due to any merger.
5. **The merged board would have less consumer orientation.** We see no reason for this to be so. However, if the legislature wishes the Board would support adding an additional consumer member.

Comparison of Current Board Member Composition

Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

1	Audiologist
1	Hearing Aid Specialist
1	Physician
2	Public Members

Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology

1	Audiologist
2	Speech Pathologists
1	Physician
1	Public Member

Proposed Board Member Composition

1	Audiologist	(99)
1	Hearing Aid Specialist	(59)
2	Speech Pathologists	(671)
1	Physician	
2	Public Members	

Budget Projections and Analysis

CONSOLIDATED BOARD BUDGET			Hearing Aid Specialists	Audiology & Speech
Proposed Fee Structure*			Separate Board No Audiologists Current Fee Structure	Proposed Bill Structure Dispensing by AuD Proposed Fee Structure
Projected Revenue	# Licensees		Projected Revenue	Projected Revenue
Speech Pathologist	730	\$ 85,000.00	0	\$ 85,000.00
Speech Therapist	190	\$ 15,250.00	0	\$ 15,250.00
Audiologist	34	\$ 4,000.00	0	\$ 4,000.00
Dispensing Audiologist	73	\$ 13,050.00		\$ 13,050.00
Hearing Aid Specialist	60	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	
Hearing Aid Specialist Apprentice	13	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,050.00	
Total Revenue		\$ 132,800.00	\$ 23,050.00	\$ 117,300.00
Operating Expenses			Operating Expenses	Operating Expenses
Executive Director Services		\$ 48,000.00	\$ 27,480.00	\$ 48,000.00
Administrative Support		\$ 27,000.00		\$ 13,500.00
Board Compensation		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
Office Space		\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00
Legal Fees		\$ 9,000.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 9,000.00
Examination Fees		\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Bank Fees / Merchant Services		\$ 1,600.00		\$ 1,600.00
Insurance		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 750.00
Meeting Expense		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Office Supplies / Records Storage		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,200.00
Postage		\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,400.00
Printing and Reproduction		\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
Professional Fees - Bookkeeping		\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,400.00
IT Technical Support/Website/Internet Svs		\$ 2,600.00		\$ 2,600.00
Dues and Subscriptions		\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00
Telephone		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Travel - Out of State		\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00
Travel - In State		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 2,500.00
Licensing Program Cost		\$ 11,700.00		\$ 11,700.00
Equipment Purchase		\$ -		
Total Expense		\$ 131,050.00	\$ 39,680.00	\$ 114,300.00
Revenue Over / Under Expense		\$ 1,750.00	\$ (16,630.00)	\$ 3,000.00

*informational comparison purposes only; does not include miscellaneous other fees or expenses that may be incurred

**Hearing Aid Board revenue and expense projections based upon 12/31/13 financial reports and licensee data as of 1/1/14

Audiology, Speech Pathology, Hearing Aid Specialist Proposed New Fee Structure

New Licensees	Proposed Fees	Current Fees	Difference
Speech Pathologist	\$ 250.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 100.00
Speech Therapist	\$ 175.00	n/a	
Dispensing Audiologist with Exam	\$ 450.00	\$ 550.00	\$ (100.00)
Audiologist	\$ 250.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 100.00
Hearing Aid Specialist with Exam	\$ 450.00	\$ 550.00	\$ (100.00)
Hearing Aid Apprentice	\$ 250.00	\$ 350.00	\$ (100.00)

Renewal of License	Proposed Fees	Current Fees	Difference
Speech Pathologist	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Speech Therapist	\$ 75.00	n/a	
Dispensing Audiologist with Exam	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00	\$ (150.00)
Audiologist	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Hearing Aid Specialist with Exam	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ (100.00)
Hearing Aid Apprentice	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00	\$ (25.00)

Analysis of Impact on Proposed Fees *Dispensing Audiologists, Hearing Aid Specialists and Hearing Aid Apprentices*

Current NEW Dispensing Audiologists	Audiologist License Fee	\$ 150.00	Audiology and Speech Board
	Audiologist Hearing Aid Specialist License	\$ 450.00	Hearing Aid Specialist Board
	Subtotal Licensing Costs	\$ 600.00	

***Some audiologists also are required to have the Apprentice License if they wish to practice pending examination

Audiologist Hearing Aid Apprentice \$ 350.00 Hearing Aid Specialist Board

Total Maximum Licensing Costs \$ 950.00

Proposed NEW Dispensing Audiologists	Dispensing Audiologist License/wit	\$ 450.00	Audiology and Speech Board
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Savings for NEW Dispensing Audiologists \$ (150.00)

Savings for RENEWAL of Audiologist License \$ (150.00)

Current NEW Hearing Aid Specialists	License and Examination Fee	\$ 550.00	Hearing Aid Specialist Board
Proposed NEW Hearing Aid Specialists	License and Examination Fee	\$ 450.00	Combined Board

Savings for NEW Hearing Aid Specialists \$ (100.00) Combined Board

Savings RENEWAL of Hearing Aid Specialist \$ (100.00) Combined Board

Current New Hearing Aid Apprentice	License Fee	\$ 350.00	Hearing Aid Specialist Board
Proposed NEW Hearing Aid Apprentice	License Fee	\$ 250.00	Combined Board

Savings for NEW Hearing Aid Apprentice \$ (100.00) Combined Board

Savings RENEWAL of Hearing Aid Apprentice \$ (75.00) Combined Board

EXAMPLE OF LANGUAGE FOR CONSOLIDATED BOARD STRUCTURE

<p style="text-align: center;">NRS 637A Hearing Aid Specialists (1972)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NRS 637B Audiologists and Speech Pathologists (1979)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Proposed Audiologists, Speech Pathologists and Hearing Aid Specialists</p>
<p>637A.010 Short Title. This chapter may be cited as the Hearing Aid Specialist Act</p>	<p>637B.010 Legislative declaration. The practice of audiology and the practice of speech pathology are hereby declared to be learned professions, affecting public safety and welfare and charged with the public interest, and are therefore subject to protection and regulation by the State.</p>	<p>Legislative declaration. The practice of audiology, the practice of speech pathology and the practice of hearing aid specialist are hereby declared to be learned professions, affecting public safety and welfare and charged with the public interest, and are therefore subject to protection and regulation by the State.</p>
<p>637A.020 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in To, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.</p>	<p>637B.020 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in to, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.</p>	<p>As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in to, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.</p>
<p>637A.025 Applicability.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This chapter does not apply to any physician licensed to practice medicine in Nevada nor to the hearing aid dispensing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. 2. This chapter does not apply to any person who measures human hearing for any purpose, including the selection of hearing aids, if such person does not dispense hearing aids or accessories. 	<p>637B.080 Applicability. The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any physician or any person who is working with patients or clients under the direct immediate supervision of a physician and for whom the physician is directly responsible. 2. Any hearing aid specialist who is license pursuant to chapter 637A of NRS and who is acting within the scope of the license. 3. Any person who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Holds a current credential as an audiologist or a speech pathologist by the Department of Education; (b) Is employed as an audiologist or a speech pathologist by a federal agency or the Department of Health and Human Services; (c) Is a graduate student intern enrolled in a program or school approved by the Board and is pursuing a graduate degree in audiology or speech pathology; (d) Is a registered nurse employed as a school nurse; or (e) Holds a current certificate from the Council on the Education of the Deaf as 	<p>This chapter does not apply to a person:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holding a current license or certificate issued pursuant to chapter 391, 630 to 637B, 640 to 641B, inclusive of NRS, who practices within the scope of that license or certificate. 2. Employed by the Federal Government who practices within the scope of that employment. 3. Enrolled in an educational program approved by the Board which is designed to lead to a certificate or degree in audiology, speech pathology, or is a hearing aid specialist apprentice if the person is designated by a title which clearly indicates that he or she is a student or apprentice. 4. Holding a current certificate from the Council on the Education of the Deaf as a teacher and who does not engage in the private practice of audiology or of speech pathology in this State. 5. Who measures human hearing for any purpose, including the selection of hearing aids, if such person does not dispense hearing aids or accessories.

EXAMPLE OF LANGUAGE FOR CONSOLIDATED BOARD STRUCTURE

	a teacher and who does not engage in the private practice of audiology or of speech pathology in this State.	
<p>637A.030 Creation; number and appointment of members. The Board of Hearing Aid Specialists, consisting of five members appointed by the Governor is hereby created.</p> <p>637A.035 Qualifications of members; terms; members serve at pleasure of Governor.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Governor shall appoint” One member who is a physician with a specialty in otorhinolaryngology or otology. One member who is licensed to engage in the practice of audiology pursuant to chapter 637B of NRS. One member who is a hearing aid specialist. Two members who are representatives of the general public and have hearing disorders. These members must not be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A hearing aid specialist, a physician with a specialty in otorhinolaryngology or otology or a person licensed to engage in the practice of audiology pursuant to chapter 637B of NRS; or The spouse or the parent or child, by blood, marriage or adoption, of a hearing aid specialist, a physician with a specialty in otorhinolaryngology or otology or a person licensed to engage in the practice of audiology pursuant to chapter 637B of NRS. After their initial terms, the members of the Board shall serve terms of 3 years. No member of the Board may be a stockholder of a manufacturer. The members of the Board serve at the pleasure of the Governor. 	<p>NRS 637B.100 Creation; number, appointment and qualifications of members; representative of general public not to participate in examination.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology, consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, is hereby created. The Governor shall appoint: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two members who have been engaged in the practice of speech pathology for 2 years or more; One member who has been engaged in the practice of audiology for 2 years or more; One member who is a physician and who is certified by the Board of Medical Examiners as a specialist in otolaryngology, pediatrics or neurology; and One member who is a representative of the general public. This member must not be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A speech pathologist or an audiologist; or The spouse or the parent or child, by blood, marriage or adoption, of a speech pathologist or an audiologist. Members of the Board who are speech pathologists and audiologists must be representative of the university, public school, hospital or private aspects of the practice of audiology and of speech pathology. Each member of the Board who is a speech pathologist or audiologist must hold a current license issued pursuant to this chapter or a current certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The member who is a representative of the general public may not participate in preparing, conducting or grading any examination required by the Board. 	<p>Creation; qualifications, appointment and terms of members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board of Examiners for Audiology, Speech Pathology and Hearing Aid Specialists consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor, is hereby created. The Governor shall appoint: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two members who are speech pathologists; Two members who are audiologists; One member who is a hearing aid specialist; One member who is a physician certified by the Board of Medical Examiners as a specialist in otolaryngology or otology; and One member who is representative of the general public. This members must not be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A speech pathologist, audiologist or hearing aid specialist; or The spouse or the parent or child, by blood, marriage or adoption, of a speech pathologist, audiologist or hearing aid specialist. Members of the Board who are speech pathologists and audiologists must represent university, public school, hospital or private aspects of the practice of audiology and of speech pathology. Each member of the Board must be a resident of Nevada. An audiologist, speech pathologist, or hearing aid specialist appointed to the Board must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Have practiced, taught or conducted research in audiology, speech pathology or practiced as a hearing aid specialist for the 5 years immediately preceding the appointment; and hold a current license issued pursuant to this chapter. Members who are representative of the general

EXAMPLE OF LANGUAGE FOR CONSOLIDATED BOARD STRUCTURE

<p>637A.040 Chair and Secretary; meetings; quorum.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elect a Chair and Secretary from its members, who shall hold office for 1 year and until the election and qualification of their successors. Meet at such times and places as are specified by the Chair or a majority of the Board. A majority of the Board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. <p>637A.080 Officers; rules and regulations. Within 30 days after the day of their appointment, the Board shall hold a meeting to elect officers as provided in this chapter, and to adopt reasonable rules and regulations for their own government and for the administration of this chapter.</p>		<p>public may not participate in preparing, conducting or grading any examination required by the Board.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> No member of the Board may be a stockholder of a manufacturer of hearing aids. The members of the Board shall serve staggered terms of 3 years each. No member of the Board may serve more than two consecutive terms. If a vacancy occurs during a member's term, the Governor shall appoint a person qualified under this chapter to replace that member for the remainder of the unexpired term.
<p>637B.110 Officers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board shall elect from its members a President, a Vice President and a Secretary-Treasurer. The officers of the Board hold their respective offices at its pleasure. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board shall receive through its Secretary-Treasurer applications for the licenses to be issued pursuant to this chapter. The Secretary-Treasurer is entitled to receive a salary. The Board shall determine the amount of the salary. <p>637B.120 Meetings; quorum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board shall meet at least annually and may meet at other times on the call of the President or a majority of its members. A majority of the Board constitutes a quorum to transact all business. 	<p>637B.130 Compensation of members and employees.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the Board is entitled to receive: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A salary of not more than \$150 per day, as fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Board shall elect from its members a Chair and Vice Chair. The officers of the Board hold their respective offices at its pleasure. The Board shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meet at least two times annually and may meet at other times on the call of the Chair or a majority of its members; Comply with the provisions of chapter 241 of NRS. A majority of the members of the Board constitutes a quorum. <p>The Board may establish a sub-committee on Hearing Aid Dispensing and adopt regulations for the administration of examinations, conduct of investigations and other matters relating to the practice of dispensing hearing aids.</p> <p>The sub-committee shall be comprised of members of the Board who are not speech language pathologists.</p>
<p>637A.090 Compensation of members and employees.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each member of the Board is entitled to receive a salary of not more than \$150 per day, as fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of the 	<p>637B.130 Compensation of members and employees.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the Board is entitled to receive: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A salary of not more than \$150 per day, as fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the Board is entitled to receive a salary of not more than \$150 per day, as fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of the Board; The Board may employ an Executive Director and any other employees it deems necessary,

EXAMPLE OF LANGUAGE FOR CONSOLIDATED BOARD STRUCTURE

<p>Board; and</p> <p>2. All necessary expenses incurred by the Board in the performance of its duties must be evidenced on claims signed by the Chair and Secretary and paid out of money received by the Board from fees. A per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.</p> <p>3. While engaged in the business of the Board, each member and employee of the Board is entitled to receive a per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.</p>	<p>the Board; and</p> <p>(b) A per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.</p> <p>2. While engaged in the business of the Board, each employee of the Board is entitled to receive a per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.</p>	<p>establish their duties and fix their salaries.</p> <p>3. While engaged in the business of the Board, each member and employee of the Board is entitled to receive a per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.</p> <p>4. The expenses of the Board and members of the Board, and the salaries of its employees, must be paid from the fees received by the Board pursuant to this chapter, and no part of those expenses and salaries may be paid out of the State General Fund.</p>
<p>637A.100 Duties The Board shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. 2. Adopt reasonable rules and regulations for its administration and government and for the administration of this chapter. 3. Administer and conduct comprehensive examinations of applicants, which must test the applicant's fitness to engage in the business of a hearing aid specialist. All examination papers must be kept by the Board for at least 1 year after the date of the examination. Examinations may be given at the discretion of the Board, but not less than twice each year. 	<p>NRS 637B.135 Subpoenas; oaths; seal. The Board may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and production of books and papers; 2. Administer oaths when taking testimony in any matter relating to the duties of the Board; and 3. Adopt a seal which must be judicially noticed by the courts of this State. <p>NRS 637B.140 Fiscal year. The Board shall operate on the basis of a fiscal year commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30.</p> <p>NRS 637B.150 Regulations. The Board may, from time to time, adopt regulations necessary to enable it to carry out the provisions of this chapter.</p>	<p>1. The Board shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Enforce the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto; (b) Prepare and maintain a record of its proceedings, including, without limitation, any administrative proceedings; (c) Evaluate the qualifications and determine the eligibility of an applicant for a license as an audiologist, speech pathologist or hearing aid specialist; and, upon payment of the appropriate fee, issue the appropriate license to a qualified applicant; (d) Adopt regulations establishing examination requirements for dispensing of hearing aids; (d) Adopt regulations establishing ethical conduct and standards of practice for persons licensed pursuant to this chapter and any other regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter; (e) Require a person licensed pursuant to this chapter to submit to the Board such documentation as the Board deems necessary to determine whether the licensee has obtained the education and skills necessary to practice audiology, speech pathology or as a hearing aid specialist; (f) Investigate any complaint filed with the Board
<p>637A.110 Powers In a manner consistent with the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, the Board may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint a technical, clerical and operational staff as may be required. The number of the staff appointed must be limited by the money available for that purpose in the hearing aid licensing fund. 2. Grant or refuse licenses for any of the causes specified in this chapter. 3. Take disciplinary action against a licensee. 		

EXAMPLE OF LANGUAGE FOR CONSOLIDATED BOARD STRUCTURE

<p>4. Take depositions and issue subpoenas for the purpose of any hearing authorized by this chapter.</p> <p>5. Establish reasonable educational requirements for applicants and apprentices and reasonable requirements for the continuing education of hearing aid specialists and apprentices.</p> <p>637A.120 Seal. The Board shall adopt and use an official seal. The presence of the seal on any document, record or order of the Board is prima facie evidence of the authenticity thereof.</p>	<p>against a licensee; and</p> <p>(g) Unless the Board determines that extenuating circumstances exist, forward to the appropriate law enforcement agency any substantiated information submitted to the Board concerning a person who practices or offers to practice audiology, speech pathology or as a hearing aid specialist without the appropriate license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.</p> <p>2. The Board may transact any other business necessary to enable the Board to carry out its duties pursuant to this chapter.</p>
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STATE OF NEVADA
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

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Loretta L. Ponton
Executive Director

EXHIBIT C

Summary of Substantive Changes in Proposed Bill

The Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology has not made substantive changes to its law; Chapter 637B of Nevada Revised Statutes since its inception in 1979. The substantive changes are summarized by interest area with reference to the applicable section of the proposed bill.

Speech Pathologists

1. Current law does not apply, exempts from licensure, individuals who are teachers licensed by the **Department of Education** under Chapter 391 of NRS. These individuals may hold a Bachelors' degree and may not have the educational level, testing and certification required to obtain a state Speech Pathologist license.

A new restricted license type "**Speech Therapist**" is created, requiring all individuals who hold a teaching license with a speech therapy credential from the Department of Education, to be licensed with the State Board. The license is restricted to practice in the educational system.

The purpose is to ensure that 1) all individuals providing speech therapy are licensed and subject to the same standards of practice, code of ethics and continuing education requirements; 2) students in the elementary and secondary education system are provided quality speech services; 3) educational institutions can retain the ability to hire speech therapists to meet their student population needs; and 4) safeguards are in place to ensure educational institutions can appropriately monitor and bill for services provided.

Revised: NRS 637B.080 Applicability

NEW: Restricted license defined; Speech Therapist defined; Restricted license, employment in educational system.

2. Current law does not apply, exempts from licensure, individuals who are employed as a Speech Pathologist by the **Department of Human Services**. Some individuals who are employed as a Speech Pathologist I in state service who are completing their post-graduate competency period (CFY) are not required to be licensed with the Board.

The proposed bill would eliminate this exemption from licensure; a Speech Pathologist I in state service would be eligible to apply for a "provisional license"; see below.

3. Current requirements for licensure as a Speech Pathologist require a master's degree and passage of the Speech Pathologist Praxis exam; there are no provisions or requirements for individuals in their clinical fellowship year (CFY); new graduates who have not completed a post-graduate competency period and experienced speech pathologists have the same license.

A new “**Provisional license**” type is created, requiring individuals who are not certified at time of application and individuals completing their post-graduate competency period (CFY) to be licensed. A provisional license can be converted to an active license upon documentation of completion of clinical competency.

Revised: NRS 637B.080 Applicability

NEW: Provisional License defined; Provisional License for Speech Pathologist

4. The definition of the “Practice of Speech Pathology” (Scope of Practice) has been updated to reflect the evolutionary changes in practice since 1979 and to more accurately reflect the scope delineated by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. New language includes the use of endoscopy by speech pathologists.

Revised: NRS 637B.060 Practice of speech pathology defined

NEW: Endoscopy defined; Use of endoscopy in speech pathology.

Audiologists

1. Current law does not include in the definition of “Practice of Audiology” (scope of practice) the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids; nor does it reflect the evolutionary changes in practice that have occurred since 1979. The definition has been updated to reflect those changes, including the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids, to more accurately reflect the scope delineated by the American Audiology Association and American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Due to the limited scope in current law, audiologists who dispense hearing aids must currently obtain dual licensure with the Nevada Board of Hearing Aid Specialists.

The proposed bill would create an endorsement for dispensing of hearing aids, with an examination, for audiologists. Testing would be required to receive the endorsement; an audiologist would be eligible for a temporary license to practice while pending a test date.

Audiologists who hold or held a hearing aid specialist license with the Nevada Board of Hearing Aid Specialists would receive the endorsement without examination. A hearing aid specialist license would no longer be required.

Revised: NRS 637B.050 Practice of audiology defined

NEW: Dispensing Audiologist defined; Endorsement for Dispensing of Hearing Aids, examination required

Audiology and Speech Pathology Practice

1. **Telepractice** – Proposed language has been added to specifically authorize the use of telepractice by licensed audiologists and speech language pathologists.

NEW: Telepractice defined; Use of telepractice in audiology and speech pathology services.

2. **Qualifications for License** – Proposed revisions to require graduate level degrees; certification by ASHA or ABA or equivalent clinical competency; and add a teaching license requirement for a speech therapist.

Revised: NRS 637B.160 Qualifications for license

3. **Foreign Educated** – Proposed language allows a waiver for individuals educated in a foreign country if equivalent education is documented from an approved foreign credentials evaluation agency.

NEW: Waiver for completion of foreign education

4. **License without Exam** – Updated language to reflect that ASHA certification is the only exemption to examination.

Revised: NRS 637B.200 Issuance of license without examination

5. **Temporary License** – new definition and revised language to add military spouse and dispensing audiologist as eligible and establish term and renewal of temporary license.

NEW: Temporary License defined

Revised: NRS 637B.200 Temporary license for person licensed in another state

6. **Renewal, Reinstatement and Inactive License** – Revised language to allow the Board through regulation to change the date of expiration, term of a license, late renewal of a license and to allow a licensee to request inactive status of a license.

7. **Fees** – Revises and expands the fees to be charged “not to exceed” the specified amounts. Additional fees include examination, conversion, endorsement and dual license fees. The new fees schedule could result in an increase in new license fees but is intended to maintain the current renewal fees for audiologists and speech pathologists; with reduced fees for an inactive license and a speech therapist license, the amounts to be determined by the Board.

Revised: NRS 637B.230 Fees

Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology

1. Board Name - The proposed language changes the name of the Board eliminating the term “Board of Examiners” to shorten the name and more accurately reflect the full scope of duties delineated in the Powers and Duties of the Board.

2. Powers and Duties – This section includes the authority to adopt regulations establishing ethical conduct and standards of practice and any other regulations necessary.

3. The other administrative sections have been retained, updated; revised or eliminated through incorporation into more appropriate sections.

Revised: NRS 637B.010 through NRS 637B.150

Disciplinary Actions and Unlawful Acts; Injunctive Relief; Penalties

No substantive revisions are proposed to these sections. Proposed revisions are updates and clarifications in language.

Revised: NRS 637B.250 through NRS 637B.320

Exhibit C - Current vs Proposed

Nevada Revised Statutes

Chapter 637B AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

<p>NRS 637B.010 Legislative declaration. The practice of audiology and the practice of speech pathology are hereby declared to be learned professions, affecting public safety and welfare and charged with the public interest, and are therefore subject to protection and regulation by the State.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1253)</p>	No changes
<p>NRS 637B.020 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 637B.030 to 637B.070, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1253)</p>	<p>Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 637B.030 to _____, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.</p>
<p>NRS 637B.030 “Audiologist” defined. “Audiologist” means any person who engages in the practice of audiology.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1253)</p>	No changes
<p>NRS 637B.040 “Board” defined. “Board” means the Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1253)</p>	<p>“Board” defined. “Board” means the Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology.</p>
<p>NRS 637B.050 “Practice of audiology” defined. “Practice of audiology” consists of holding out to the public, or rendering, services for the measurement, testing, appraisal, prediction, consultation, counseling, research or treatment of hearing and hearing impairment for the purpose of modifying disorders in communication involving speech, language and hearing.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1253)</p>	<p>“Practice of Audiology” defined. Practice of audiology means the application of principles, methods and procedures related to hearing, balance and the disorders of hearing and related language and speech disorders, including but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conservation of auditory system functions;2. Screening, identifying, assessing and interpreting, diagnosing, preventing and rehabilitating peripheral and central auditory and balance system disorders;3. Selecting, fitting, programming and dispensing of hearing aids, cochlear implants and other hearing assistive technologies and

	providing training in their use; 4. Providing vestibular and audiologic/auditory rehabilitation, cerumen management and counseling services; and 5. Conducting research of hearing and hearing impairment for the purpose of modifying disorders in communication involving speech, language and hearing.
NRS 637B.060 “Practice of speech pathology” defined. “Practice of speech pathology” consists of holding out to the public, or rendering, services for the measurement, testing, identification, prediction, treatment or modification of, or counseling or research concerning: 1. Normal and abnormal development of a person’s ability to communicate; 2. Disorders and problems concerning a person’s ability to communicate; 3. Deficiencies in a person’s sensory, perceptual, motor, cognitive and social skills necessary to enable the person to communicate; and 4. Sensorimotor functions of a person’s mouth, pharynx and larynx. (Added to NRS by 1979, 1253; A 1991, 171)	“Practice of speech pathology” defined. Practice of speech pathology means the application of principles, methods and procedures related to the development, disorders and effectiveness of human communication and related functions, including, but not limited to: 1. Prevention, screening, consultation, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, counseling, collaboration and referral services for disorders of speech, fluency, resonance voice language, feeding and swallowing; and cognitive aspects of communication; 2. Augmentative and alternative communication techniques and strategies; 3. Auditory training, speech reading, speech and language intervention secondary to hearing loss; 4. Screening individuals for hearing loss or middle ear pathology; 5. Observing and measuring parameters of communication and swallowing using non-medical videofluoroscopy, endoscopy and stroboscopy; 6. Selecting, fitting and establishing effective use of prosthetic/adaptive devices for communication, swallowing or other upper aerodigestive functions; and 7. Providing services to modify or enhance communication performance.
	NEW: Provisional License defined. Provisional license means a license issued to a speech pathologist while completing post graduate professional experience after a master’s degree in speech-pathology.
	NEW: Temporary License defined. Temporary license means a license issued to an audiologist or speech pathologist which is limited in duration.
	NEW: Restricted License defined. A restricted License means a license issued to an audiologist or speech therapist which is restricted to

	practice in the public educational system.
	NEW: Telepractice defined. Telepractice means the application of telecommunication technology to deliver audiology and speech pathology services at a distance for assessment, intervention and consultation. Telepractice includes the terms telehealth, telespeech, teleaudiology or telerehabilitation when used separately or together.
	NEW: Endoscopy defined. Endoscopy means an imaging procedure in which a speech pathologist uses a flexible/nasal endoscope, rigid/oral endoscopy, and/or stroboscopy for the purpose of evaluating and treating disorders of speech, voice, resonance, and swallowing functions.
	NEW: Dispensing Audiologist. Dispensing audiologist means an audiologist who is authorized to fit and dispense hearing aids.
	NEW: Speech Therapist defined. Speech therapist means an individual who holds a teaching license issued pursuant to Chapter 391 who does not meet the education and examination requirements for licensure as a speech pathologist. A speech therapist is restricted to employment in the public education system.
NRS 637B.070 “Speech pathologist” defined. “Speech pathologist” means any person who engages in the practice of speech pathology. (Added to NRS by 1979, 1253)	Speech Pathologist defined. “Speech pathologist” means an individual who has met the educational and examination requirements for licensure as a speech pathologist in this state and who engages in the practice of speech pathology.
NRS 637B.080 Applicability. The provisions of this chapter do not apply to: 1. Any physician or any person who is working with patients or clients under the direct, immediate supervision of a physician and for whom the physician is directly responsible. 2. Any hearing aid specialist who is licensed pursuant to chapter 637A of NRS and who is acting within the scope of the license. 3. Any person who: (a) Holds a current credential as an audiologist or a speech pathologist issued by the Department of Education; (b) Is employed as an audiologist or a speech pathologist by a federal agency or the Department of Health and Human Services; (c) Is a graduate student intern enrolled in a program or school approved by the Board and is pursuing a graduate degree in audiology or	Applicability. This chapter does not apply to a person: 1. Holding a current license issued pursuant to chapters, 630 to 637A, 640 to 641B, inclusive of NRS, who practices within the scope of that license. 2. Employed by the Federal Government who practices within the scope of that employment. 3. Enrolled in an educational program approved by the Board which is designed to lead to a degree in audiology or speech pathology if the person is designated by a title which clearly indicates that he or she is a student. 4. Holding a current certificate from the Council on the Education of the Deaf who does not engage in the private practice of audiology or of speech pathology in this State.

<p>speech pathology;</p> <p>(d) Is a registered nurse employed as a school nurse; or</p> <p>(e) Holds a current certificate from the Council on the Education of the Deaf as a teacher, and</p> <p>(f) Who does not engage in the private practice of audiology or of speech pathology in this State.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1253; A 1987, 1677; 2005, 632)</p>	
<p>NRS 637B.090 Use of title “certified hearing aid audiologist.”</p> <p>Nothing in this chapter prohibits the use of the title “certified hearing aid audiologist” by a person who has been so certified by the National Hearing Aid Society.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1254)</p>	Delete

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY

NEW: BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY

<p>637B.010 Legislative declaration. The practice of audiology and the practice of speech pathology are hereby declared to be learned professions, affecting public safety and welfare and charged with the public interest, and are therefore subject to protection and regulation by the State.</p>	No changes
<p>NRS 637B.100 Creation; number, appointment and qualifications of members; representative of general public not to participate in examination.</p> <p>1. The Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology, consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, is hereby created.</p> <p>2. The Governor shall appoint:</p> <p>(a) Two members who have been engaged in the practice of speech pathology for 2 years or more;</p> <p>(b) One member who has been engaged in the practice of audiology for 2 years or more;</p> <p>(c) One member who is a physician and who is certified by the Board of</p>	<p>Creation; qualifications, appointment and terms of members.</p> <p>1. The Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology consisting of five members appointed by the Governor is hereby created.</p> <p>2. The Governor shall appoint:</p> <p>(a) Two members who are speech pathologists;</p> <p>(b) One member who is an audiologist;</p> <p>(c) One member who is a physician certified by the Board of Medical Examiners as a specialist in otolaryngology, pediatrics or otology; and</p> <p>(e) One member who is a representative of the general public. This member must not be:</p> <p>(1) A speech pathologist or an audiologist; or</p>

<p>Medical Examiners as a specialist in otolaryngology, pediatrics or neurology; and</p> <p>(d) One member who is a representative of the general public. This member must not be:</p> <p>(1) A speech pathologist or an audiologist; or</p> <p>(2) The spouse or the parent or child, by blood, marriage or adoption, of a speech pathologist or an audiologist.</p> <p>3. Members of the Board who are speech pathologists and audiologists must be representative of the university, public school, hospital or private aspects of the practice of audiology and of speech pathology.</p> <p>4. Each member of the Board who is a speech pathologist or audiologist must hold a current license issued pursuant to this chapter or a current certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.</p> <p>5. The member who is a representative of the general public may not participate in preparing, conducting or grading any examination required by the Board.</p>	<p>(2) The spouse or the parent or child, by blood, marriage or adoption, of a speech pathologist or audiologist.</p> <p>3. Members of the Board who are speech pathologists and audiologists must represent university, public school, hospital or private aspects of the practice of audiology and of speech pathology.</p> <p>4. Each member of the Board must be a resident of Nevada.</p> <p>5. An audiologist or speech pathologist appointed to the Board must:</p> <p>(a) Have practiced, taught or conducted research in audiology or speech pathology for the 5 years immediately preceding the appointment; and</p> <p>(b) Hold a current license issued pursuant to this chapter.</p> <p>8. The members of the Board shall serve staggered terms of 3 years each.</p> <p>9. No member of the Board may serve more than two consecutive terms.</p> <p>10. If a vacancy occurs during a member's term, the Governor shall appoint a person qualified under this chapter to replace that member for the remainder of the unexpired term.</p>
<p>637B.110 Officers.</p> <p>1. The Board shall elect from its members a President, a Vice President and a Secretary-Treasurer. The officers of the Board hold their respective offices at its pleasure.</p> <p>2. The Board shall receive through its Secretary-Treasurer applications for the licenses to be issued pursuant to this chapter.</p> <p>3. The Secretary-Treasurer is entitled to receive a salary. The Board shall determine the amount of the salary.</p>	<p>Officers, meetings, quorum.</p> <p>1. The Board shall elect from its members a Chair and Vice Chair. The officers of the Board hold their respective offices at its pleasure.</p> <p>2. The Board shall:</p> <p>(a) Meet at least two times annually and may meet at other times on the call of the Chair or a majority of its members;</p> <p>(b) Comply with the provisions of chapter 241 of NRS.</p> <p>3. A majority of the members of the Board constitutes a quorum.</p>
<p>637B.120 Meetings; quorum</p> <p>1. The Board shall meet at least annually and may meet at other times on the call of the President or a majority of its members.</p> <p>2. A majority of the Board constitutes a quorum to transact all business.</p>	<p>Incorporated above</p>
<p>637B.130 Compensation of members and employees.</p> <p>1. A member of the Board is entitled to receive:</p>	<p>Compensation of members, authority regarding employees; payment of expenses and salaries.</p>

<p>(a) A salary of not more than \$150 per day, as fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of the Board; and</p> <p>(b) A per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.</p> <p>2. While engaged in the business of the Board, each employee of the Board is entitled to receive a per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.</p>	<p>1. A member of the Board is entitled to receive a salary of not more than \$150 per day, as fixed by the Board, while engaged in the business of the Board;.</p> <p>2. The Board may employ an Executive Director and any other employees it deems necessary, establish their duties and their salaries.</p> <p>3. While engaged in the business of the Board, each member and employee of the Board is entitled to receive a per diem allowance and travel expenses at a rate fixed by the Board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for state officers and employees generally.</p> <p>4. The expenses of the Board and members of the Board, and the salaries of its employees, must be paid from the fees received by the Board pursuant to this chapter, and no part of those expenses and salaries may be paid out of the State General Fund.</p>
<p>NRS 637B.135 Subpoenas; oaths; seal. The Board may:</p> <p>1. Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and production of books and papers;</p> <p>2. Administer oaths when taking testimony in any matter relating to the duties of the Board; and</p> <p>3. Adopt a seal which must be judicially noticed by the courts of this State.</p>	<p>Powers and Duties</p> <p>1. The Board shall:</p> <p>(a) Enforce the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto;</p> <p>(b) Prepare and maintain a record of its proceedings, including, without limitation, any administrative proceedings;</p> <p>(c) Evaluate the qualifications and determine the eligibility of an applicant for a license as an audiologist or a speech pathologist and, upon payment of the appropriate fee, issue the appropriate license to a qualified applicant;</p> <p>(d) Adopt regulations establishing ethical conduct and standards of practice for persons licensed pursuant to this chapter and any other regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;</p> <p>(e) Require a person licensed pursuant to this chapter to submit to the Board such documentation as the Board deems necessary to determine whether the licensee has obtained the education and skills necessary to practice audiology, or speech pathology;</p> <p>(f) Investigate any complaint filed with the Board against a licensee;</p> <p>(g) Hold hearings and make determinations for disciplinary action for violations of NRS 637B and NAC 637B; and</p> <p>(f) Unless the Board determines that extenuating circumstances exist, forward to the appropriate law enforcement agency any substantiated information submitted to the Board concerning a person who practices or</p>

	offers to practice audiology or speech pathology without the appropriate license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.
NRS 637B.140 Fiscal year. The Board shall operate on the basis of a fiscal year commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30.	No Change
NRS 637B.150 Regulations. The Board may, from time to time, adopt regulations necessary to enable it to carry out the provisions of this chapter.	Delete /incorporated into powers and duties

LICENSING

Current NRS 637B

Proposed Language

NRS 637B.160 Qualifications of applicants.

1. An applicant for a license to engage in the practice of audiology or speech pathology must be issued a license by the Board if the applicant:

- (a) Is over the age of 21 years;
- (b) Is a citizen of the United States, or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
- (c) Is of good moral character;
- (d) Meets the requirements for education or training and experience provided by subsection 2;
- (e) Has completed at least 300 clock hours of supervised clinical experience in audiology or speech pathology, or both;
- (f) Applies for the license in the manner provided by the Board;
- (g) Passes any examination required by this chapter;
- (h) Pays the fees provided for in this chapter; and
- (i) Submits all information required to complete an application for a license.

2. An applicant must possess a master's degree in audiology or in speech pathology from an accredited educational institution or possess equivalent training and experience. If an applicant seeks to qualify on the basis of equivalent training and experience, the applicant must submit to the Board satisfactory evidence that he or she has obtained at least 60 semester credits, or equivalent quarter credits, in courses related to the normal development, function and use of speech and language or hearing, including, but not limited to, the management of disorders of speech or hearing and the legal, professional and ethical practices of audiology or speech pathology. At least 24 of the 60 credits, excluding any credits obtained for a thesis or dissertation, must have been obtained for courses directly relating to audiology or speech pathology.

Qualifications for license.

1. To be eligible for licensing by the Board, an applicant must:
 - (a) Be a natural person of good moral character;
 - (b) Pass an examination approved by the Board;
 - (c) Submit all information required to complete an application for licensure;
 - (d) Pay the fees provided for in this chapter.
2. An applicant for licensure as a speech pathologist or audiologist must:
 - (a) Except as otherwise provided in NRS __ (foreign educated)__, have satisfied the academic requirements of an educational program accredited by the accrediting agency of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, or successor organization, as approved by the Board. [** Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology – graduate level only](#)
 - (b) Except as otherwise provided in NRS _ (provisional license), have:
 - (i) Current certification of clinical competence from the American Speech Language Hearing Association, or successor organization; or
 - (ii) Equivalent clinical competence as determined by the Board; or
 - (iii) If an audiologist, current certification by the American Board of Audiology;
3. An applicant for licensure as a speech therapist must:
 - (a) Hold a license pursuant to Chapter 391 of NRS with an endorsement for teaching pupils who have speech and language impairments.

	<p>NEW: Waiver for completion of foreign education. The Board may waive the educational degree requirements of __ (2. Above) __ for an applicant who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Received an education in audiology or speech pathology from a foreign school; 2. Provides proof of a determination of substantially equivalent educational requirements from an approved foreign credentials evaluation agency.
<p>NRS 637B.166 Payment of child support: Submission of certain information by applicant; grounds for denial of license; duty of Board. [Effective until the date of the repeal of 42 U.S.C. § 666, the federal law requiring each state to establish procedures for withholding, suspending and restricting the professional, occupational and recreational licenses for child support arrearages and for noncompliance with certain processes relating to paternity or child support proceedings.]</p>	No changes
<p>NRS 637B.170 Examinations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examinations for licensing must be given at least once a year at the time and place fixed by the Board. 2. The examination must be fair and impartial, practical in character, and the questions must be designed to discover the applicant's fitness. 3. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 622.090, the Board shall determine what constitutes a passing grade, except that in making that determination, the Board shall act fairly and impartially. <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1255; A 2007, 2951)</p>	Delete
<p>NRS 637B.190 Issuance of license without examination. The Board may issue a license without examination to a person who holds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A current license to practice audiology or speech pathology in a state whose licensing requirements at the time the license was issued are deemed by the Board to be substantially equivalent to those provided by this chapter; or 2. A certificate of clinical competence issued by the American Speech and Hearing Association in the field of practice for which the 	<p>Issuance of license without examination. The Board may issue a license without examination to a person who holds a current certificate of clinical competence issued by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association in the field of practice for which the person is applying for a license.</p>

<p>person is applying for a license. (Added to NRS by 1979, 1255; A 1983, 197)</p>	
<p>NRS 637B.200 Temporary license for person licensed in another state.</p> <p>1. The Board shall issue a temporary license to practice audiology or speech pathology, upon application and the payment of the required fee, to any person who is so licensed in another state and who meets all the qualifications for licensing in this State other than passing the examination.</p> <p>2. A temporary license issued pursuant to this section is valid until the Board publishes the results of the examination next administered after the license is issued. (Added to NRS by 1979, 1256)</p>	<p>Temporary license for person licensed in another state.</p> <p>1. The Board may issue a temporary license to practice audiology or speech pathology, upon application and the payment of the required fee, to a person who:</p> <p>(a) Is so licensed in another state and meets all the qualifications for licensing in this State; or</p> <p>(b) Is a military spouse who requests expedited license processing; or</p> <p>(c) Is a dispensing audiologist who meets all the qualifications for licensing in this State other than passing the examination for the dispensing of hearing aids.</p> <p>2. A temporary license issued pursuant to this section is valid for not more than six (6) months.</p> <p>3. A temporary license may be renewed not more than one time.</p>
	<p>NEW: Restricted license, employment in educational system. The Board may issue a restricted license to an individual, upon application and payment of the required fee, for an individual who:</p> <p>1. Is employed as an audiologist or speech therapist in the public elementary or secondary education system; and</p> <p>2. Does not engage in the private practice of audiology or speech pathology in this State.</p>
	<p>NEW: Provisional license for Speech Pathologist. The Board may issue a provisional license to a speech pathologist, upon application and payment of the required fee, who:</p> <p>1. Is completing the clinical fellowship requirements for certification by the American Speech-Language Hearing association; or</p> <p>2. Is completing equivalent clinical competency requirements approved by the Board.</p> <p>3. A provisional license issued pursuant to this section is eligible for renewal for not more than two (2) renewal periods.</p> <p>4. A provisional license may be converted to an active license upon :</p> <p>(a) certification by the America Speech-Language Hearing Association, or</p> <p>(b) Satisfactory completion of equivalent clinical competency as</p>

<p>NRS 637B.210 Expiration, renewal and reinstatement of licenses; fees; required statement.</p> <p>1. All licenses issued pursuant to this chapter, except a temporary license, expire on December 31 of each year.</p> <p>2. Each holder of a license to practice audiology or speech pathology, except a temporary license, who meets the requirements for continuing education prescribed by the Board may renew the license before its expiration upon payment of the fee for annual renewal of a license and submission of all information required to complete the annual renewal of a license.</p> <p>3. If a licensee fails to pay the fee or submit all required information for annual renewal of a license before its expiration, the license may be renewed only upon the payment of the reinstatement fee in addition to the renewal fee. A license may be renewed pursuant to this subsection only if all fees are paid and all required information is submitted within 3 years after the license has expired.</p> <p>4. A licensee who wishes to have a license reinstated must prove to the satisfaction of the Board that the licensee has met the requirements for continuing education prescribed by the Board for the period during which the license was expired.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1256; A 1983, 197; 1991, 171; 1997, 2144; 2005, 2743, 2807)</p>	<p>approved by the Board.</p> <p>Expiration, renewal, reinstatement of licenses; placement of license on inactive status: regulations.</p> <p>1. The Board shall adopt regulations prescribing the period for which a license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is valid. Except as otherwise provided in NRS <u> </u>(temporary license)_ the period must be not less than 1 year.</p> <p>2. The Board may adopt regulations prescribing the manner in which a license issued pursuant to this chapter must be renewed, which may include requirements for continuing education.</p> <p>3. The Board may adopt regulations providing for the late renewal of a license and the reinstatement of an expired license, except the Board may not renew or reinstate a license if 3 years has passed since its expiration.</p> <p>4. The Board may, at the request of a person licensed pursuant to this chapter, place the license on inactive status if the person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Does not practice audiology or speech pathology, or represent that the person is authorized to practice audiology or speech pathology, in this State; and (b) Satisfies any requirements for continuing education established by the Board.
<p>NRS 637B.220 Standards for ethical conduct; continuing education as prerequisite to license renewal. The Board may adopt regulations setting standards for ethical conduct and requiring continuing education as a prerequisite for the renewal of any license issued under this chapter. Any regulations adopted by the Board under this section shall establish standards which make reasonably current knowledge the basis for a high standard of practice by audiologists and speech pathologists in this State.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1256)</p>	<p>Incorporated elsewhere – powers and duties and renewal</p>

	<p>NEW: Endorsement for Dispensing of Hearing Aids, examination required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person who meets the requirements for licensure as an audiologist who also fits and dispenses hearing aids must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Request endorsement for dispensing of hearing aids; and (b) Pass an examination approved by the Board for the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids. 2. The Board may adopt regulations providing for the practice of fitting and dispensing of hearing aids. 3. An audiologist who holds a current license with the Nevada Board of Hearing Aid Specialists as of July 1, 2015, shall receive endorsement for the dispensing of hearing aids without examination.
	<p>NEW: Use of telepractice in audiology and speech pathology services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A licensed audiologist or speech pathologist may provide services via telepractice. 2. An audiologist or speech pathologist who provides services via telepractice must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hold a license to practice in this state; (b) hold an unrestricted license in good standing to practice in the state from which the audiologist or speech pathologist provides telepractice services; (c) be knowledgeable and competent in the technologies utilized in the provision of telepractice services; (d) ensure services are appropriate for delivery by telepractice; (e) provide services equivalent to services delivered face-to-face; (f) document services provided by telepractice in the clients' record; and (g) comply with all laws, rules and regulations governing the maintenance of client records, including client confidentiality requirements, regardless of the state where the records of any client are maintained.

	<p>NEW: Use of endoscopy in speech pathology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A licensed speech pathologist may perform assessment, treatment, and procedures related to speech, voice, resonance, and swallowing function using nonmedical endoscopy. 2. A licensed speech pathologist shall not perform an endoscopic procedure unless he or she has received training and is competent to perform these procedures. 3. A licensed speech pathologist must have protocols in place for emergency medical backup when performing procedures using an endoscope. 																										
<p>NRS 637B.230 Fees.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board shall charge and collect only the following fees whose amounts must be determined by the Board, but may not exceed: <table> <tr> <td>Application fee for a license to practice speech pathology....</td><td>\$100</td></tr> <tr> <td>Application fee for a license to practice audiology.....</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr> <td>Annual fee for the renewal of a license.....</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reinstatement fee.....</td><td>75</td></tr> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. All fees are payable in advance and may not be refunded. (Added to NRS by 1979, 1256; A 1983, 198; 1991, 172) 	Application fee for a license to practice speech pathology....	\$100	Application fee for a license to practice audiology.....	100	Annual fee for the renewal of a license.....	50	Reinstatement fee.....	75	<p>Fees.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board may establish reasonable fees which amounts must be determined by the Board, but may not exceed: <table> <tr> <td>Application Fee</td><td>\$ 100</td></tr> <tr> <td>License Fee.....</td><td>\$ 150</td></tr> <tr> <td>Renewal Fee.....</td><td>\$ 100</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reinstatement Fee.....</td><td>\$ 100</td></tr> <tr> <td>Examination Fee.....</td><td>\$ 200</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">General Processing Fees</td></tr> <tr> <td>License Conversion</td><td>\$ 50</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dispensing Audiologist Endorsement.....</td><td>\$ 50</td></tr> <tr> <td>.....Dual License Fee</td><td>\$ 50</td></tr> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. All fees are payable in advance and may not be refunded. 	Application Fee	\$ 100	License Fee.....	\$ 150	Renewal Fee.....	\$ 100	Reinstatement Fee.....	\$ 100	Examination Fee.....	\$ 200	General Processing Fees		License Conversion	\$ 50	Dispensing Audiologist Endorsement.....	\$ 50Dual License Fee	\$ 50
Application fee for a license to practice speech pathology....	\$100																										
Application fee for a license to practice audiology.....	100																										
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General Processing Fees																											
License Conversion	\$ 50																										
Dispensing Audiologist Endorsement.....	\$ 50																										
.....Dual License Fee	\$ 50																										
<p>NRS 637B.240 Deposit and use of fees; delegation of authority to take disciplinary action; deposit of fines imposed by Board; claims for attorney's fees and costs of investigation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All fees collected under the provisions of this chapter must be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board to be used to defray the necessary expenses of the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer shall deposit the fees in qualified banks, credit unions or savings and loan associations in this State. 2. In a manner consistent with the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, the Board may delegate to a hearing officer or panel its authority to take any disciplinary action pursuant to this chapter, impose and collect 	<p>Deposit and use of fees. All fees collected under the provisions of this chapter must be used to defray the necessary expenses of the Board. The Board shall deposit the fees in qualified banks, credit unions or savings and loan associations in this State.</p>																										

civil penalties therefor and deposit the money therefrom in banks, credit unions or savings and loan associations in this State.

3. If a hearing officer or panel is not authorized to take disciplinary action pursuant to subsection 2 and the Board deposits the money collected from the imposition of civil penalties with the State Treasurer for credit to the State General Fund, it may present a claim to the State Board of Examiners for recommendation to the Interim Finance Committee if money is needed to pay attorney's fees or the costs of an investigation, or both.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 1254; A 1983, 1540; [1999, 1534](#); [2005, 775](#))

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Current NRS 637B

NRS 637B.250 Grounds. The grounds for initiating disciplinary action pursuant to this chapter are:

1. Unprofessional conduct.
2. Conviction of:

(a) A violation of any federal or state law regarding the possession, distribution or use of any controlled substance or any dangerous drug as defined in [chapter 454](#) of NRS;

(b) A felony relating to the practice of audiology or speech pathology;

(c) A violation of any of the provisions of [NRS 616D.200, 616D.220, 616D.240](#) or [616D.300](#) to [616D.440](#), inclusive; or

(d) Any offense involving moral turpitude.

3. Suspension or revocation of a license to practice audiology or speech pathology by any other jurisdiction.

4. Gross or repeated malpractice, which may be evidenced by claims of malpractice settled against a practitioner.

5. Professional incompetence.

6. Operation of a medical facility, as defined in [NRS 449.0151](#), at

Proposed Language

Grounds; orders imposing discipline deemed public records.

The grounds for initiating disciplinary action pursuant to this chapter are:

1. Unprofessional conduct.

2. The conviction of:

(a) A felony or gross misdemeanor relating to the practice of audiology or speech pathology;

(b) A violation of any federal or state law regarding the possession, distribution or use of any controlled substance or any dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS;

(c) A violation of any of the provisions of [NRS 616D.200, 616D.220, 616D.240](#) or [616D.300](#) to [616D.440](#), inclusive; or

(d) Any offense involving moral turpitude.

3. Gross or repeated malpractice, which may be evidenced by claims of malpractice settled against a practitioner;

4. Professional incompetence or

5. Operation of a medical facility, as defined in [NRS 449.0151](#), at any time during which:

(1) The license of the facility is suspended or revoked; or

<p>any time during which:</p> <p>(a) The license of the facility is suspended or revoked; or</p> <p>(b) An act or omission occurs which results in the suspension or revocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This subsection applies to an owner or other principal responsible for the operation of the facility.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1256; A 1981, 597; 1987, 1565; 1993, 792; 2003, 2712; 2009, 893; 2011, 856)</p>	<p>(2) An act or omission occurs which results in the suspension or revocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.</p> <p>This subsection applies to an owner or other principal responsible for the operation of the facility.</p> <p>6. As used in this section, “unprofessional conduct” includes</p> <p>(a) The obtaining of a license by fraud or through the misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact;</p> <p>(b) A violation of any provision of this chapter or regulation of the Board adopted pursuant to this chapter;</p> <p>(c) Suspension or revocation of a license to practice audiology or speech pathology by any other jurisdiction.</p>
<p>NRS 637B.255 Suspension of license for failure to pay child support or comply with certain subpoenas or warrants; reinstatement of license. [Effective until 2 years after the date of the repeal of 42 U.S.C. § 666, the federal law requiring each state to establish procedures for withholding, suspending and restricting the professional, occupational and recreational licenses for child support arrearages and for noncompliance with certain processes relating to paternity or child support proceedings.]</p>	<p>No Changes</p>
<p>NRS 637B.260 Complaint against applicant or licensee; retention of complaints.</p> <p>1. A complaint may be made against any applicant for a license or any licensee charging one or more of the grounds for disciplinary action with such particularity as to enable the defendant to prepare a defense.</p> <p>2. The complaint must be in writing and may be filed anonymously. If a complaint is filed anonymously, the Board may accept the complaint but may refuse to consider the complaint if anonymity of the complainant makes processing the complaint impossible or unfair to the person who is the subject of the complaint.</p> <p>3. The Board shall retain all complaints made pursuant to this section for at least 10 years, including, without limitation, any complaints not acted upon.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1256; A 2009, 894; 2013, 2235)</p>	<p>No Changes</p>

<p>NRS 637B.270 Commencement of disciplinary proceedings required for certain violations of Industrial Insurance Act. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, if the Board receives a report pursuant to subsection 5 of NRS 228.420, a disciplinary proceeding regarding the report must be commenced within 30 days after the Board receives the report.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1257; A 1993, 793; 2005, 776)</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>NRS 637B.280 Authorized disciplinary action; private reprimands prohibited; orders imposing discipline deemed public records.</p> <p>1. If, after notice and a hearing as required by law, the Board determines that the applicant or licensee has committed any act which constitutes grounds for disciplinary action, the Board may, in the case of the applicant, refuse to issue a license, and in all other cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Refuse to renew a license; (b) Revoke a license; (c) Suspend a license for a definite time, not to exceed 1 year; (d) Administer to the licensee a public reprimand; or (e) Impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000. <p>2. The Board shall not administer a private reprimand.</p> <p>3. An order that imposes discipline and the findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting that order are public records.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1257; A 2003, 3453; 2005, 776)</p>	<p>Authorized disciplinary action; private reprimands prohibited; orders imposing discipline deemed public records.</p> <p>1. If the Board determines that the holder of or applicant for the license is has committed any act which constitutes grounds for disciplinary action, the Board may, after notice and a hearing as required by law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Refuse to issue a license; (b) Refuse to renew a license; (c) Suspend a license; (d) Revoke a license; (e) Administer to the licensee a public reprimand; (f) Impose conditions upon the use of that license; (g) Impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000; or (h) Impose any combination of disciplinary actions. <p>2. The Board shall not administer a private reprimand.</p> <p>3. An order that imposes discipline and the findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting that order are public records.</p>
<p>NRS 637B.288 Confidentiality of certain records of Board; exceptions.</p> <p>1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NRS 239.0115, a complaint filed with the Board, all documents and other information filed with the complaint and all documents and other information compiled as a result of an investigation conducted to determine whether to initiate disciplinary action against a person are confidential, unless the person submits a written statement to the Board requesting that such documents and information be made public records.</p> <p>2. The charging documents filed with the Board to initiate</p>	<p>No changes</p>

disciplinary action pursuant to [chapter 622A](#) of NRS and all documents and information considered by the Board when determining whether to impose discipline are public records.

3. The Board shall, to the extent feasible, communicate or cooperate with or provide any documents or other information to any other licensing board or any other agency that is investigating a person, including, without limitation, a law enforcement agency.

(Added to NRS by [2003, 3452](#); A [2005, 776](#); [2007, 2140](#); [2013, 2235](#))

UNLAWFUL ACTS; INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; PENALTIES

Current NRS 637B

Proposed Language

NRS 637B.290 Practice of audiology or speech pathology without license: Penalties.

1. A person shall not engage in the practice of audiology or speech pathology in this State without holding a valid license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

2. In addition to any other penalty prescribed by law, if the Board determines that a person has engaged in the practice of audiology or speech pathology in this State without holding a valid license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, the Board may:

(a) Issue and serve on the person an order to cease and desist until the person obtains from the Board the proper license or otherwise demonstrates that he or she is no longer in violation of subsection 1. An order to cease and desist must include a telephone number with which the person may contact the Board.

(b) Issue a citation to the person. A citation issued pursuant to this paragraph must be in writing, describe with particularity the nature of the violation and inform the person of the provisions of this paragraph. Each activity in which the person is engaged constitutes a separate offense for which a separate citation may be issued. To appeal a citation, the person

No changes

<p>must submit a written request for a hearing to the Board not later than 30 days after the date of issuance of the citation.</p> <p>(c) Assess against the person an administrative fine of not more than \$5,000.</p> <p>(d) Impose any combination of the penalties set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1257; A 1985, 348; 1987, 1678; 2013, 2236)</p>	
<p>NRS 637B.291 Practice of audiology or speech pathology without license: Reporting requirements of Board. Unless the Board determines that extenuating circumstances exist, the Board shall forward to the appropriate law enforcement agency any substantiated information submitted to the Board concerning a person who practices or offers to practice audiology or speech pathology without the appropriate license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 2013, 2235)</p>	No changes
<p>NRS 637B.295 Inspection of premises by Board. A member or any agent of the Board may enter any premises in this State where a person who holds a license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter practices audiology or speech pathology and inspect it to determine whether a violation of any provision of this chapter has occurred, including, without limitation, an inspection to determine whether any person at the premises is practicing audiology or speech pathology without the appropriate license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 2013, 2235)</p>	No changes
<p>NRS 637B.300 Prescribing or administering drugs or piercing or severing body tissue. An audiologist or speech pathologist who is not also a physician shall not prescribe or administer drugs or pierce or sever any body tissue.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1257)</p>	delete

<p>NRS 637B.310 Injunctive relief against person practicing without license.</p> <p>1. The Board through its President or Secretary-Treasurer may maintain in any court of competent jurisdiction a suit for an injunction against any person practicing audiology or speech pathology without a license valid under this chapter.</p> <p>2. Such an injunction:</p> <p>(a) May be issued without proof of actual damage sustained by any person, this provision being a preventive as well as a punitive measure.</p> <p>(b) Shall not relieve such person from criminal prosecution for practicing without a license.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1257)</p>	<p>Injunctive relief against person practicing without license.</p> <p>1. The Board through its Chair or Executive Director may maintain in any court of competent jurisdiction a suit for an injunction against any person practicing audiology or speech pathology without a license valid under this chapter.</p> <p>2. Such an injunction:</p> <p>(a) May be issued without proof of actual damage sustained by any person, this provision being a preventive as well as a punitive measure.</p> <p>(b) Shall not relieve such person from criminal prosecution for practicing without a license.</p>
<p>NRS 637B.320 Penalty. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.</p> <p>(Added to NRS by 1979, 1257)</p>	<p>No change</p>

**State of Nevada
Board of Examiners for
Audiology and Speech Pathology
Fiscal Year 2014**

BUDGET		2014
Revenue		
Application Fees	\$	46,250.00
License Fees	\$	42,000.00
Misc. / List Fees	\$	1,500.00
Interest Income	\$	100.00
Total Revenue	\$	89,850.00
Operating Expense		
Executive Director Services	\$	36,000.00
Administrative Support	\$	5,000.00
Board Compensation	\$	1,200.00
Office Space	\$	5,000.00
Legal Fees	\$	6,500.00
Audit Fees	\$	8,000.00
Bank Fees / Merchant Services	\$	1,310.00
Insurance	\$	750.00
Meeting Expense	\$	540.00
Office Supplies / Records Storage	\$	1,200.00
Postage	\$	1,400.00
Printing and Reproduction	\$	200.00
Professional Fees - Bookkeeping	\$	1,400.00
IT Technical Support/Website/Internet Svs	\$	2,550.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$	400.00
Telephone	\$	1,000.00
Travel - Out of State	\$	4,500.00
Travel - In State	\$	1,500.00
Licensing Program Cost	\$	11,400.00
Equipment Purchase	\$	-
Total Expense	\$	89,850.00
Revenue Over / Under Expense	\$	-

BEASP

Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2013 through December 2013

	Annual Budget	Actuals July 13 - Dec 13	Remaining Balance	% of Budget Spent
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Fees	46,250.00	40,800.00	5,450.00	88.22%
License Fees	42,000.00	23,252.10	18,747.90	55.36%
List Fee	1,500.00	651.01	848.99	43.40%
Interest	100.00	24.59	75.41	24.59%
Total Income	89,850.00	64,727.70	25,122.30	72.04%
Expense				
Administrative Support	5,000.00	2,285.10	2,714.90	45.70%
Attorney General / Legal Fees	6,500.00	5,447.17	1,052.83	83.80%
Audit Fees	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Bank Service Charges	1,310.00	937.74	372.26	71.58%
Board Compensation	1,200.00	660.00	540.00	55.00%
Dues	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00%
Executive Director	36,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	50.00%
Insurance	750.00	601.90	148.10	80.25%
Licensing Program Subscription	11,400.00	5,582.52	5,817.48	48.97%
Meeting Expenses	540.00	75.00	465.00	13.89%
Office Lease	5,000.00	2,469.30	2,530.70	49.39%
Office Supplies	1,200.00	287.95	912.05	24.00%
Postage	1,400.00	347.31	1,052.69	24.81%
Printing	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%
Professional Fees				
Accounting	1,400.00	700.00	700.00	50.00%
IT / Technical Support	2,550.00	359.50	2,190.50	14.10%
Other	0.00	500.00	-500.00	100.00%
Total Professional Fees	3,950.00	1,559.50	2,390.50	39.48%
Telephone	1,000.00	315.05	684.95	31.51%
Travel				
In-state Travel	1,500.00	677.64	822.36	45.18%
Out of State Travel	4,500.00	5,003.03	-503.03	111.18%
Total Travel	6,000.00	5,680.67	319.33	94.68%
Total Expense	89,850.00	52,249.21	37,600.79	58.15%
Net Ordinary Income	0.00	12,478.49	-12,478.49	100.00%
Net Income	0.00	12,478.49	-12,478.49	100.00%

BEASP

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2013

Dec 31, 13

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Wells Fargo Bank - Checking 109,594.46

Wells Fargo Bank - Savings 162,611.54

Total Checking/Savings 272,206.00

Total Current Assets 272,206.00

Other Current Assets

Prepaid Expenses 2,791.26

Total Other Current Assets 2,791.26

Fixed Assets

Capital Assets 2,167.50

Total Fixed Assets 2,167.50

TOTAL ASSETS 277,164.76

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable 0.00

Total Accounts Payable 0.00

Other Current Liabilities

Deferred Revenue 36,900.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 36,900.00

Total Current Liabilities 36,900.00

Total Liabilities 36,900.00

Equity

Invested in Capital Assets 2,167.50

Retained Earnings 225,618.77

Net Income 12,478.49

Total Equity 240,264.76

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 277,164.76

BEASP

Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual

July 2012 through June 2013

	Annual Budget	Actuals July 12 - June 13	Remaining Balance	% of Budget Spent
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Fees	8,000.00	13,929.00	-5,929.00	174.11%
License Fees	40,500.00	39,568.90	931.10	97.70%
List Fee	1,500.00	962.00	538.00	64.13%
Interest	50.00	81.09	-31.09	162.18%
Total Income	50,050.00	54,540.99	-4,490.99	108.97%
Expense				
Administrative Support	3,900.00	3,408.35	491.65	87.39%
Attorney General / Legal Fees	9,000.00	6,243.76	2,756.24	69.38%
Bank Service Charges	0.00	381.56	-381.56	100.00%
Board Compensation	1,000.00	1,440.00	-440.00	144.00%
Dues	500.00	400.00	100.00	80.00%
Executive Director	36,000.00	39,600.00	-3,600.00	110.00%
Insurance	750.00	643.95	106.05	85.86%
Licensing Program Cost	20,325.00	20,325.00	0.00	100.00%
Licensing Program Subscription	5,640.00	5,582.52	57.48	98.98%
Meeting Expenses	500.00	246.51	253.49	49.30%
Office Lease	4,500.00	4,569.30	-69.30	101.54%
Office Supplies	1,100.00	712.10	387.90	64.74%
Postage	1,500.00	1,368.71	131.29	91.25%
Printing	350.00	179.37	170.63	51.25%
Professional Fees				
Accounting	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00	100.00%
IT / Technical Support	1,400.00	1,629.50	-229.50	116.39%
Total Professional Fees	2,800.00	3,029.50	-229.50	108.20%
Telephone	1,000.00	830.98	169.02	83.10%
Travel				
In-state Travel	1,500.00	549.93	950.07	36.66%
Out of State Travel	8,000.00	3,661.69	4,338.31	45.77%
Total Travel	9,500.00	4,211.62	5,288.38	44.33%
Total Expense	98,365.00	93,173.23	5,191.77	94.72%
Net Ordinary Income	-48,315.00	-38,632.24	-9,682.76	79.96%
Net Income	-48,315.00	-38,632.24	-9,682.76	79.96%

BEASP

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2013

	<u>June 30, 12</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Wells Fargo Bank - Checking	85,272.05
Wells Fargo Bank - Savings	162,586.95
Total Checking/Savings	<u>247,859.00</u>
Total Current Assets	247,859.00
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>0.00</u>
Fixed Assets	
Capital Assets	<u>2,167.50</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>2,167.50</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>250,026.50</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	<u>1,088.13</u>
Total Accounts Payable	1,088.13
Other Current Liabilities	
Deferred Revenue	<u>21,152.10</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>21,152.10</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>22,240.23</u>
Total Liabilities	22,240.23
Equity	
Invested in Capital Assets	2,167.50
Retained Earnings	264,251.01
Net Income	<u>-38,632.24</u>
Total Equity	<u>227,786.27</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>250,026.50</u></u>

State of Nevada
Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech
Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2011 through June 2012

	Annual Budget	Actuals July 11 - June 12	Remaining Balance	% of Budget Spent
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Fees	8,000.00	12,200.00	-4,200.00	153%
License Fees	34,875.00	38,150.00	-3,275.00	109%
List Fee	700.00	960.00	-260.00	137%
Total Income	43,575.00	51,310.00	-7,735.00	118%
Expense				
Administrative Support	3,600.00	3,114.75	485.25	87%
Attorney General / Legal Fees	7,500.00	6,343.50	1,156.50	85%
Bank Service/Merchant Charges	0.00	117.00	-117.00	100%
Board Compensation	1,500.00	3,220.00	-1,720.00	215%
Equipment Purchase	0.00	1,931.50	-1,931.50	100%
Executive Director	9,600.00	19,249.00	-9,649.00	201%
Insurance	0.00	807.77	-807.77	100%
Memberships	500.00	400.00	100.00	80%
Office Lease	0.00	1,750.00	-1,750.00	100%
Office Supplies	600.00	1,953.43	-1,353.43	326%
Postage and Delivery	1,500.00	972.45	527.55	65%
Printing and Reproduction	1,500.00	1,099.29	400.71	73%
Professional Fees				
Accounting	0.00	1,650.00	-1,650.00	100%
Audit	2,500.00	5,000.00	-2,500.00	200%
IT / Technical Support	0.00	4,245.67	-4,245.67	100%
Total Professional Fees	2,500.00	10,895.67	-8,395.67	436%
Refunds	300.00	96.42	203.58	32%
Telephone	4,200.00	1,597.02	2,602.98	38%
Travel				
Travel - in state	1,500.00	2,127.29	-627.29	142%
Travel - out of state	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0%
Total Travel	6,500.00	2,127.29	4,372.71	33%
Total Expense	39,800.00	55,675.09	-15,875.09	140%
Net Ordinary Income	3,775.00	-4,365.09	8,140.09	-116%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Interest Income	400.00	53.95	346.05	13%
Total Other Income	400.00	53.95	346.05	13%
Net Other Income	400.00	53.95	346.05	13%
Net Income	4,175.00	-4,311.14	8,486.14	-103%

BEASP
BALANCE SHEET
As of June 30, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Wells Fargo Bank - Checking 120,824.19

Wells Fargo Bank - Savings 162,505.86

Total Checking/Savings 283,330.05

Total Current Assets 283,330.05

Fixed Assets

Capital Assets

2,167.50

Total Fixed Assets 2,167.50

TOTAL ASSETS 285,497.55

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable 154.04

Total Accounts Payable 154.04

Other Current Liabilities

Deferred Revenue 18,925.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 18,925.00

Total Current Liabilities 19,079.04

Total Liabilities 19,079.04

Equity

Invested in Capital Assets 2,167.50

Retained Earnings 268,562.15

Net Income -4,311.14

Total Equity 266,418.51

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 285,497.55

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2011

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

17

	Original and Final Budget	Actual Amounts Budgetary Basis	Variance to Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUE			
Fees			
License fees	\$ 30,875	\$ 37,724	\$ 6,849
Other fees	12,000	10,025	(1,975)
Interest income	400	49	(351)
List purchases	700	1,200	500
Total revenue	<u>43,975</u>	<u>48,998</u>	<u>5,023</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Contract executive director	9,600	9,600	-
Contract office assistant	3,600	3,600	-
Board Salary	1,500	640	860
Legal fees	5,000	1,069	3,931
Bank fees	-	100	(100)
Membership	500	400	100
Office supplies	600	529	71
Postage and delivery	1,500	950	550
Printing and reproduction	1,500	376	1,124
Insurance	-	492	(492)
Accounting and audit fees	2,500	-	2,500
Internet services	2,000	1,604	396
Refunds	300	217	83
Telephone	2,200	2,272	(72)
Travel			
Out of state	5,000	-	5,000
In state	1,500	-	1,500
Total current expenditures	<u>37,300</u>	<u>21,849</u>	<u>15,451</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ <u>6,675</u>	\$ <u>27,149</u>	\$ <u>20,474</u>

See accompanying notes

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

	General Fund	Adjustments (Note 4)	Statement of Net Assets
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 286,171	\$ -	\$ 286,171
Accounts receivable	850	-	850
Prepaid expenses	164	-	164
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>-</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>236</u>
Total assets	\$ <u><u>287,185</u></u>	236	287,421
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 197	-	197
Deferred revenue	<u>18,425</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,425</u>
Total liabilities	18,622	-	18,622
FUND BALANCE / NET ASSETS			
Fund balance			
Unassigned	<u>268,563</u>	<u>(268,563)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$ <u><u>287,185</u></u>		
Net assets			
Invested in capital assets		236	236
Unrestricted		<u>268,563</u>	<u>268,563</u>
Total net assets		\$ <u><u>268,799</u></u>	\$ <u><u>268,799</u></u>

See accompanying notes

October 31, 2013

Loretta Ponton, Executive Director
Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology
P.O. Box 34540
Reno, Nevada 89533

Dear Loretta:

Enclosed are six (6) copies (five bound and one unbound) of the audited financial statements and one original and five copies of the required Board communication letter for the Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology for the years ended June 30, 2013 and 2012. The unbound copy is provided so that you may make additional copies of the entire financial statements as may be needed for authorized recipients, but please do not provide partial copies of individual statements or schedules. In addition, please note that any reproduction of the financial statements to be included in an annual report or other publication must be approved by us

If you have any questions, please call me at our Reno office.

Sincerely,

KOHN & COMPANY LLP



Beth Kohn-Cole, CPA, CGMA

November 1, 2013

To the Board Members and Management of the
Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology
and Speech Pathology
P.O. Box 7256
Reno, Nevada 89510

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the fund information of Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology (Board) for the years ended June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2012. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audits. We have communicated such information in our letters to you dated November 19, 2012 and August 1, 2013. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audits.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by The Board are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. New accounting policies that were adopted and the application of existing policies are disclosed in the financial statements. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the Board's financial statements include:

- The portion of license and renewal fees deferred which pertain to future periods.
- The useful lives of capital assets and the depreciation over such periods which pertain to current and future periods.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the above estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Nevada State Board of Examiners
for Audiology and Speech Pathology
October 28, 2013

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audits.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 28, 2013.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the governmental unit's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

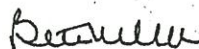
Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board members and management within the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

KOHN & COMPANY LLP



Beth Kohn-Cole, CPA, CGMA



**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013 AND 2012

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
JUNE 30, 2013 AND 2012

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Nevada State Board of
Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology

Reports on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and fund information of Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology (the Board) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2012, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Board's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the fund information of the Board, as of June 30, 2013 and 2012, and the respective changes in financial position for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 3-7 and 17-18 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context.

We have applied certain limited procedures to the management's discussion and analysis in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

The budgetary comparison information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the budgetary comparison information are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 28, 2013 on our consideration of the Board's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Board's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Handwritten signature

Reno, Nevada
October 28, 2013



MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

**Nevada State Board of Examiners
For Audiology and Speech Pathology**

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Board members' and management's discussion and analysis of the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology (the "Board") financial condition and activities for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2013 and 2012 is presented in conjunction with the audited financial statements.

Financial Highlights

- Program revenue for the years ended June 30, 2013 and 2012 was \$54,460 and \$51,310, respectively.
- Capital outlay for the years ended June 30, 2013 and 2012 was \$20,325 and \$1,699, respectively.

Overview of Annual Financial Report

Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) serves as an introduction to, and should be read in conjunction with, the basic audited financial statements and supplementary information. The MD&A represents the Board members' and management's examination and analysis of the Board's financial condition and performance. Summary financial statement data, key financial and operational indicators used in the Board's strategic plan, budget, and other management tools were used for this analysis.

The Board uses the modified accrual basis of accounting for internal financial statement reporting. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as they apply to governmental units. The financial statements include a statement of net position/balance sheet, a statement of activities/revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance, and notes to the financial statements.

The Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet present the financial position of the Board on both the modified accrual basis under the general fund and the full accrual basis as net position. This statement provides information on the Board's assets, deferred inflows, liabilities and deferred outflows with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases and decreases in net position are one indicator of whether the financial position of the Board is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet provide information about the nature and amount of resources and obligations at year-end. The Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance presents the results of the activities over the course of the fiscal year and information as to how the fund balance and net position changed during the year. The fund balance changes under the modified accrual method when revenue is received or the expenditure is made, while changes in net position under the full accrual method are recorded as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. This statement also provides certain information about the Board's recovery of its costs.

The notes to financial statements provide required disclosures and other information that are essential to a full understanding of material data provided in the statements. The notes present information about the Board's accounting policies, significant account balances and activities, material risks, obligations, commitments, contingencies and subsequent events, if any.

The financial statements were prepared by the Board's staff from the detailed books and records of the Board. The financial statements were audited during the independent external audit process.

Financial Analysis

The basic financial statements, as well as the required supplementary information, the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures – Budget and Actual, serve as the key financial data for the Board members' and management's monitoring and planning. Comments regarding budget-to-actual variances are included in the following Results of Operations by the name of the statement or account.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2013 AND 2012

	2013 Actual Government- Wide	2012 Actual Government- Wide
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 247,859	\$ 283,330
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	19,877	1,586
Total assets	267,736	284,916
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	1,087	153
Licensing fees received in advance	21,152	18,925
Total liabilities	22,239	19,078
NET POSITION		
Net position		
Invested in capital assets	19,877	1,586
Unrestricted	225,620	264,252
Total net position	\$ 245,497	\$ 265,838

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2013 AND JUNE 30, 2012

	2013 Actual Government- Wide	2012 Actual Government- Wide
EXPENSES		
Operations	\$ 26,222	\$ 23,453
Contract personnel and board salary	44,448	25,584
Travel	4,212	5,288
Total expenses	<u>74,882</u>	<u>54,325</u>
PROGRAM REVENUE		
Licensing fees (charges for services)	39,569	38,150
Other fees	13,929	12,200
List purchases	962	960
Total program revenue	<u>54,460</u>	<u>51,310</u>
GENERAL REVENUE		
Interest income	<u>81</u>	<u>54</u>
Total revenue	<u>54,541</u>	<u>51,364</u>
Change in net position	(20,341)	(2,961)
NET POSITION		
Beginning of year	<u>265,838</u>	<u>268,799</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 245,497</u>	<u>\$ 265,838</u>

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (Continued)

Statement of Net Position

The Board's net position remains strong at year-end with adequate liquid assets to fulfill its responsibilities. The Board members and management believe the current financial condition and staff capabilities are sufficient to meet anticipated operating expenses and operational objectives.

Statement of Activities

Revenue: The program revenue received by the Board is generated through renewal and licensure of Audiologists and Speech Pathologists. Total program revenue received by the Board for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013 and 2012 was \$54,460 and \$51,310, respectively.

Expenses: Operating expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013 and 2012 were \$74,882 and \$54,325, respectively. The increase is primarily related to contract services to manage the Board's activities.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

For both years, total revenue received exceeded the budgeted amount. Revenue was higher than budget by \$4,491 and \$7,389, respectively.

Total expenses were lower than the budgeted amounts by \$5,192 for the year ended June 30, 2013 and higher than budgeted amounts by \$15,875 for the year ended June 30, 2012. For the year ended June 30, 2012 the primary area where expenses were higher than budget is in contract services.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

The Board is charged with, and given statutory authority, to provide public protection through the licensure and regulation of Audiologists and Speech Pathologists. The Board provides direction of staff actions toward its mission of public protection through licensure and disciplinary measures.

Through the Board members' and management's review of the annual budget and monthly income and expense statements, it is expected that these tools will continue to provide the Board with sufficient long and short term planning information.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION AND GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEETS
JUNE 30, 2013 AND 2012

	2013			2012		
	General Fund	Adjust- ments (Note 4)	Statement of Net Position	General Fund	Adjust- ments (Note 4)	Statement of Net Position
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 247,859	\$ -	\$ 247,859	\$ 283,330	\$ -	\$ 283,330
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	-	19,877	19,877	-	1,586	1,586
Total assets	<u>\$ 247,859</u>	<u>19,877</u>	<u>267,736</u>	<u>283,330</u>	<u>1,586</u>	<u>284,916</u>
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	\$ 1,087	-	1,087	\$ 153	-	153
Licensing fees received in advance	21,152	-	21,152	18,925	-	18,925
Total liabilities	<u>22,239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,239</u>	<u>19,078</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,078</u>
FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION						
Fund balance						
Unassigned	<u>225,620</u>	<u>(225,620)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264,252</u>	<u>(264,252)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 247,859</u>			<u>\$ 283,330</u>		
Net position						
Invested in capital assets		19,877	19,877		1,586	1,586
Unrestricted		<u>225,620</u>	<u>225,620</u>		<u>264,252</u>	<u>264,252</u>
Total net position		<u>\$ 245,497</u>	<u>\$ 245,497</u>		<u>\$ 265,838</u>	<u>\$ 265,838</u>

See accompanying notes

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUE, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013 AND 2012

	2013			2012		
	General Fund	Adjustments (Note 4)	Statement of Activities	General Fund	Adjustments (Note 4)	Statement of Activities
EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES						
Board operations	\$ 93,173	\$ (18,291)	\$ 74,882	\$ 55,675	\$ (1,350)	\$ 54,325
PROGRAM REVENUE						
Charges for services	54,460	-	54,460	51,310	-	51,310
Net program revenue	(38,713)	18,291	(20,422)	(4,365)	1,350	(3,015)
GENERAL REVENUE						
Interest income	81	-	81	54	-	54
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over (under) expenditures	(38,632)	38,632	-	(4,311)	4,311	-
Change in net position	-	(20,341)	(20,341)	-	(2,961)	(2,961)
FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION						
Beginning of year	264,252	1,586	265,838	268,563	2,168	268,799
End of year	\$ 225,620	\$ 19,877	\$ 245,497	\$ 264,252	\$ 1,586	\$ 265,838

See accompanying notes

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2013 AND 2012

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology (the Board) is regulated by the Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 637B, which also specifies the authorized activities of the Board. It is the licensing and regulatory agency for the practice of Audiology and Speech Pathology in the state of Nevada. The Board was created to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that only competent persons practice audiology and speech pathology in Nevada.

The financial statements of the Board have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The following is a summary of the more significant accounting policies.

Reporting Entity

Effective July 1, 2001, Chapter 353 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) was amended to exempt certain professional and occupational boards from the state budget act and the provisions governing the administration of state funding. The provisions of Chapter 353 do not apply to boards created pursuant to chapters 623 to 625A, inclusive, 628, 630 to 640A inclusive, 641 to 644 inclusive, 654 and 656 of the NRS and the officers and employees thereof. Accordingly, the Board's budgeting and accounting practices and procedures have been removed from the oversight of the Department of Administration.

The Board's financial statements are not included in the financial statements of the State of Nevada since the State does not exercise financial or administrative control over the Board. This is in conformance with GASB codification Section 2100, *Defining the Government Reporting Entity*.

Basis of Presentation

The Board is defined as a single-program special-purpose entity under GASB Statement No. 14, paragraph 131 as amended by GASB Statement No. 39. This classification allows for the preparation of GASB 34 financial statements under an optional reporting method which combines the fund and government-wide statements into a single presentation. Under standard GASB 34 methodology, the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities are presented independently from the respective fund balance sheet and statement of revenues, expenditures, and fund balance. A reconciliation of adjustments provided on the modified financial statements demonstrates the changes from the fund financial statements to the government-wide financial statements in order to assist the reader in evaluating these statements. The Board has utilized this optional method of presentation.

Fund Accounting

The general fund of the Board is used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures to be used solely for the Board's benefit. The net position of the general fund is restricted solely to be used by the Board to meet its obligation of licensing and regulating Audiologists and Speech Pathologists in the state of Nevada.

Basis of Accounting

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recognized as soon as it is both measurable and available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectable within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

The Board has only governmental fund types.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
JUNE 30, 2013 AND JUNE 30, 2012

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Budget Data

The Board prepares an annual budget. The budget is prepared on a basis similar to generally accepted accounting principles under the modified accrual basis of accounting. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year end.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is maintained in two commercial banks in Reno, Nevada to ensure FDIC insurance requirements are met and the Board is also covered by the collateral pool for the state of Nevada.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include furniture, fixtures, and equipment, are reported in the net position column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the Board as assets with an initial, individual cost of \$500 and an estimated useful life of at least one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost. Donated assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the life of the asset are expensed as incurred. Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over three to seven years.

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, acquisitions are considered expenditures in the year purchased.

Licensing and Licensing Fees Received in Advance

Licensing revenue includes fees for applications and renewal.

The Board administers its licensing registration on an annual basis from January to December. Deferred revenue represents revenue for the next annual renewal period that was collected during the renewal period.

Deferred revenue consists of the unearned portion of annual license renewal fees collected prior to June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2012, for license periods after June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2012 respectively.

Fund Equity

In the governmental fund financial statement, fund balances are classified as follows:

Nonspendable - represents amounts that are either not in a spendable form or are legally or contractually required to remain intact. The Board has no nonspendable fund balances.

Restricted - represents amounts which can be spent only for specific purposes because of state or federal laws, or externally imposed conditions. The Board has no restricted fund balances.

Committed - represents amounts which can be used only for specific purposes determined by the members of the governing Board's formal action through a resolution or action. The Board has no committed funds.

Assigned - represents amounts that are intended by the Board for specific purposes but do not require action by the governing Board. The Board has no assigned funds.

Unassigned - represents all amounts not included in other classifications.

The Board's policy is to first apply expenditures against nonspendable fund balances and then unassigned balances. On an annual basis assigned fund balances are determined based upon available resources.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
JUNE 30, 2013 AND JUNE 30, 2012

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Fund Equity (Continued)

The Board has adopted GASB Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*. The Board has no amounts classified as deferred outflows or inflows of resources at June 30, 2013 or 2012, and, accordingly, there is no material impact to the Board's financial position as a result of this pronouncement. However, equity is now classified as net position and displayed in the three following components, as applicable:

- Net invested in capital assets – consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and any related debt.
- Restricted net position – consists of net position with constraints placed on their use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- Unrestricted net position – net position that is neither classified as "invested in capital assets" nor as "restricted."

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through the report date, which represents the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Subsequent events after that date have not been evaluated.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2 - CAPITAL ASSETS

The Board's capital assets activity during the year is as follows:

	July 1, 2012	Additions	Deletions	June 30, 2013
Capital assets being depreciated				
Office furniture, equipment and software	\$ 1,699	\$ 20,325	\$ -	\$ 22,024
Less accumulated depreciation				
Office furniture, equipment and software	(113)	(2,034)	-	(2,147)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>\$ 1,586</u>	<u>18,291</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,877</u>
	July 1, 2011	Additions	Deletions	June 30, 2012
Capital assets being depreciated				
Office furniture, equipment and software	\$ 2,996	\$ 1,699	\$ (2,996)	\$ 1,699
Less accumulated depreciation				
Office furniture, equipment and software	(2,760)	(349)	2,996	(113)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>\$ 236</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,586</u>

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
JUNE 30, 2013 AND JUNE 30, 2012

NOTE 3 - COMPLIANCE WITH NEVADA REVISED STATUTES AND NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

The Board conformed to all significant statutory constraints on its financial administration during the fiscal year.

NOTE 4 - CONVERSION TO GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Adjustments on the face of the financial statements were made to the fund balance sheet and statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance in order to reconcile the fund financial statements to the government-wide statements of net position and activities. For the year ended June 30, 2013, these adjustments detail the effect of the capitalization of fixed assets of \$22,024, accumulated depreciation of \$2,147 and depreciation expense of \$2,034. For the year ended June 30, 2012, these adjustments detail the effect of the capitalization of fixed assets of \$1,699, accumulated depreciation of \$113 and depreciation expense of \$349.

NOTE 5 - NEW PRONOUNCEMENTS

In June 2011, GASB issued Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflow of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*. This statement is intended to provide guidance for reporting deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflow of resources, and net position in a statement of financial position and related disclosures. This adoption of this statement requires the Board to modify the balance sheets and replace the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets with a statement of activities. While there is no material impact to the Board's financial position, the presentation of the statements is modified to report deferred revenue as licensing fees received in advance.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013
(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012)

	2013			2012
	Original and Final Budget	Actual Amounts Budgetary Basis	Variance to Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)	Actual (Memorandum Only)
REVENUE				
Fees				
License fees	\$ 36,500	\$ 39,569	\$ 3,069	\$ 38,150
Other fees	12,000	13,929	1,929	12,200
Interest income	50	81	31	54
List purchases	1,500	962	(538)	960
Total revenue	50,050	54,541	4,491	51,364
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Accounting and audit fees	-	1,400	(1,400)	6,650
Bank fees	-	382	(382)	117
Board salary	-	1,440	(1,440)	3,220
Contract-Executive Director	36,000	39,600	(3,600)	19,249
Contract office assistant	3,900	3,408	492	3,115
Insurance	750	644	106	808
Internet services	1,400	1,630	(230)	4,246
Legal fees	9,000	6,244	2,756	6,344
Licensing - data system	5,640	5,583	57	-
Meetings	1,500	247	1,253	-
Membership	1,900	400	1,500	400
Office lease	4,500	4,569	(69)	1,750
Office supplies	1,100	710	390	1,953
Overpayment renewal/ reimbursement	-	-	-	96
Postage and delivery	1,500	1,369	131	1,205
Printing and reproduction	350	179	171	1,099
Telephone	1,000	831	169	1,597
Travel				
Out of state	8,000	3,662	4,338	-
In state	1,500	550	950	2,127
Total current expenditures	78,040	72,848	5,192	53,976
Capital outlay	20,325	20,325	-	1,699
Total expenditures	98,365	93,173	5,192	55,675
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over (under) expenditures	\$ (48,315)	\$ (38,632)	\$ 9,683	\$ (4,311)

See accompanying notes

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY
 STATEMENTS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012
 (WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011)

	2012			2011
	Original and Final Budget	Actual Amounts Budgetary Basis	Variance to Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)	Actual (Memorandum Only)
REVENUE				
Fees				
License fees	\$ 30,875	\$ 38,150	\$ 7,275	\$ 37,724
Other fees	12,000	12,200	200	10,025
Interest income	400	54	(346)	49
List purchases	700	960	260	1,200
Total revenue	<u>43,975</u>	<u>51,364</u>	<u>7,389</u>	<u>48,998</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Accounting and audit fees	2,500	6,650	(4,150)	-
Bank fees	-	117	(117)	100
Board salary	1,500	3,220	(1,720)	640
Contract-Executive Director	9,600	19,249	(9,649)	9,600
Contract office assistant	3,600	3,115	485	3,600
Insurance	-	808	(808)	492
Internet services	2,000	4,246	(2,246)	1,604
LCB Allocation	2,500	-	2,500	-
Legal fees	5,000	6,344	(1,344)	1,069
Membership	500	400	100	400
Office lease	-	1,750	(1,750)	-
Office supplies	600	1,953	(1,353)	529
Overpayment renewal/ reimbursement	-	96	(96)	217
Postage and delivery	1,500	1,205	295	950
Printing and reproduction	1,500	1,099	401	376
Refunds	300	-	300	-
Telephone	2,200	1,597	603	2,272
Travel				
Out of state	5,000	-	5,000	-
In state	1,500	2,127	(627)	-
Total current expenditures	<u>39,800</u>	<u>53,976</u>	<u>(14,176)</u>	<u>21,849</u>
Capital outlay	-	1,699	(1,699)	-
Total expenditures	<u>39,800</u>	<u>55,675</u>	<u>(15,875)</u>	<u>21,849</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over (under) expenditures	\$ <u>4,175</u>	\$ <u>(4,311)</u>	\$ <u>(8,486)</u>	\$ <u>27,149</u>

See accompanying notes

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND
OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Members of the Nevada State Board of
Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology

We have audited the financial statements of the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2012, and have issued our report thereon dated October 28, 2013. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Board's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control over financial reporting.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

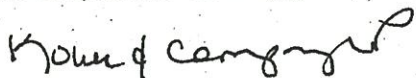
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Reno, Nevada
October 28, 2013



STATE OF NEVADA
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

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Loretta L. Ponton
Executive Director

Required Reports

The Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology has filed all required reports in a timely manner. Reports include the following:

Legislative Counsel Bureau:	Occupational Licensing Boards
	Biennial Audit Report
	Consultant Report

There are no Executive or other Legislative reports required.

Minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to revision at the next meeting.

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

February 8, 2014

Members Present:	Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Richard Johnson Nighat Abdulla, Bonnie Lamping
Members Absent:	Anthony Zamboni
Staff Present:	Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Public Present:	Paula Berkley, see attached listing

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by Rebecca Bailey-Torres, President. A quorum was confirmed as present.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres welcomed the attendees and explained the public comment process, indicating that comments would be limited to 5 minutes each and that everyone would be given the opportunity to provide comments. Public comments would be heard before and after Agenda item 6. Legislative Bill Proposal. Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General, added that the discussion on Item 6 would be limited to Board members and members of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists who were in attendance.

Board members and public attendees were asked to introduce themselves. Some individuals from the public were participating by conference call.

Public Comment – Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked each individual present whether they had comments. All but one individual stated they would provide public comments under agenda item 7.

Ryan Langston asked for clarification of the intent of the proposed bill; as it seems the bill differs from what was proposed at the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists. Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked Loretta Ponton to respond; Loretta Ponton stated the initial idea of combining the Boards was first discussed at that meeting; there was nothing concrete formulated or developed at that time; it has been a continually developing idea which will be discussed in greater detail today regarding how things might work if the Board decides to go with that option.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked if any individual on the telephone would like to make comments. None were heard. Public comment was closed.

Legislative Bill Proposal – Rebecca Bailey-Torres stated this item would be a discussion between the Board members, Paula Berkley the board's lobbyist, and members of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists. Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked Loretta Ponton to facilitate.

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Loretta Ponton stated there are three options presented for the Board's consideration; the Board may take action as it is formally posted as an action item on the agenda in accordance with the open meeting law; the members of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists will be participating in the discussion; however they cannot take action as it is not an official meeting of that Board.

The Board of Examiner for Audiology and Speech Pathology has been reviewing their entire law in order to update the law through a bill at the 2015 Legislative Session. Through historical research and reviews, it was found that a significant number of states had consolidated hearing aid dispensing and audiology under one board structure and in several other states the dispensing of hearing aids is authorized under an Audiology license. Nevada has two separate boards and requires two licenses for Audiologists to dispense hearing aids. In analyzing the structure, composition and licensee numbers of the two Boards, it was found that over 50% of the licensed Audiologists hold dual licensure with both boards. It made sense that for economies sake and consistency across the practice areas, audiology and hearing aid specialists, to include the hearing aid specialists in the bill if we were going to the Legislature. It was at this point that the Board contacted the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists and brought the idea of consolidation to that Board for the first time; nothing was concrete at that time. At the direction of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists, a licensee survey was developed and sent to all licensees of both boards seeking comments on the proposal to consolidate.

Loretta Ponton stated there are three (3) options for consideration by the Board. Handouts were summarized with an explanation of each documents comprised of 1) options summary, 2) national council of state boards data on audiology and hearing aid dispensing by states, 3) licensee survey summary and comments from licensees, 4) example of language for consolidated board structure under option 3, and 5) current vs proposed bill language for Chapter 637B under options 1 and 2.

Loretta reported that the Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology has hired Paula Berkley to assist the Board through the Legislative process with the bill. If the decision is made to consolidate the Boards, the Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology would provide the administrative support for the consolidated bill and there would be no cost to the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres called on Paula Berkley for comments. Paula Berkley provided background information on the use of lobbyists in the legislative process and her experience as a lobbyist. Paula Berkley stated she has been attending meetings of legislative committees during the interim and explained the process of getting a bill ready for the legislature. Paula Berkley also provided information regarding the purpose of the Sunset Committee of the legislature and the process used by the Sunset Committee to make recommendations to the legislature. Ms. Berkley reported that she met with Senator Parks in Las Vegas in regards to the possibility of proposing a merged or consolidated board structure and whether the proposed bill should go through the Sunset Committee or directly to the Legislature. Senator Parks, at the Sunset Committee meeting, selected the Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology and the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists for review this year; the review is scheduled for April 8th and both boards will be preparing for and presenting at that meeting.

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Rebecca Bailey-Torres called upon Melissa Maestas, chair of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists for comments.

Ms. Maestas stated she has spoken with the International Hearing Society and they are very much opposed to merging the Boards. Ms. Maestas stated, using California data, since the boards were merged in 2010, fees were increased. Only thing found during research on the positive is a merger would benefit audiologists and speech pathologists financially, but would not benefit hearing aid dispensers. The sunset report states the hearing aid dispensers funds have gone down due to audiologists not having to be dual licensed; hearing aid dispensers expenditures have gone up as well as audiology and speech pathology expenditures. Hearing Aid Specialist licensees have a more difficult time practicing in states where boards are merged.

In the proposed bill, Hearing Aid Specialists are not represented equally as are the other professionals. There are more hearing aid specialists than audiologists dispensing hearing aids, based upon the licensee numbers. It's been said that we have more complaints through our board; we still live in a culture where most of our population are geriatric; they go to their doctor, the doctor then refers to their local audiologist so the chances of having a complaint are pretty minimal. They are not going to refer out to a dispenser such as myself.

I do not think merging the Boards is a good idea. Beyond my personal opinion, I have to represent our licensees first. On our survey, our licensees do not feel it is a good idea to merge either.

I also have a concern, at our meeting in December where Loretta and Paula attended, we originally were going to have a discussion about the potential of merging the boards; and then it became an announcement, we are going to go ahead and we are going to put this through, whether or not you want us to or not. There wasn't much of a discussion. It was my understanding we were going to talk about the pluses and talk about the minuses, all of a sudden we have a lobbyist and the lobbyist is telling us this is what we are going to do. There really wasn't much of a discussion.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres answered that she, Loretta and Paula came to that meeting prepared to present the proposal but weren't even allowed to participate in that discussion, we came in and listened to all the reasons why you were against the proposal. So, that's why we have opened this up for discussion.

Ms. Maestas asked what the hurry is. Ms. Bailey-Torres responded that we have to revise our law. We have done the research, we see the benefits. We are going to move forward, and do what we need to do; we want participation from your board; there are benefits.

Mr. Hodes asked if things don't move forward by this April date is there opportunity in the future. Ms. Ponton responded that the Board is moving forward with our bill, whether that includes hearing aid specialists or not is what is being discussed. Our board can decide to just revise our law and not include hearing aid specialists. The benefit to you is that we are opening up our law; it is a very extensive process, we are willing to do the administrative functions at this

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time; you can always come back at next session with your own bill but you may not have the opportunity you have now to create the structure and have the administrative support to do it.

Mr. Hodes stated the hurry to get it done is for the convenience. Ms. Ponton added to present at the 2015 Legislative session.

Ms. Berkley explained the timelines for submittal of bill draft requests and explained why the bill needed to be submitted early in the schedule.

Richard Johnson stated the purpose of both boards is to serve the public. He supports continuation of testing of audiologists for dispensing of hearing aids. If the boards do not merge, a fear is that audiologists may choose not to take the test like in Idaho, and then the hearing aid board would have only 50 or so licensees. That is not protecting or serving the public.

Ms. Ponton stated there is strength in numbers, if audiologists were not licensed by the Hearing Aid Specialist Board that would cut their numbers in half; viability of a board with so few licensees would be in question.

Mr. Hodes asked what the likelihood of forcing a merger was. Ms. Berkley answered the legislators would question the viability looking at the statistics, data and what other states are doing and they will want to follow precedent. They will ask questions, how active are you, what complaints are received?

Ms. Ponton added that the legislators may make that decision, regardless of what decisions are made here by either board. The sunset committee may also ask why and make a decision contrary to what is proposed. Any time you open up your law, it is subject to change and revision; we have to expect the unexpected. We are trying to address the questions before they happen, we thought this through we had our public comments and held our hearings, this is what we feel is in the best interest of protecting the public in Nevada for speech and hearing services. It is up to our Board to decide which direction to go with this bill; there is always the possibility that it is going to happen anyway.

Ms. Maestas asked how merging the two boards protect the public. Mr. Johnson answered that financially it does as more resources are available. As far as audiologists are concerned, we still have to take the test, if we don't merge someday audiologists could say they don't have to take a test, they could then dispense under the audiology license only. Some audiologists don't have any experience dispensing hearing aids.

Ms. Maestas stated, other than strength in numbers and more money, how are you protecting the consumers; a lot of consumers are coming to our board asking for refunds for return of hearing aids; we are dealing with one or two complaints which most are taken care of by our Executive Director Christina who makes recommendations; we really haven't had a need to be concerned about being sued; because we have tightened our laws. How is merging protecting the public better then what we are now? The proposed structure is broken into sub-committees which is essentially the same as what we have now as the Hearing Aid Board. Fees have gone up; expenditures have gone up; how is that protecting the public.

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Mr. Johnson responded how are two separate boards protecting the public better?

Ms. Maestas says it doesn't really seem to change a lot. Merging the two boards would really cost more money.

Ms. Bailey-Torres stated that wouldn't be the case; by combining the boards there would be one pool of money; instead of two boards operating it would be one, which would save money, licensees would save money for audiologist by not having to have two licenses.

Discussion of proposed fee structure compared to current fees was heard; Ms. Maestas stating fees for hearing aid specialists that are not audiologists would increase significantly.

Ms. Berkley added that the Board has not received necessary information from the Hearing Aid Board including budget and cash flow which is essential in determining an appropriate fee structure; there is a potential for fees to go down over the current fees.

Discussion was heard regarding the proposed Board member composition, including the number of representative of each profession and whether a physician is really needed.

Christina Harper relayed concerns regarding the hearing aid specialist representation stating the Board could create regulations that reduce or limit hearing aid specialists practice with only one hearing aid specialist on the board.

Ms. Maestas re-stated her concern that hearing aid specialists be equally represented in the board composition.

Ms. Bailey-Torres asked other board members if there were any additional questions or comments.

Mr. Marzolf raised a question regarding liability insurance requirements. Mr. Hodes responded that individual malpractice insurance is usually purchased.

Nighat Abdulla stated she is the public representative and that when she thinks of audiology and speech pathology, hearing aids is included as part of audiology. She feels representation should be equal.

Mr. Johnson stated we all want the same thing, audiologists should be tested and hearing aid specialists want to be independent.

Ms. Bailey-Torres concluded the discussion reviewing the options prepared for the Board; option 1 being to just revise our statute, option 2 being to revise our statute giving audiologists the authority to dispense hearing aids, and option 3 to consolidate the boards. Ms. Bailey-Torres stated that option 3 could not be selected without the consent of the Hearing Aid Specialist Board and asked whether that board has a scheduled meeting soon. Ms. Maestas stated their next

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meeting is scheduled April 12th. Discussion was heard regarding whether a special meeting could be scheduled.

Ms. Berkley reminded the board members the bill needs to be ready for the sunset committee meeting; all documents have to be in by March 18th. Ms. Berkley confirmed that both boards are on the sunset committee review and will need to have their documents submitted by March 18th.

Loretta stated a decision by the Hearing Aid Specialist Board would need to be made no later than March 1st in order to meet that deadline. If consolidation is approved, that would give only about 2 weeks to revise the bill accordingly.

Discussion continued regarding the merging of boards with Ms. Maestas reaffirming the concerns and opposition of the hearing aid specialists and stated more time was necessary to evaluate the proposed merger. Mr. Johnson also reaffirmed his support of continuation of testing for audiologists who dispense hearing aids which would only fall under the option to merge the boards.

Loretta presented an alternative under Option 2 to allow the dispensing of hearing aids under an audiology license with a requirement for testing. She stated this would be a duplication of the testing requirement for Hearing Aid Specialists; however would retain the testing requirements for the dispensing of hearing aids for audiologists.

Ms. Bailey-Torres made the recommendation to approve Option 2 authorizing the dispensing of hearing aids by audiologists with a requirement for testing for dispensing of hearing aids; if the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists approve the merger of the Boards, Option 3, to consolidate the board, would be approved.

Richard Johnson so moved, seconded by Bonnie Lamping. The motion passed.

Ms. Berkley stated that in light of the vote, if it would be possible for the Hearing Aid Board to provide the documents previously requested so that the Board could be prepared in the event that Board makes the decision to consolidate. Ms. Ponton could provide a list of the documents previously requested. Ms. Maestas agreed.

Public Comment – Rebecca Bailey-Torres opened the floor for public comments, stating comments will be limited to 5 minutes each. Each individual was given the opportunity to speak.

Rick Vaughn – hearing aid specialist stated the society for hearing aid specialists is adamantly opposed to the consolidation. The licensees don't understand what's going on. Mr. Vaughn stated he felt the audiologists and speech pathologists had already decided on option 3. Mr. Vaughn stated he is in favor of option 1 or possibly option 2 but is totally against option 3 consolidation. He feels the hearing aid specialists should remain autonomous.

Danielle Stankiewicz – hearing aid specialist commented that they received the survey without knowing anything about what was going on. More information is necessary, I'm not opposed,

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perhaps in the future; I would be able to make a more informed decision on what it means for us. Why does it have to be done right now.

John Stankiewicz – hearing aid specialist commented that he agreed with Ms. Maestas, adequate representation on the board would be a concern.

Tim Hunsaker – audiologist commented some audiologists do not know a lot about hearing aids but some audiologists know a lot about hearing aids. It sounds like this is going to go through for audiologists to dispense hearing aids. The concern about fees going up, that should be a concern for the Hearing Aid Board as they will be losing 47% of their licensees and they would have to increase fees to make up the difference. That's where strength in numbers come in; the money thing is not a valid reason. There is a valid concern that the hearing aid specialists will be out-weighted by the audiologists; however, I find it frustrating that I have to have two licenses; physicians don't have to have more than one license to do their job. I do agree that testing should be retained; I would support Option 2.

Kent Davenport – hearing aid specialist commented on his 34 years of practice and experience in Idaho with a new audiologist who was very inexperienced; he also commented that speech pathologists should not be on the board; all three professions are very different and unique, if the state was larger there should be three separate boards. Clinical and diagnostic audiology are quite different; Mr. Davenport expressed support for separate tests for clinical audiology and diagnostic audiology.

Thomas Rainford – hearing aid specialist commented he disagrees with combining boards, less is more and small groups can respond to consumers complaints more easily to protect the public. Because of the vote it is apparent it is in our best interest for hearing aid specialist to become part of this board; proposing the board be 5 members; 1 hearing aid specialist, 1 audiologist, 1 speech pathologist, 1 physician and a consumer or 2 consumers, the consumers should have a say; each group should have animinity. Mr. Rainford recommended testing continue to be required for all who dispense hearing aids.

Mary Carpi – licensed in all three areas, commented she was one of the first dispensing audiologists. She agrees that the earlier we do it the better, using an example that the original legislation to create the audiology speech board was changed in the legislature to reduce the education level from masters to a bachelor degree for speech pathologists even though ASHA required the masters level. The bill would not pass unless we agreed to reduce the level. We can make the recommendations but they can make revisions; the earlier we get it going the better, remembering they only meet every two years. I don't agree that audiologists need a specialty to dispense hearing aids; do we need to take a test to do medical diagnostics or intraoperative procedures; these are specialties covered by ASHA and AAA. Ms. Carpi comment she had fourth year audiology students who had full exposure to dispensing; every college is different but the schools are addressing the issues. In regards to fees, the fees are different for each license, the annual renewal months and the hours of continuing education required are also different; these need to be addressed.

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Ryan Langston – commented he is new, as an outsider he sees an identity crisis, audiologists are a low number about 15% audiology and 85% speech pathology. With merging the 50 hearing aid specialists that makes the numbers even lower. The low number of individuals practicing in this state is the reason he became interested in the profession. This is really a speech pathology board; do they know anything about hearing instruments. Mr. Langston commented that he understood the concern with adequate board representation to address hearing instrument issues.

Charles Adams – hearing aid specialist asked for clarification regarding the sunset committee and legislative roles which were responded to by Paula Berkley. Mary Carpi provided further clarification on why the speech pathologists and audiologists are together under one board; they take the same undergraduate courses and obtain the same degree, the difference is at the choice of profession at the graduate level and both professions are represented by the same professional association, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres closed the public comment period having heard all comments and thanked the public for their participation.

The meeting was adjourned for a break at 1:00 pm and reconvened at 1:25 pm; a quorum was confirmed present.

Approval of the Minutes – Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked if there were any comments or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of November 22, 2013.

Rich Johnson made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 22, 2013, as presented. The motion passed.

LCB File No. R034-13 – Consideration of Public Comments – No public comments were heard or received at the Public Hearing on LCB File No. 034-13, this item was closed.

Adoption of Regulation, LCB File No. R034-13 – Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked for comments or questions; hearing none, Ms. Bailey-Torres called for a motion. Rich Johnson made the motion to adopt regulations LCB File No. R034-13 as written. The motion was seconded by Bonnie Lamping. The motion passed.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres stated agenda items would be taken out of order to facilitate the time.

Disciplinary Actions - Recommendation for Dismissal – Case AS 13-05

Loretta Ponton stated complaint case AS 13-05 was investigated and a determination made that sufficient evidence did not exist to substantiate a violation of NRS 637B or NAC 637B.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres called for a motion.

Nighat Abdulla made the motion to formally dismiss Case AS 13-05, seconded by Richard Johnson. The motion passed.

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Appeal – Application for License Renewal - Gary Jacobs, PhD., SLP, License No. SP-1400

Loretta Ponton stated Mr. Jacobs was appealing the denial of his application for license renewal on the grounds of not completing the mandatory continuing education requirements. Loretta explained the decision to not approve the license renewal application was based upon a review of documentation submitted for continuing education credit, and additional documentation submitted by Mr. Jacobs. It was determined the continuing education was not directly related to speech pathology and no other continuing education had been completed by Mr. Jacobs.

A review and discussion of the license renewal application and the Partners in Recovery Program seminars submitted as continuing education was heard. There was a consensus that the seminars attended were not related to the practice of speech pathology.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres called for a motion.

Bonnie Lamping made the motion to affirm the Executive Director's denial of license renewal. The motion was seconded by Richard Johnson. The motion passed.

Loretta Ponton confirmed with Henna Rasul that Mr. Jacobs could apply for license reinstatement with appropriate documentation.

Executive Director's Report – Loretta Ponton directed the members to the written report in the board packet and provided an overview of the board activities contained in the written report.

Loretta stated the on-line renewal was very successful and positive comments were received from the licensees.

The 2nd Quarter FY 14 financial statements were provided and summarized by Ms. Ponton. There were no questions on the financial statements.

Ms. Ponton reported two complaints are pending in the informal investigative stage; she attended the GL Solutions user conference; and finally that the majority of her time has been expended on the bill preparation and meetings including preparation for the Sunset Committee review. Ms. Ponton reported that an additional assistant has been hired to assist in the data entry of historical licensee applications, records and information.

Ms. Ponton reported she has been working extensively on the bill language and directed the members to the proposed bill providing an overview of the new items and issues being addressed with the bill.

Discussion was heard regarding the proposed revision to require licensure effective July 1, 2015 for speech pathologists holding a teaching license who are currently exempt from licensure. The intent was to grand-father current individuals as exempt. Discussion on the impact on schools and the need to further examine alternatives was heard.

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Rebecca stated she is not available to attend the Sunset Committee meeting on April 8th; Rich Johnson stated he would check his calendar for availability.

Contract Performance Evaluation – Rebecca Bailey-Torres directed the members to the review worksheet; stating she thinks Loretta is doing an incredible job and couldn't ask for a more knowledgeable or responsible Executive Director and would recommend a 15% performance award.

Nighat Abdulla stated she has done a lot of hard work and agrees.

Bonnie Lamping stated she agrees, Loretta is completely on top of things, extremely organized and very good at foreseeing problems that may come, how to deal with the problems; we are well informed and she is very responsive.

Richard Johnson agreed with all the comments.

Richard Johnson made the motion to award a 15% performance award in recognition of outstanding services provided to the Board; Nighat Abdulla seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Contract Amendment – Ms. Ponton stated she is requesting an amendment to her contract to increase compensation by \$12,000 per year base compensation with option for additional performance award for the remaining two years of the contract. The amount of work has increased significantly and will continue through the legislative session. Bonnie Lamping asked how many hours of work were projected originally; Ms. Ponton responded 20 hours per month which has more than doubled.

Ms. Bailey-Torres asked if there were any other questions; hearing none called for a motion.

Richard Johnson made the motion to approve the contract amendment with Lorylynn Ltd. as presented; seconded by Bonnie Lamping. The motion passed.

Disciplinary Action – Consent Decree

Lori Bass, SLP, License #SP-1178; Case No. AS 13-01, AS 13-02, AS 13-03

Rebecca Bailey-Torres recused herself from this item and appointed Richard Johnson, to Chair the Board for this agenda item.

Board members were provided a copy of the Consent Decree which delineates the negotiated settlement of three complaints. Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General and Loretta Ponton explained the process and disciplinary actions which were negotiated with the licensee. After review and discussion, Richard Johnson called for a motion.

Bonnie Lamping made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla, to approve the Consent Decree as presented. The motion passed, with Rebecca Bailey-Torres recused.

Minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to revision at the next meeting.

The Chair was turned back to Rebecca Bailey-Torres.

Board Member Report – Bonnie Lamping reported on the ASHA conference she attended stating it was a very successful convention. She attended 13 sessions; provided a brief overview of those sessions and reported next year's convention will be in Orlando.

Report from Board Chair – Rebecca stated they need to discuss the meeting schedule. Loretta Ponton stated the next meeting is scheduled for May 2nd which is after the Sunset Committee meeting asking whether a meeting would need to be held prior to that meeting. Ms. Bailey-Torres agreed to work with Loretta to prepare for the sunset committee. Paula Berkley stated the bill draft would possibly need to be reviewed but that could be done informally. She would be working with Loretta also to prepare.

Loretta stated the bill draft under option 2 is almost done; if the members could look at what was provided in the board packet and let her know; the two sections that need work are the department of education issues for speech pathologists and the dispensing of hearing aids section for audiologists. After discussion, there was a consensus that Rebecca Bailey-Torres and Bonnie Lamping would work with Loretta on the speech therapist issues and Rich Johnson would help with the dispensing issues.

Loretta confirmed the next meeting date is May 2nd and will be held at 3:00 p.m. with teleconference available.

Report from Legal Counsel – Henna Rasul stated she had nothing additional to report.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Bonnie Lamping made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to adjourn. Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to revision at the next meeting.

Individuals from the Public in Attendance

Name	Representing
Michael Hodes, AuD	Nevada Board of Hearing Aid Specialists
Melissa D. Maestas	Nevada Board of Hearing Aid Specialists
Ed Manzolf	Nevada Board of Hearing Aid Specialists
Christina Harper teleconference	Nevada Board of Hearing Aid Specialists
Kim Miller teleconference	Nevada Board of Hearing Aid Specialists
Rick Vaughn	Hearing Aid Specialist
Marta Richards teleconference	Hearing Aid Specialist
Kent Davenport	Hearing Aid Specialist
Tim Hunsaker	Audiologist / Hearing Aid Specialist
Elizabeth Weiner teleconference	Hearing Aid Specialist
Danielle Stankiewicz	Hearing Aid Specialist
John Stankiewicz	Hearing Aid Specialist
Ryan Langston	Hearing Aid Specialist
Mary Carpi	Speech Pathologist / Audiologist / Hearing Aid Specialist
Charles Adams	Hearing Aid Specialist
Thomas Rainford	Hearing Aid Specialist

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

November 22, 2013

Members Present:	Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Richard Johnson By teleconference - Nighat Abdulla
Members Absent:	Anthony Zamboni, Bonnie Lamping
Staff Present:	Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Public Present:	Paula Berkley, Beth Kohn

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - The meeting was called to order at 2:18 p.m. by Rebecca Bailey-Torres, President. A quorum was confirmed as present.

Public Comment – No comments.

Approval of the Minutes – Rebecca asked if there were any comments or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2013. Rebecca noted a clerical correction on page 2.

Nighat Abdulla made the motion, seconded by Rich Johnson to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2013, as corrected. The motion passed.

Biennial Audit Report –Loretta Ponton introduced Beth Kohn who presented the FY 12/13 biennial audit report. Beth summarized the financial statements and audit report concluding with the statement that the audit was a clean audit with no findings or issues.

Rich Johnson made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to approve the FY 12/FY 13 biennial audit report. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report – Loretta directed the members to the written report in the board packet and provided an overview of the board activities contained in the written report.

Loretta reported that the on-line license renewal was opened October 24th and that approximately 300 individuals have renewed at this point. The on-line renewal system has been well received.

The 1st Quarter FY 14 financial statements were provided and summarized by Loretta. There were no questions on the financial statements.

Loretta reported that she and Paula Berkley attended the Legislative Committee on Health meeting on November 21st in Carson City. The Board's proposed regulations were on the agenda for review by the Committee, there were no questions on the proposed regulations.

Report from Board Chair – Rebecca reported that she and Loretta attended the NCSB Conference in October. The first day was specifically for Board member training. Rebecca stated this session was a repeat of what she had attended the previous year; she would recommend this session for new members only. The conference highlighted telepractice issues which were diverse across the states. Good information was obtained.

Rebecca reported that she, Loretta and Paula Berkley had a meeting with the Administrator of the Hearing Aid Specialist Board to discuss the possibility of merging the two boards. The meeting went well and she and Paula will be attending the Hearing Aid Specialist Board meeting on December 13th to present the proposal to their board. Loretta added that since the Board will be presenting a bill to update their law at the 2015 legislative session, this would be a good time to address the possibility of a merger.

Report from Legal Counsel – Henna reported she has been working with Loretta on finalizing a Consent Decree to settle three cases; however it is possible the complaints may go to hearing.

Public Comment – Paula Berkley introduced herself as the Board's new lobbyist. Paula provided the members with a brief background on her extensive experience and stated she would be working closely with the Board and Loretta throughout the next year in preparation for and during the 2015 Legislative Session.

Adjournment – Nighat Abdulla made the motion, seconded by Rich Johnson to adjourn. Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

September 13, 2013

Members Present:	Rebecca Bailey-Torres, By teleconference - Richard Johnson, Nighat Abdulla, Bonnie Lamping
Members Absent:	Anthony Zamboni
Staff Present:	Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Public Present:	None

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Rebecca Bailey-Torres, President. A quorum was confirmed as present.

Public Comment – There was no public in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes – Rebecca asked if there were any comments or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2013. A clerical correction was noted on page 2.

Nighat Abdulla made the motion, seconded by Rich Johnson to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2013. The motion passed.

Disciplinary Matters – Rebecca asked Loretta Ponton to present. Loretta stated case AS 13-04 was investigated and found to be unsubstantiated and requested the Board officially close the case.

Bonnie Lamping made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to dismiss and close case AS 13-04. The motion passed.

Board Work Session - NAC 637B Proposed Regulations:

Rebecca deferred to Loretta to present. Loretta reported that the Board's draft regulations were submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) for review and drafting. The LCB assigned the proposed regulations file R034-13. After review and discussions with staff, LCB made a determination that a large portion of the proposed regulations should more appropriately be addressed as a bill in the next legislative session to be incorporated as revisions to the Board's law, NRS 637B, and not by regulation. Those portions were eliminated by LCB from the proposed regulations; and the remaining sections were reworded and drafted for Board consideration.

Loretta facilitated discussion and review of the new language and sections of R034-13 as proposed by LCB. Additional discussion was heard and revisions made to clarify the intent of the Board regarding: Sec 3 verification of a license held in another state; Sec 6 alteration of

license or license card; Sec 7 issuance of a new license when a name is legally changed; Sec 11 removing references to reinstatement added by LCB and deleting paragraph 2 in its entirety; and Sec 12 by adding NAC 637B.030 Schedule of Fees to the those sections being repealed as NRS 637B.230 delineates the fees. There was consensus that fees would need to be addressed in a bill at the next legislative session.

Discussion continued regarding proposed revised language regarding reinstatement of a license and new sections proposed to be added to R034-13; practice under name on license; use of professional title or initials; telepractice and endoscopy. There was consensus to not to include the paragraph on use of professional title or initials. After discussion, revisions were made to Use of Endoscopy in Speech Pathology to remove the word “nonmedical” from paragraph 1 and eliminate paragraph 4, requiring a referral from a physician, surgeon or dentist.

A motion was made by Bonnie Lamping, seconded by Richard Johnson, to approve R034-13 as revised. The motion passed.

Loretta was directed to submit the Board’s revisions to LCB for review and revision.

Loretta explained the next step will be to hold public workshops after the revised proposed regulations are received back from LCB.

Legislative Services – Discussion was held regarding the need to obtain a knowledgeable and experienced individual or firm to assist the Board in drafting and presenting a bill at the 2015 Legislative Session. A draft solicitation for legislative services was provided review.

Nighat Abdulla made the motion, seconded by Richard Johnson, to issue a solicitation for legislative services as presented. The motion passed.

Bonnie Lamping made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla, to delegate to Rebecca Bailey-Torres and Loretta Ponton the review and selection of a contractor for legislative services. The motion passed.

Executive Director’s Report – Loretta directed the members to the written report in the board packet and provided an overview of the board activities contained in the written report.

The 4th Quarter FY 13 financial statements were provided. Loretta explained the year-end financial statements are unaudited; the FY 12 / FY 13 biennial audit is currently in process and will be completed by November. There were no questions on the financial statements.

Report from Board Chair – Rebecca stated the next meeting has been scheduled for November 22-23 and asked for discussion on a meeting date. Loretta explained that if the regulations are received back from LCB in time, it is the plan to have a regular Board meeting in conjunction with a workshop in Reno on Friday and then also have a Workshop in Las Vegas on Saturday. After discussion, it was determined the dates were acceptable.

Report from Legal Counsel – Henna reported she has been working with Loretta on a Consent Decree with hopes it will be completed in the near future.

Public Comment – There was no public present at this time.

Adjournment – Nighat Abdulla made the motion, seconded by Bonnie Lamping to adjourn. Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

June 7, 2013

Members Present:	Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Richard Johnson By teleconference - Nighat Abdulla and Bonnie Lamping
Members Absent:	Anthony Zamboni
Staff Present:	Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Public Present:	None

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - The meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. by Rebecca Bailey-Torres, President. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present. Nighat Abdulla and Bonnie Lamping participated by conference call.

Public Comment – There was no public in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes – Rebecca asked if there were any comments or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of February 9, 2013. No revisions or corrections were noted.

Bonnie Lamping made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 9, 2013 as presented. The motion passed.

Board Work Session - NAC 637B Regulations; consideration of public comments:

Rebecca requested Loretta to present. Loretta reported that the Public Workshop held on May 4, 2013 did not have a large turn-out; two (2) people representing the public, Rebecca, Bonnie, Henna and Loretta were in attendance. In addition to the comments received at the workshop, several comments were received by email, which were provided in the board packet.

Loretta directed the members to the revised draft regulations which incorporate the comments received with the exception of comments regarding dual licensure and renewal fees. Loretta identified and summarized the revised language and sections of the proposed regulations.

Loretta continued asking for discussion on consideration of a reduction of the continuing education hours required for those holding dual licensure from the current 15 hours for each license for a total of 30 hours to a total of 15 hours for both; and a single license fee for individuals holding dual licensure as both an audiologist and speech pathologist. Bonnie asked if that would be 7.5 hours for each license; Loretta responded it would be the Board's decision.

Loretta continued stating there are six (6) individuals who currently hold dual licenses and added that a single application fee might be appropriate; however she felt if they are practicing both professions that continuing education and license fees should be required for each profession.

Discussion was heard regarding the difference in ASHA membership and certification which does have dual certification with reduced fees and continuing education and the Board's purpose which is to protect the public.

Rebecca stated she agreed; the Board should require 15 hours continuing education for each license and that Speech and Audiology are separate licenses so the fees would apply to each. Bonnie and Nighat also agreed.

There was consensus to approve the changes and revisions as presented in the proposed draft regulations and to incorporate language for a single application for dual licensure. Loretta was directed to make the additional revision and submit the proposed language to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for review.

Fiscal 2014 Budget – Loretta explained the budget incorporates the increased application fee for renewal of a license and reflects conservative expenditure line items based on historical amounts. Loretta summarized each line item explaining increases and decreases with comparison to each line item from the previous year.

Bonnie made the motion, seconded by Nighat to approve the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget as presented. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report – Loretta directed the members to the written report in the board packet.

Loretta summarized licensing activities stating there are 757 current licensees; six of which are dual licensed.

Loretta continued with an overview of the financial statements as of March 31, 2013; reporting revenue is on track to slightly exceed budget and expenditures are within budgeted levels at 74.03% of budget. Loretta explained line items have been added to more accurately reflect expenditure categories; bank services charges, board compensation and dues were previously included under more general line item descriptions. Loretta stated the expenses include the full implementation of the GL Suite licensing system.

Loretta stated both revenue and expenditures are within expected and budgeted levels as of March 31, 2013. Loretta asked if there were questions on the financial statements. No questions were raised.

Loretta reported Bonnie Lamping has been added as the additional bank signatory to the Board's accounts.

Loretta reported there are 5 complaints in the informal investigative stage at this time.

A summary of Legislative Bills which affect the Board was provided. SB220 made changes to the Board's NRS 637B adding new language and provisions to address unlicensed practice, establishing penalties including citations and fines for violation, allowing anonymous complaints, and provides for communication with law enforcement in specific instances.

Another bill, AB 155 establishes specific health care professionals as mandatory reporters for child abuse and requires the Board to notify all licensees of that fact and retain written acknowledgment or an electronic record of the notification. Loretta explained the license application(s) will be updated to include the mandatory language when it is received from the State.

Report from Board Chair – Rebecca stated the next meeting has tentatively been scheduled for September and asked for discussion on a meeting date. After discussion, it was determined there were conflicts which should be considered. Rebecca directed Loretta to schedule a meeting date after consulting with all members on their availability.

Report from Legal Counsel – Henna stated she has nothing to report.

Public Comment – There was no public present at this time.

Adjournment – Rich Johnson made the motion, seconded by Nighat to adjourn. Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

February 9, 2013

Members Present:	Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Board President and Chair, Bonnie Lamping, SLP, Nighat Abdulla, Public Member, Richard Johnson by conference call
Members Absent:	Anthony Zamboni, M.D.
Staff Present:	Loretta L. Ponton, Henna Rasul Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Public Present:	Dane Schmittel, Tracy Singh, Esq

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - The meeting was called to order at 12:27 p.m. by Rebecca Bailey-Torres, President and Chair. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present. Richard Johnson participated by conference call.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Application for Licensure – Dane Schmittel: Rebecca recused herself, stating she is employed by Washoe County School District, and has knowledge of the facts of the case. Rebecca appointed Nighat Abdulla to chair this agenda item.

Loretta stated that Mr. Schmittel is before the Board for consideration of his license application for State licensure as a Speech Language Pathologist. The application is presented due to legal information disclosed on the application and second, additional information received during review of the application. Loretta introduced Mr. Schmittel and Ms. Tracy Singh, Esq., legal counsel to Mr. Schmittel.

Nighat Abdulla asked whether this is his first license application in Nevada. Ms. Singh responded affirmatively. Tracy Singh, legal counsel for Mr. Schmittel provided background information stating Mr. Schmittel is a new graduate within the past year, and that this is his first license application. In regards to the legal aspect, 7-10 years ago, Mr. Schmittel did have some minor legal incidences; one was a minor in possession of a beer in a parking lot, and also a DUI in 2004, the only DUI. Ms. Singh stated another incident was reported when the family home had burned down, and Mr. Schmittel was fighting with family, that case was expunged and dismissed. Mr. Schmittel has obtained three degrees since his legal past, and has turned his life around. In regards to the his practice, his first job was working in the Washoe County School District, where it was more of a faculty role, instead of practicing speech therapy. Mr. Schmittel is currently working in Las Vegas more in the field of speech therapy and is doing quite well. Ms. Singh introduced Mr. Schmittel to answer any questions.

Nighat Abdulla asks about the incident where he was to follow-up with therapy for a child. Mr. Schmittel: I was at an elementary school 3 days a week and middle school 2 days a week. The second week on the job, a client's mother who lived 2 hours a way, wanted to do therapy via Skype. He stated he didn't know the policy, and wanted to ask the administrator. The mother

said she thought the son was deaf in the left ear, and he asked her if he had a hearing test. She said not since birth, but was to have one at the University in a few weeks. She asked if they should hold off on the evaluation until the test was complete, he responded, “Ya I think I would.” Mr. Schmittle continued stating that after the hearing evaluation he didn’t hear back from her, and by that time the workload had really picked up and there was a really demanding principal who required that all of his therapy documentation had to be scripted answer for answer. Mr. Schmittle stated that kids with disorders, you cannot always predict their answer.

Mr. Schmittle stated he was responsible for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. The administration wanted me to learn all of their curriculum components, and do all therapy in the classroom. Mr. Schmittle stated it is difficult to treat disorders, such as stuttering, or articulation disorders, or impairments that they are aware of or embarrassed about. His employer wanted documentation written up over the weekend, and that would take him all weekend. Mr. Schmittle reported that he felt really overloaded, and asked the employer on September 27th if he could only be at the elementary school, stating he was really drowning and was having a tough time going to both schools and wanted to focus just on the elementary school. On October 12th, Amir came on and was going to take over for him. He had not heard back from the mother, and he let the person who was taking over for him know that he was waiting to hear back from the mother. Mr. Schmittle stated that apparently the student was not scheduled for another 2 months; the child was a home-schooled middle school child.

Bonnie Lamping: how many students did you have on your caseload with both elementary and middle school in approximation? Dane Schmittle answered about 50.

Bonnie Lamping: It wasn’t just the speech therapy; it was your first year? Dane Schmittle: Yes, it was really, really hard. Bonnie Lamping: How many colleagues, how many other SLPs at your level were on staff? Dane Schmittle: There was one other, her case load was 76.

Loretta Ponton reported Richard Johnson has joined the meeting via teleconference.

Dane Schmittle continued stating the person who took over had 5 years experience and he felt she was competent.

Ms. Singh: Mr. Schmittle was not terminated from the Washoe County School District for incompetency, or work performance. His dismissal was a result of not reporting the legal incident that even though it was dismissed, at one point still was a conviction. He has never been counseled at work and evaluations did not happen, Mr. Schmittle did not get much feedback from his employer. Where he is employed now, he is doing well, more in line with what he has been trained to do.

Dane Schmittle: It’s everything I ever wanted.; I currently work for EBS Healthcare, contracted for Clark County School District, Bonner Elementary 4 days a week, working in Special Education primarily, such as autism. He added he has around 52 clients on his case loads, which can go up to 70, and is manageable.

Loretta Ponton explained to the members that to work for the school district an individual is not required to be certified by the American Speech-Hearing Association (ASHA) or to be licensed through the State of Nevada. If he were to provide services to the public, he would require a Nevada license and he can then work in any setting.

Loretta asked Mr. Schmittle if he intends to apply for ASHA certification. Mr. Schmittle responded absolutely. Loretta noted that he has not yet applied for ASHA certification, and would need state licensure to go beyond the scope of school district services to provide private services. Loretta stated she highly recommends the ASHA certificate of clinical competency to ensure competencies across the board.

Nighat Abdulla: How long did you work for WCSD? Dane Schmittle: About 3 months.

Tracy Singh: Mr. Schmittle is motivated and willing to participate; he understands what is required and he hopes this to be a long-term position.

Nighat Abdulla confirmed that a Nevada state license is not required to work in the school district.

Bonne Lamping: Did you graduate with a masters and go to work immediately? Did you start your clinical and have a CFY mentor assigned? Dane Schmittle: Yes. I never received any evaluations or feedback, or any paperwork. Bonnie Lamping: Did you have any observations? Mr. Schmittle: I had one observation in 3 months.

Loretta Ponton: Have you applied to ASHA? Mr. Schmittle: Not yet, I didn't finish the CFY. Loretta stated that you have to officially apply to ASHA to begin your CFY; the application has to be accepted prior to beginning the CFY. Mr. Schmittle: Yes, I did. Loretta: ASHA records do not show you have applied.

Tracy Singh asked Mr. Schmittle if he has a mentor. Bonnie Lamping answered the Clark County School District has over 350 SLP's who are qualified to oversee candidates. Bonnie stated it is a one year candidacy to finish the CFY and then ASHA awards the certificate of clinical competence. The certificate is renewable through continuing education; CFY is Clinical Fellowship Year.

Loretta: Do you have any further questions regarding the application? Nighat Abdulla: Were there any disciplinary actions? Mr. Schmittle: No, I found out on January 4th about the allegations. Loretta: The allegations are summarized in the application packet. We received additional information that was brought to the board's attention.

Bonnie Lamping: Have you gotten better at billing? Dane Schmittle: Possibly made mistakes in billing in the past, I was under a lot of stress. My supervisor with EBS seems pleased, and does not worry about the day-to-day aspects. My mentor works for EBS and CCSD. Bonnie: Long-term goals? Mr. Schmittle: Long-term goals; I am considering opening my own practice, maybe near Sacramento. I also would like to work in a hospital; I went to the University of Nevada Reno.

Nighat Abdulla: What was Mr. Schmittle's probation order for? Tracy Singh: That was regarding the house fire incident.

Tracy Singh: How old is your younger brother: Mr. Schmittel: Thirteen (13), which is why I really enjoy working with middle school aged children. My brother and I are best friends; my father passed away 4 years ago; he had dysphasia.

Loretta asks Richard if he has any comment. Richard Johnson: No.

Loretta summarized stating that the Board is to consider the application and make a determination on whether Mr. Schmittel is qualified and appropriate to hold a state of Nevada license, after taking into consideration the application information and testimony presented. Loretta stated that Mr. Schmittel does meet the minimum requirements for licensure according to the law and regulations.

Loretta made the recommendation to allow Mr. Schmittel to practice under a provisional speech pathologist license for one (1) year, with the provision that he complete his clinical fellowship year and obtain ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency. A copy of the certificate of clinical competency would be required to be submitted to the Board at which time the provisions would be removed and the license would be converted to a regular license status. If the requirements to obtain a certificate of clinical competency are not completed within one year from date of licensure; the license would expire and Mr. Schmittel would have to come back before the board in order to reinstate the license.

Loretta stated Mr. Schmittel will need to submit his application to ASHA as soon as possible. Ms. Singh asked if ASHA has open enrollment. Loretta responded yes.

Nighat Abdulla asked for a motion. Bonnie Lamping made a motion to approve a provisional speech pathologist license for a term of one (1) year, with the provision that he complete his CFY year and obtain ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency. Richard Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Rebecca rejoins the meeting and resumes the Chair position.

New Board Member Orientation – Loretta welcomed Bonnie Lamping as a new member on the board.

Loretta provided an orientation to the board beginning with the Board structure and appointment process. Loretta stated there are five members on the board appointed by the governor. Normal terms are 3 years; however terms may be more or less depending on governor's will. There are two (2) speech pathologists, Rebecca Bailey-Torres and Bonnie Lamping, one (1) audiologist, Richard Johnson who is on conference call, one (1) physician, Anthony Zamboni, M.D., who is recovering from surgery and cannot participate today, and one (1) public member, Nighat Abdulla. Applicants apply directly to the governor's office. The board can make recommendations, and give support letters.

The Audiology and Speech Pathology Board office shares an office with The Board of Occupational Therapy located in Reno. The Board pays a proportionate share for that office based upon an approved cost allocation. The amount is determined annually based on actual costs incurred during the previous year. The office is located at 1595 Robb Drive in Reno.

The Board contracts for bookkeeping services for preparation of the financial records, this ensures appropriate internal controls.

Legal services are provided by the Attorney General's Office. Henna Rasul is our representative for all of our legal issues and she ensures the Board complies with the open meeting law, and also gives guidance and representation in other matters. The Board is subject to the Open meeting law and all meetings are open to the public. Board members should not talk board business amongst each other, unless it is in a board meeting.

The Board is exempt from the state budget act and is funded solely by license fees. The Board was created in 1992, as was the fee structure which has never been changed. Audits of financial records are required to be completed biennial. Since January of 2012, operating policies and procedures were created which provides structure to the administrative office, all licensing forms, and complaint forms have been revised and updated, and the Board implemented a web-based licensing, data collection and reporting system, which went live January 13th, 2013. Previously all records were maintained through a manual system. There is a monthly subscription fee for the system.

Board meetings are required to be held at least once a year. Meetings are scheduled four (4) times a year, in person or by teleconference, if necessary. This year the Board has been reviewing regulations which will require additional public workshops and hearings which can be in addition to regular meetings.

Loretta continued with the roles and responsibilities of Board members. The Boards and Commissions Manual was provided in the orientation packet. The Attorney General's office provides training for board members annually which is teleconferenced between Reno and Las Vegas. A link to the Open Meeting Manual is also provided in the packet.

Administrative Rule Making process is the process by which the Board enacts regulations. Any changes to regulations have to be approved by State Legislative Commission. Regulations are required to be reviewed every 3 years. A full review is required every 10 years which is now due.

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) Chapter 637B is the law under which the Board operates. Any changes have to be approved by the state legislature. The Board did develop a bill draft request which was submitted to the Governor's office to submit to the Legislature as a bill to change our law, however, the bill draft request was not forward to the legislative counsel bureau for drafting, so it is technically dead for the next 2 years.

Nevada Administrative Code NAC 637B is the Board's regulations. To differentiate, NRS is the law; NAC are the regulations.

Henna Rasul added that as a board member and active licensed professionals, members may be approached with questions. Henna suggested not to respond and to refer all questions to Loretta. Henna also stated that with respect to the legislative session, any issues a member may want to testify on related to the profession, they should testify in a private citizen capacity and not as a member of the Board.

Approval of the Minutes – Rebecca asked if there were any comments or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2012. Rebecca stated the minutes should reflect that Nighat Abdulla was participating by conference call; under disciplinary actions, add the word “of” before NRS 637B; page 2, last paragraph changing of the word “deficient” to “deficit”.

Rebecca asks for any other changes or corrections. Hearing none, Rebecca calls for a motion to approve. Nighat Abdulla made motion; seconded by Rich Johnson to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2012; as corrected. The motion passed with Bonnie Lamping abstaining.

Executive Director’s Report – Rebecca turned the floor over to Loretta. Loretta directed the members to the written report in the board packet.

Licensing statistics - Loretta reported there were increases over last year at January 1, 2013 of 15 licensees net. As of January 1, 2013 there are 706 licensees; approximately 10 additional licenses have been issued to date.

Financial statements - Loretta directed the members to the financial statements and transaction details.

Loretta explained the revenue reflects six (6) months of income, the remaining balance of license renewal fees is reflected under deferred revenue on the balance sheet. When looking at projected revenue for the fiscal year, you add the deferred revenue of \$28,750 and realized income of \$25,169.00 to project total revenue which will be in excess of \$50,000; that is an important number since it is the amount at which the audit requirements kick in at the state level. Last year (FY 2012) was the first year that the Board hit that \$50,000.00 mark; it is projected revenue will be approximately \$53,000.00 this year (FY 13). The next audit will cover the period 7/1/2011 through 6/30/13.

Loretta summarized the expenses stating the cost for the GL Suite Licensing system is not on this report; the next quarter will have large expenses due to one-time costs. Loretta reported funds in savings of approximately \$162,000.00 and cash in the checking account of approximately \$126,000.00, for a total of \$289,000.00 available funding.

Bank Signatories - Wells Fargo Bank. Loretta reported that two board members and Loretta are signers on the board accounts. Katherine Ross, one of the signatories, is no longer on the board; therefore another board member needs to be added to the accounts. Rebecca asks if anyone would like to volunteer. Rebecca suggested Bonnie since she is the newest member of the board. After discussion, Bonnie agrees to be added to the board accounts as an authorized signatory.

Complaints – Loretta reported one complaint in the informal investigative stage.

Loretta explained the complaint process; a complaint must be submitted in writing stating the allegations. An informal investigation may be necessary which may include a call to the person who made the complaint to obtain more information, if necessary. A letter is sent to the person named in the complaint summarizing the allegations and potential legal violations; allowing the person 20 days to respond to the allegations and notify them of their right to legal counsel. If they do choose to hire legal counsel, all further correspondence is directly to Henna Rasul.

Henna added it is usually Attorney to Attorney communicate in a contested matter.

Loretta stated the response and evidence is reviewed and a determination made whether the complaint allegations have merit. If so, the individual would be notified that the complaint would be brought before the board for Hearing, and they would be given the opportunity to enter into a consent decree. A consent decree is where they admit to the violation(s) and negotiate terms of disciplinary action. If they agree, Henna prepares a consent decree document, which they sign, and the consent decree is then brought before the board for consideration. Loretta stated she and Henna work together to come up with an appropriate discipline to bring before the board. If a consent decree is not negotiated, the matter would go to a full formal Hearing, where all the evidence is presented. The Board would act as the jury similar to a court and make a decision as to the actions to be taken, if any.

Henna Rasul added that if the matter does go to formal Hearing, a formal complaint is filed which becomes public information.

Loretta stated she holds nation certification as an investigator and has received the training and credentials to conduct investigations.

Licensing Fee Schedule – Loretta provided background information regarding the licensing fee schedule and the fee structure authority in existing law and regulations. The law states the amount may not exceed certain dollar amounts for applications, renewals and reinstatements. How those fees are assessed can be determined by the board. Loretta stated she researched and reviewed the law and regulations to determine what was within the parameters of the law. Loretta stated there are approximately 700 licensees who renew their licenses annually who pay a \$50.00 renewal fee but no application fee has previously been assessed. The proposed fee schedule, effective 7/1/13, would add an additional \$50.00 application fee to the renewal fee for a total fee of \$100.00.

Nighat Abdulla asked if background checks are required. Loretta answered no; however, background checks may be required in the future through legislative action. Nighat asks if the fee schedule is similar to other states. Loretta answered Nevada has a very low fee structure compared to other states. Nighat asks if this change is required to go before the legislature. Loretta answers that the fees have already been approved by legislature. The change would add an application fee for renewal applications in addition to the new license applications.

Rebecca asks if there are any other questions or discussions. Hearing none, Rebecca calls for a motion to approve the change in fee schedules as proposed by Loretta. Rich Johnson so moves, seconded by Bonnie. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Workshop - NAC Regulations

Loretta explained this item is a follow up to the previous meeting outlining the proposed regulations. Loretta reported she did research as directed and developed the proposed new regulations for the first two sections of the Board regulations; function of the board and licensing sections.

NAC 637B.020 - Loretta stated she is proposing to delete the entire section regarding salary of members which would provide more flexibility by allowing the Board to make changes through the budgetary process.

NAC 637B.015 – Updates and simplifies the language to give authority, direction and flexibility for staffing of the Board.

NAC 637B.030 – Proposes a new fee structure, remaining within the authority of NRS 637B, the law. Current language reiterates what is in the law, fees for applications, renewals and reinstatements. The proposed revisions break fees out into 3 sections.

The first section is General Application Fees, with a maximum of \$100.00. This section delineates how the application fee would be applied for the specific types of applications; an initial application, renewal applications, reinstatements, conversion from inactive status to active status, and conversion from a provisional or temporary status. An application fee would be assessed for written verification of a license to another agency. Online verification is free.

The second and third sections delineate licensing fees for Audiologists and Speech Pathologists.

Audiologists have five (5) fees; regular active license, temporary license; renewal of license, a new status for renewal of license in inactive status (half price) and reinstatement of license.

Speech pathologists have six (6) fees. In addition, speech pathologists also have a provisional license for individuals who are completing the Clinical Fellowship Year.

Loretta stated there are new statuses and larger varieties of license types; that by applying fees separately there is a potential to generate more revenue.

NAC 637B.035 – Loretta explained that she is proposing all new language for the Licensing section. Loretta provided background information stating she did research on other states and how they handle license renewals, original licenses, and requirements for licensure of new graduates in the Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY). There was a strong trend toward requiring certification in the majority of the states; there are some states that give an option for equivalent competency. Loretta stated she incorporated both of those options in the proposed regulations. Some states required individuals to have obtained C's, but did not require them to retain them. Having obtained certification shows that you did pass competency evaluations. Loretta added the majority of states did require certification for initial licensure. A significant number of states addressed the CFY year by placing a provisional or limited status on a license; some also had supervision requirements, going to the extent of having to have supervisors approved by the board.

Section 1 – Loretta stated this section gives general authority. How and when each requirement is applicable is determined through the application process. For example, for a provisional license, proof of certification would not be required. The design of the regulation gives the authority to designate or identify the requirements for each different licensing function, e.g. renewals, reinstatements, etc.; through the application process.

Loretta stated #7 was added to this section since the review conducted at the previous meeting. If required to provide proof of clinical competency to ensure that the proof is sent directly to the board on the form to be provided by the board.

Section 2 – Loretta stated this section delineates eligibility requirements. In addition to the general requirements, audiologists must have a doctorate degree in audiology, or a master's degree and a CCC, or certification by the American Board of Audiology. Certification by the American Board of Audiology does not have to be current. The Board has licensed audiologists that do not have doctorate degrees. Rich Johnson agrees with adding the ABA certification option, stating that people who graduated before 2007 may not have doctorate degrees.

Loretta continued stating speech pathologists must have a master's degree in speech pathology and a certificate of clinical competency (CCC). Loretta asked for discussion on the option of having current CCC's or submitting proof of completion of equivalent clinical competency. Loretta stated that for an equivalency option, a form would be developed similar to the ASHA competency form which would require a licensed speech pathologist to conduct the competency evaluation and then submit the form to the Board.

Rebecca added she initially thought CCCs should be required; however, after much discussion at the NCSB conference she attended, she has changed mind. Rebecca asked Bonnie for her input.

Bonnie stated she supervises in the CCSD, and that some do not have their CCCs, she signs their Medicaid documents after watching their therapy. She stated she has witnessed many, many competent therapists that do not have the CCCs. It is unfortunate, in Bonnie's opinion, that in this instance, Medicaid is not accepting their documentations, because she believes they are competent SLPs without the CCCs after their name. Bonnie said she is also aware of some people that are not competent, but there are also people with CCCs that are not competent. Bonnie agreed that an option for those who did not pursue their CCCs would be practical and does not feel it would dilute the integrity of the field.

Rebecca commented the proposed language would cover those people. Bonnie added that there are some people that do not have CCCs, and could fill a need; and some people do not want to be a member of ASHA.

Rebecca reported they did have a session at the NCSB conference about the difference between certification and licensure.

Bonnie suggested if they can pass the PRAXIS and have equivalent competency with proper supervision that should be sufficient.

Loretta questioned if current certification should be required; individuals may have completed CFY and obtained certification, but did not renew their certification with ASHA. Bonnie responded that if they passed everything, they should be allowed to practice.

Section 3 – Loretta stated this section covers expiration, renewal and late renewal of a license.

Loretta reported that the Board had previously discussed changing the renewal due date; however, the due date is in the NRS law and cannot be changed by regulation.

Loretta continued, licenses expire on December 31st, and may not be renewed if it has been expired more than 1 month. The renewal application has to be “received” by that date to be considered timely or it’s late. Continuing education requirements apply for renewal of a license.

Section 4 - Loretta stated this section covers requirements for reinstatement of expired active license. Loretta explained there is a three (3) year time period for eligibility for renewal; and continuing education of 15 hours completed in the previous 12 months based on the date of the request for reinstatement. If a license has been expired more than 3 years, the individual would have to apply as a new applicant.

Section 5 – Loretta stated this section establishes regulations for temporary licenses. A temporary license could be requested by individuals who are licensed in another state or territory and would have a length of 6 months and cannot be renewed. A military spouse would receive a temporary license while documentation is pending receipt. A temporary license also cannot be reinstated; however, an individual can convert a temporary to a regular active license upon application and payment of the fee.

Section 6 – Loretta explained this section establishes a provisional license status for a speech pathologist which would address the clinical fellowship year and those without ASHA certification. With both temporary and provisional licenses, the license card would have the word “temporary” or “provisional” delineated on the license. The provisional license is for a speech pathologist that has passed the PRAXIS and is in their first year of practice, it would allow them to establish competency in that first year, it would give them 12 months to establish competency. Once they achieve their CCCs or establish competency, and provide documentation to us, they would convert to an active license upon payment of the conversion fee.

Section 7 – Loretta explained this section adds a new option and allows for an inactive status of a license at a reduced fee. Loretta reported she has received several inquiries about an inactive status for financial reasons. Loretta explained the requirements would be the same; the licensee would sign a statement that they would not be practicing.

Sections 8, 9 and 10 – Loretta stated these sections address administrative issues; prohibits changing or altering licenses cards; requires proof of legal name change within 30 days and issuance of a duplicate license. The fee schedule does not include a charge for a name change or a duplicate license; however it would require that a license be generated. Rebecca recommended a duplicate license fee of \$25.00 be added to the fee schedule.

Section 11 – Loretta stated this is a new section, request for verification of license, which establishes the process and fee to have a written verification sent to another state.

Loretta asked for any questions on the proposed regulations.

Bonnie asked for confirmation that the renewal fee would be increased from \$50.00 to \$100.00 by adding an application processing fee of \$50.00. Loretta confirmed the fee change and stated licensees will be notified in advance and the change would also be posted on the website.

Loretta explained the proposed regulations cannot be sent to the Legislature Counsel Bureau until July for review due to the legislature being in session. Loretta will notify people that the Board is proposing to make these changes; the notice will also be posted on website. Loretta reiterated that the board is only funded by the fees it receives; there is a need to establish a breakeven basis for funding for the Board to run appropriately. One big legal case could wipe out the current reserves.

Henna Rasul added that if the board itself gets sued, the Board would be covered by the Tort Claim Fund.

Contract Performance Evaluation – Loretta explains that she is an independent contractor and that an annual review is required to be done by the Board. The evaluation is comprised of five categories identified on the Contract Performance Evaluation Form. As a general guideline, scoring should be considered as standard unless there is justification for above standard; below standard requires establishment of a corrective action plan. Rebecca asks if the evaluation is to be done individually or as a board. Henna Rasul advised they fill out form individually but discuss amongst the board and come up with an overall evaluation. Loretta confirmed with Richard Johnson that he had the evaluation form.

Rebecca reported that she marked all areas as standard. Rebecca stated that Loretta has steered the board into the 21st century and in compliance with state law. The Board needed to have information online and needed to be compliant with state requirements; there has been huge progress made in the last year.

Nighat reported she rated all areas above standard; stating Loretta is always there to answer questions and is good in her communications and presentation and is doing great.

Richard stated his ratings are all above standard.

Loretta explained that since the ratings were standard or above, the decision now is the performance award; Loretta advised the Board to discuss the performance award and that a vote would be necessary. Rebecca stated a range of 10%, being \$3,600.00 up to 15% being \$5,400.00 was recommended and asks for comment or discussion.

Henna Rasul advised that the options are the Board does not have to or the Board may consider a performance award; they are not required to approve, but Loretta is asking the Board to consider it.

Rebecca stated, based on Henna Rasul's clarification, the Board could consider a performance award. Rebecca made the recommendation to award a performance award. Rebecca asks the members if everyone is in favor. The members answered in the affirmative. Rebecca opens discussion on the amount. Nighat asks what the deficit was; Loretta responded that the budgeted deficit included GL Suite implementation, the budgeted amount is \$48,000.00. Loretta explained that the deficit will be less than budgeted as costs will come under budget in several areas. Looking at the budget as a whole the Board will be within the budget regardless of a bonus.

Rebecca recommended 10% for this year and to re-evaluate for next year. Rebecca asks Richard for comment on the amount of \$3,600.00; Richard agrees.

Rebecca calls for a motion to approve a Performance Award of \$3,600.00. Richard so moves; Bonnie seconds the motion. The motion passed.

Board member report - Rebecca reported she attended both the NCSB and ASHA conferences. She stated she was surprised about what seems to be a lack of ethics or awareness of code of ethics in our state and awareness of what other people are doing and should be doing, and the responsibilities under the code of ethics to report things. For new members the first day they did an in depth orientation and a mock hearing. The session was extremely informational and knowledgeable and worth the board's money, and thinks that it would be beneficial for someone to go every year. Rebecca reported some states had multiple people in attendance; the conference overall was a great experience. Rebecca reported she was not as impressed with the ASHA conference; still was a great conference because of the hundreds of sessions, but not a huge amount that she was interested in; overall still worth the money to attend. Loretta notes the National Board Conference is to be held in San Antonio, Texas in 2013; that it is very beneficial to hear things from other perspectives. Loretta stated she plans to attend and asked members to let her know if they are interested in attending.

Report from Board Chair – Rebecca asked for discussion on a meeting schedule and future agenda items. After discussion, the next meeting was scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Reno. Rebecca stated that future meeting dates will be discussed at the May meeting.

Report from Legal Counsel – Henna Rasul stated she had nothing to report.

Public Comment – There was no public present at this time.

Adjournment – Nighat Abdulla made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Bonnie Lamping. Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

September 28, 2012

Members Present:	Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Katherine Ross, Richard Johnson, Nighat Abdulla
Members Absent:	Anthony Zamboni
Staff Present:	Loretta L. Ponton, Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Public Present:	Beth Kohn-Cole, CPA

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Rebecca Bailey-Torres, President. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present. Nighat Abdulla participated by conference call.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes – Rebecca asked if there were any comments or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2012. Correction of spelling of Katherine's name was requested. No further revisions were noted.

Rich Johnson made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2012 as corrected. The motion passed.

Disciplinary Actions – Loretta requested approval of the dismissal of Case AS 12-01 on the basis of insufficient evidence to warrant a formal hearing as the facts set forth in the complaint were insufficient to establish a violation of NRS 637B or NAC 637B. Loretta explained the complaint was received, investigated and found to be unsubstantiated.

Rich Johnson made the motion, seconded by Katherine Ross to approve the dismissal of Case No. AS 12-01. . The motion passed.

FY 2011 Audit Report – Beth Kohn Cole, CPA presented the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2011, explaining the difference between general fund accounting and governmental funds. An adjustment made to the financial statements to report on a governmental fund basis was capitalization of fixed assets and depreciation; the balance sheet shows Cash and assets of \$287,421, liabilities representing mostly deferred revenue for licensing fees received and unassigned fund balance of \$ 268,563 as of June 30, 2011. The statement of revenue and expenditures reflects total revenue of \$48,998; expenditures of \$21,849, resulting in \$27,149 excess revenue over expenditures. Beth Kohn Cole stated the report on internal controls had no findings.

Rebecca asked for a motion.

Katherine Ross made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to accept the FY 2011 Audit of the financial statements of the Board. The motion passed.

FY 2012 / FY 13 Biennial Audit – Loretta explained that the state requires an audit when revenue reaches \$50,000; FY 12 revenue has exceeded the \$50,000 threshold. Loretta stated the state does provide an option to approve a biennial audit, an audit of 2 years of financial information. Loretta recommended the Board move to a 2 year biennial audit period, beginning with the FY 12/13 biennial period. Loretta also stated that Kohn Colodny LLP has submitted a proposal for the conduct of the biennial audit at a cost of \$8,000 which would be budgeted in FY14. Beth Kohn Cole added that the cost may be less, if the actual time required for the audit is less than estimated.

Rebecca called for a motion on the biennial audit period.

Nighat Abdulla made the motion, seconded by Rich Johnson to adopt a 2 year audit cycle beginning with the FY 12/13 biennial period. The motion passed.

Rebecca called for a motion on the audit services proposal.

Katherine Ross made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to approve the proposal by Kohn Colodny LLP to conduct the FY 12/13 biennial audit at a cost of \$8,000. The motion passed.

Beth Kohn Cole thanked the members and left the meeting.

Executive Director's Report – Rebecca turned the floor over to Loretta. Loretta directed the members to the written report in the board packet.

Loretta reported there were 779 current licensees as of September 15th.

Loretta stated the Governor has not yet appointed a replacement for Katherine. Discussion of the appointment process and clarification of continuation after a term has expired was heard. Katherine reiterated that she is not interested in continuing to serve on the Board.

Loretta reported the CE audit has been completed; the contract for the licensing system with GL Suite has been approved by the state; and that there have been no new complaints received.

Loretta directed the members to the financial statements as of June 30, 2012; reporting revenue of \$51,310 and expenditures of \$55,975 for a net of (\$4,311), with approximately \$265,000 in cash reserves in the checking and savings accounts. Loretta stated the costs include the restructuring of the Board's staff and administrative office.

Rich Johnson asked if we should be concerned about incurring a deficit next year. Loretta responded that the budget takes into account the administrative changes and one-time costs to get the administrative systems up; cash reserves are sufficient to cover anticipated expenses until the administrative system is stabilized. The Board will be addressing fees and other regulatory and law changes in the near future. Loretta stated she is comfortable with the financial status at this time.

Rebecca called for a motion on the FY 2012 4th Quarter Financial Statements.

Katherine made the motion, seconded by Nighat, to approve the FY 2012 financial statements as presented. The motion passed.

Loretta reported that the Revised Application for Renewal captures data elements necessary to record current information when developing the GL Suite system. Also, the annual CE Audit would be incorporated with the 2013 renewal by requiring 100% of all licensees to submit documentation of completion with their 2013 application. The due date of the 2013 renewal would remain December 31st with applications having to be “received” by that date. The month of January would be the late renewal period for retroactive status upon payment of the additional \$75.00 late renewal fee. Licensees would be required to reinstate their license if not renewed by the end of January and reinstatements would not be retro-active; the effective date would be the date of reinstatement.

Rebecca called for a motion on the 2013 renewal application and terms.

Rich made the motion, seconded by Nighat to approve the 2013 Application for Renewal as presented. The motion passed.

Board Workshop - NAC Regulations

Rebecca requested Loretta to present. Loretta stated the Proposed Outline for Board Regulations was developed around the proposed Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) law changes submitted in the Board’s Bill Draft Request; and will be included in developing the GL Suite licensing system.

Loretta directed the Board to the current language in NAC 637B.035 Licensing section of the regulations; stating there is currently a single regulation which requires only an Application, transcripts and payment of the fee.

Loretta explained the sections proposed and began the discussion with General Provisions which provides the general requirements for all license types. The next section reviewed was License eligibility requirements. Discussion was heard regarding current ASHA certification required for licensure. Rich Johnson stated the ASHA certification requirement should be removed for Audiologists; unless the audiologists is teaching or is a professor, it is not needed. Audiologists who have doctoral degrees have an additional two (2) years of education which should be taken into account.

Discussion was heard regarding Speech Pathologist requirements for “current” ASHA certification questioning whether it is necessary, once certified you have to pay dues to maintain certification. ASHA recently added continuing education as a requirement for renewal; the Department of Education and the Board also require continuing education for licensure. Discussion continued regarding speech pathologist graduates completing a clinical fellowship year under the supervision of a certified speech pathologist; the ASHA certification documents completion of the clinical fellowship and obtaining clinical competency. ASHA certification also ties the individual to the ASHA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

The Board came to a general consensus that license requirements for Audiologists with a doctoral degree should not require ASHA certification; license requirements for Speech Pathologist would require certification for initial licensure, but current membership status would not be required. After additional discussion, Loretta was directed to research other states certification requirements and bring back to the Board for further discussion.

Loretta continued with Expiration, Renewal and Reinstatement requirements. Discussion was heard regarding changing the annual expiration date to other than December 31st including options of birthdates; initial licensure date or fiscal year. Discussion of continuing education regarding the timeframe for completion of continuing education was heard with a consensus that the timeframe would be 12 months prior to the date of submittal of a renewal. Loretta continued stating that for reinstatement, verification of professional licenses is a new provision that would ensure an individual is in good standing in any other jurisdiction prior to reinstatement of the Nevada license.

Loretta continued with a discussion of Inactive license status as a new provision, stating this would be an option for a licensee who is not currently practicing in Nevada but wishes to retain their professional license. The option would be available at renewal and would still require completion of continuing education. A licensee would be able to convert to active status during the year.

The next section reviewed was Temporary licenses. Loretta explained the only difference is the time-frame for expiration; the military spouse requesting expedited processing would be eligible under this license type. After discussion, there was a consensus that the temporary license should expire after 6 months; it is not renewable and therefore continuing education would not be required. The military spouse temporary license would convert to the regular license upon receipt of all required documents.

Loretta continued with the Temporary Provisional license explaining this license would be applicable to new graduates who have not completed their clinical fellowship year. The individual would have passed the PRAXIS exam, applied for certification from ASHA and have begun their clinical fellowship. Discussion resumed regarding requiring ASHA certification and options for ensuring clinical competence of licensees such as the Board requiring documentation and supervision. The issue of continuing education as a requirement to maintain competency was heard; ASHA does require continuing education for renewal of certification; the Board also requires continuing education. There was a consensus that Loretta should continue researching options.

Loretta reported that previously new graduates were unofficially exempted from continuing education; for the 2012 renewal year, new graduates are being required to provide CE information; however, their academic coursework would be accepted.

Loretta continued with new miscellaneous provisions to the Licensing section. These new sections are alteration of license, name changes, duplicate licenses, address changes, request for license verification and acceptable payments.

A question was asked whether charging for license verification is normal. Loretta explained that a fee would be charged for written verification only; on-line verification would have no fee. Most states charge for written license verification as it requires staff time and expenses.

Loretta directed the members to the Standards of Practice and Professional Conduct section stating items 1 through 3 are new. Rebecca stated that the Board adopted the ASHA code of ethics; that the Academy of Audiology may also have their own Code of Ethics, which Rich confirmed. Discussion was heard regarding the possibility of developing a separate state Board Code of Ethics.

Discussion of practice under legal name only was heard; use of professional title or initials included the word “therapist” which is used by unlicensed individuals in the school district. The use of SLPCF and placement of CCC before or after the professional initials was also discussed. Loretta continued with Scope of Practice, stating consideration of specific scope of practice areas such as telepractice and incorporating the ASHA Knowledge and Skills for Endoscopy and Video endoscopy may be appropriate; other practice areas of concern should be identified; this section will be addressed in the near future. Loretta asked the members to send other areas of concern to her so that appropriate research can be done in preparation for future revisions.

Loretta concluded the review stating a lot has been accomplished in a short time and that the Board’s direction will be incorporated for future reviews.

Report from Board Chair – Rebecca asked for discussion on a meeting schedule. After discussion, Rebecca established the next meeting date for February 8th in Reno or February 9th in Las Vegas if a new Board member is appointed from the Las Vegas area. Loretta was directed to schedule the location as appropriate and notify the members.

Report from Legal Counsel – Henna stated she has nothing to report.

Public Comment – There was no public present at this time.

Adjournment – Rich Johnson made the motion, seconded by Katherine Ross to adjourn. Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.



STATE OF NEVADA
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
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Loretta L. Ponton
Executive Director

Constituent Surveys

The Board conducted a Survey of Licensees to solicit comments on a proposed consolidation of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists with the Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology.

The Survey Questionnaire and Summary of Responses with Comments is provided.

Licensee Survey Summary

Responses	Licensure Type			Support a Single Board?		Impact on Profession?		
	AUD	HAS	SLP	Yes	No	Economic	Financial	None
1			1		1	1	1	
2			1	1				1
3	1	1			1		1	
4			1	1				1
5	1	1		1		1	1	
6	1			1				1
7			1	1				1
8			1		1	1		
9			1	1				1
10	1			1		1	1	
11			1	1				1
12			1		1			no idea
13			1	1				1
14			1	1				1
15	1				1		1	
16			1		unknown			unknown
17	1				maybe			unknown
18			1	1				1
19	1			1				1
20			1			1		1
21			1	1			1	
22			1	1			1	
23	1				1	1		
24	1			1			not sure	
25	1			1			1	
26			1	1				1
27			1	1			1	
Totals	10	2	17	18	6	6	9	12
%	37%	7%	63%	67%	22%	22%	33%	44%

Licensee Survey

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM LICENSEES

What do you feel are the negative factors which should be considered?

- SLP – This should be governed by another entity. Makes our services look less of value.
- SLP – A single board may have one group outnumbering another and improper decisions could be made if the representative is unable to properly explain his/her reasoning.
- AUD & HAS - With the combination of the boards, it may be easier to become licensed to sell hearing aids in NV. The rules need to be kept as stringent, if not more, for becoming a Hearing Aid Specialist as they are currently.
- AUD - I really don't see anything that would be negative unless the hearing aid board feels like its a negative. If the hearing aid board feels like its a negative I believe its more of a misunderstanding or false information than truly a real concern.
- SLP - Education, goals, evaluations, treatment, billing are all different for each occupation.
- SLP – It requires more education, clinical practicums, and continuing education to be a speech pathologist and audiologist. How would our licensing be impacted?
- AUD – Possible conflicts in the codes of ethics, however if each area is identified separately under the Board this could be eliminated as a factor.
- SLP - I do not think that mixing hearing aid specialists with professionals who provide therapeutic and evaluation services is a wise choice, because our scope of practice is entirely different. Our education and focus is entirely different. It is somewhat like saying car sales people and mechanics do the same thing or drug sales people and doctors should be under the same regulatory board. Speech Pathologists and Audiologists do not sell products but provide a service. I myself would never go to a hearing aid person without first visiting an audiologist. Then I would make sure I understood my audiogram well enough to be able to ask questions and make sure I was getting what I need. I would not go directly to a hearing aid sales facility and rely solely upon their guidance, although a lot of people who have hearing problems take that route. Business and commerce are different from assessment and therapy, and perhaps should not be handled by the same board.
- SLP - None.
- SLP – Any increased cost, impact on current or potential businesses.
- AUD - In my opinion, it makes sense for Audiology & Speech Pathology (both professional disciplines) to be combined. We are typically trained together in undergraduate programs that are called something like "Communication Disorders." Hearing Aid Specialist / Apprentice is not a separate professional discipline and I do not see it fitting under the same board from a licensing standpoint.
- SLP - I cannot think of possible negative factors that would have an impact on me.
- AUD - I would hope that combining boards would not increase licensing fees for audiologists that choose not to be licensed as dispensers. Beyond that I'm not sure what any other negative factors might be because I'm unclear about exactly what a combined board would look like.
- SLP – None

- AUD – Hearing Aid Specialists are not in the same category as audiologists, they only require a high school diploma. Audiologists must obtain a doctorate degree. Rather than combine the Boards, why not follow what other states have done and grant audiologists dispensing privileges under their audiology license. Hearing aids are within our scope of practice and the only benefit to the extra license seems to be collecting more money. The continuing education hours are virtually the same thing for both licenses. I don't even think that speech pathologists should be on the same Board, as they are a different profession than Audiology.
- AUD – If you double the licensing fee, it could be financially difficult for some people.
- AUD – Assuming increased license fees to reflect those of the current Hearing Aid Board, costs would increase for those who are currently not licensed by that board.
- SLP – Potential conflict of interests. A certified audiologist is entirely different from a hearing aid specialist.
- SLP – some people on the Boards may lose employment

What do you feel are the positive factors which should be considered?

- SLP – Control of Hearing Aid Licensing regulations.
- AUD & HAS – less regulatory fees
- SLP – all groups have contributing ideas that overlap
- SLP - One board for all of these professions could provide one place to gather resources for professionals wanting to become licensed, as well as for the community to gather more information on these different professions and the scope of practice of each. The professional standards from ASHA could be used as a nice template for the standards of the professions.
- AUD - I think it would make the boards both more efficient. They would be more financially and fiscally sound. They will have more credibility and the ability to react more to issues with the boards merged. See no downside, just a lot of upside. Ultimately in most states an audiologist doesn't need a hearing aid license, I like that Nevada has one, but feel that there is no reason to have two boards for it. At the end of the day if all the audiologists wanted to get together they could probably lobby to get rid of the hearing aid license for themselves which would leave the hearing aid board really small in numbers this will guarantee that the hearing aid board won't go away and that audiologists will still have to participate in the hearing aid exam/testing and regulations.
- SLP - Strength in numbers
- SLP – Speech Pathologists and Audiologists can provide valuable feedback to the hearing aid specialists. The collaboration may be a very good thing.
- SLP – More unity and streamlining
- AUD – All these are sister professions, having a single board would allow us to address certain overall areas with greater ease.
- SLP - Perhaps the hearing aid specialist/sales people might be better regulated by a knowledgeable board.
- SLP - All licenses under one board.
- SLP – I'm assuming it would combine into one group what is now two and save money/resources.

- AUD – It would likely require less staffing, etc. for the State of Nevada.
- SLP – I cannot think of possible positive factors that would have an impact on me.
- AUD – I think a positive factor could be a lower cost for audiologists to be licensed in dispensing. I have chosen not to get my dispenser's license because of what seems like an outrageous cost to me when I am already licensed as an audiologist and dispensing hearing aids is within my scope of practice. If a combined board resulted in licensed audiologists only having to pay an exam fee plus maybe an extra \$100 dispensing license fee per year then I would consider that a positive, and something I would do even though I don't have to be licensed as a dispenser in my current position because we don't dispense hearing aids. But as it is now I refuse to pay an exam fee, an initial application fee and an annual licensing fee when I am already licensed as an audiologist and well qualified to dispense hearing aids
- SLP – Potential cost reduction and streamlining of the process.
- SLP – May help to bring down annual dues as they jumped by \$50 this past year.
- SLP - Efficiency in sharing staff and software, etc.
- AUD – Only have to renew one license.
- AUD – Increased efficiency, stopping the current duplication of efforts, and reduced costs. Hopefully, the newly created board could charge the current licensure rate as does the Audiology Speech Pathology Board.
- SLP - I do not see any positive factors in this restructuring
- SLP – Since the annual fee increased, perhaps administration costs would be lower and reduce the annual license fee.

Other Comments:

- AUD & HAS – NV should join other states where audiologists automatically become HAS & not req'd to pay for 2 licenses. Support only Audiology & HAS, but would accept single Board.

Results of Survey Conducted by the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

for the

Possible Consolidation of the Board

Results from Hearing Aid Specialists:

1. Do you support a single Board for the governance and regulation of Audiologist, Hearing Aid Specialists and Speech Pathologists?

No – 7

Yes – 6

2. Would there be an impact on your profession or practice?

None – 7

Yes – 1

Yes/financial – 1

*I think there will be an impact on my profession as far as economic and financial. I think the licensee fees with rise, the CEU credits will go up and slowly we will be phased out. I hate to say it, but Audiologist has never been a fan of Hearing Aid Specialists.

*This would be a political nightmare and increase animosity over regulations that impact our livelihoods. I am not in favor of it.

3. What do you feel are the negative factors which should be considered?

- a. There would be no negative factors.

- b. Because these three jobs vary so much in scope of practice as well as the type and amount of training I believe it would be more difficult to find board members who are well enough versed in all three fields to oversee the licensing and regulation of all three combined. It seems to me that any time things are combined some expertise is lost.

- c. I question any economic benefit to the taxpayer. In the last meeting, they presented a lobbyist, whom I assume was being paid with taxpayer money. This is a complete waste of monies.

- d. As far as negative impact, I think the ones listed above should be included, but I also think why we should be integrated when they are all separate professions.

- e. Each may have different needs based on the community they serve. The audiologist and speech pathologist may not feel aligned with the needs of the hearing aid board.

- f. I like our Board Members and don't want to lose them.

- g. I can't think of any negatives.

- h. Danger of Board being loaded towards one profession or the other.

- i. Staffing the Board appropriately.

- j. If by combining boards fees are raised for licensing, there could be a negative impact on the amount of people applying for licenses. If boards are combined, more things would need to be discussed at meetings and more time would be taken to review applications. This could mean longer wait times for applicants.

- k. Unsure, I haven't been given enough information about this possibility to make an informed comment.
4. What do you feel are the positive factors which should be considered?
- a. This would make it a more streamlined process for AuD's to apply for their dispensing license.
 - b. Some overlap of services occurs within these three fields and often patients are referred from one to another or they may seek a second opinion from one after being seen by another. The same standards of patient care need to apply no matter what discipline the professional is in. I tested a patient some time ago who had a mild to severe sloping sensori-neural hearing loss with elevated MCL's and discrimination scores in the low 80% range. I recommended a binaural fitting of hearing aids. The patient already had an appointment scheduled with her ENT here in the same town. I provided the patient with a copy of my testing and recommendation to take with her to that appointment. The ENT took one glance at the test results and told her she didn't need hearing aids. I recognize the fact that ENT's will be handled by a different board but the same scenario sometimes occurs with audiologists. If the same board oversees the different disciplines perhaps it will reduce the amount of disparity in the recommendations given by each discipline. When a professional makes a recommendation for or against hearing aids to a patient it should be based on the same standards consistent from one discipline to another. An audiologist would use the same criteria as a hearing aid specialist or speech pathologist. When patients get widely varying advice from one professional to the next it makes all of us look suspect and lowers the patient's trust in our professions.
 - c. Relying on the professional at the last meeting, I saw no benefit.
 - d. As far as positive factors, I do not foresee any.
 - e. There may be more cohesiveness if the boards did have some common factors.
 - f. Possibility of streamlining one's ability to get a license.
 - g. Positive factors include a stronger presence in our state for the professions, greater lobbying power and saved money by combining the boards. California recently combined theirs and obviously has much greater numbers than we do.
 - h. Consolidation of resources might mean more effective organization.
 - i. Efficiency.
 - j. If the boards were combined there could be more meetings throughout the year which could mean less wait time for applicants trying to get their licensure.
 - k. Unsure, I haven't been given enough information about this possibility to make an informed comment.

Other comments:

- *We both feel that Audiologists and Hearing Aid Specialists are separate professions.
- *We do not support a single board for these two separate professions.

Results from **Audiologists who hold a hearing aid specialist license:**

1. Do you support a single Board for the governance and regulation of Audiologist, Hearing Aid Specialists and Speech Pathologists?
No – 1
Yes – 8
2. Would there be an impact on your profession or practice?
None – 8
Yes – 1
Yes/financial – 1
3. What do you feel are the negative factors which should be considered?
 - a. I do not think it will affect anything either way.
 - b. I really don't see anything that would be negative unless the hearing aid board feels like it's a negative. If the hearing aid board feels like it's a negative I believe it's more of a misunderstanding or false information than truly a real concern. I only think this makes hearing aid dispensers and audiologist stronger and more unified to the public and also makes financial and business sense to do this. Power in numbers is almost always a good thing.
 - c. Lobbying problems and focusing on advancements specific to audiologists.
 - d. One area of expertise not receiving the proper attention and help needed.
 - e. None.
 - f. I can't think of any negatives.
 - g. Because of the differences in professions speech pathologist may be concerned that they are in the same group as hearing instrument specialists. Issues that may be pertinent to audiologist and H.I.S. may not pertain to SLPs.
 - h. There are a lot of complaints with hearing aid specialists.
4. What do you feel are the positive factors which should be considered?
 - a. I would hope the positive would be CE hours could be overlapped and could be considered for both licenses.
 - b. I think it would make the boards both more efficient. They would be more financially and fiscally sound. They will have more creditability and the ability to react more to issues with the boards merged. I see NO downside, just a lot of upside. Ultimately in most states an audiologist doesn't need a hearing aid license. I like that Nevada has one, but feel that there is no reason to have two boards for it. At the end of the day if all the audiologists wanted to get together they could probably lobby to get rid of the hearing aid license for themselves which would leave the hearing aid board really small in numbers...this will guarantee that the hearing aid board won't go away and that audiologist will still have to participate in the hearing aid exam/testing and regulations.
 - c. Collaboration amongst professionals that commonly work together.
 - d. Combined efforts will give more power and say in implementing regulations.
 - e. Only have to purchase one license from myself and audiologists that are my employees. I think that the Doctors of Audiology should not need to take a hearing aid license exam because they have already had four years of training. They should just need to supply their diploma. If the

Board still decides that all audiologist need to take a hearing aid license exam, then I think that doctor of audiology students that just graduated and or out-of-state move in audiologist should be given a temporary license until the hearing aid exam for the following reasons: 1) I had one audiologist that I hired this past June. She graduated with a Doctor of Audiology in May. She did not obtain her hearing aid dispensing license until November because the Hearing Aid Board only meets two or three times a year to give the exam. This put business owners at a big disadvantage to recruit audiologists to come to Nevada. What graduating audiologist or out-of-state audiologist would want to move to Nevada and not dispense hearing aids for four to six months until he or she receives a hearing aid dispensing license.

- f. Positive factors include a stronger presence in our state for the professions, greater lobbying power and saved money by combining the boards. California recently combined theirs and obviously has much greater numbers than we do.
- g. I would only be required to renew one license per year instead of the two I have to currently renew. Consolidating the boards would save money by reducing positions and members needed for each separate board.
- h. Can't think of any.
- i. Fewer entities, more efficiency.
- j. It should be more convenient for audiologists who dispense hearing aids to communicate with one board. I believe it will keep the hearing aid license linked closer with audiology as it should be.

Other Comments:

I think that the board should approve a license for Audiology Assistants. There are states across the country that are implementing a license for Audiology Assistants. There are online programs at several locations (Nova Southeastern University, The American Institute for Balance, and other programs) that audiology assistants can obtain certification for a license. With the changes to healthcare reimbursement, there is a big push for audiology assistants because it can reduce the work flow for the audiologist (e.g. – audiology assistants can clean the hearing aids, redo tubing on BTE hearing aids, set-up the hearing aids for the audiologist and connect them to the software (no programming), free hearing screenings). Some practices that have implemented audiology assistants have reduced the audiologist appointments by one to three thousand appointments per year. This also reduces the overhead of the private practices because they do not have to hire as many audiologists. A license for an Audiology Assistant would also allow the board to make more money off of the licenses, which give the board more money to support the board. I have attached a statement from the American Academy of Audiology on audiology assistants.