

“State Exchange Information” Alabama License Plates



“Sweet Home Alabama”

Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA)

2022-2023 Board Members:

Lawrence Molt, Mark Carroll, Karen Flynn, Brady Rives, Ellen Maxwell, Frances Clark, Summer Macias
Executive Director - Wanda Rawlinson

2023 Annual NCSB Conference, Charlotte, NC
October 6 & 7, 2023

“Use of Social Media”



“Sweet Home Alabama”

What social media platforms does your Board use?

Our Board only operates a website, which is maintained by the state IT Agency. One board member is assigned to determine what changes are necessary to the website.

Our largest state professional association, the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama (SHAA) occasionally provides ABESPA news on their Facebook, Instagram and X (the insanity formerly known as Twitter) sites.

“Enforcement Authority”



“Sweet Home Alabama”

What is your board’s enforcement authority? (e.g. fines; recouping costs of investigation; revocation; etc.)

- Revocation
- Suspension
- Reprimand
- Fines (max \$1000 per offense for Licensee, \$500 per offense for CF/4th Year/Assistant, or \$100 to \$500 per offense for non-licensees)
- Probation
- Consent Decree

“Disability Accommodation Policy”



“Sweet Home Alabama”

Does your board have a written policy regarding accommodating board members with disabilities? licensees? Consumers?

870-X-1-.04 Standing Committees

(h) **Special Assistance Committee.** The committee on special assistance shall be charged with ensuring the Board meets the requirements of ADA or other laws regarding discrimination in serving the public. The committee will receive and review any complaints made regarding the ADA and other discrimination laws or designee. The chair of the special assistance committee will attend any special meetings established by the State of Alabama addressing ADA requirements and other discriminations.

“Employment Picture”



“Sweet Home Alabama”

Is the # of licensees in each area covered by your board increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

Alabama has been a growth area for several decades. We typically average anywhere between a 2% to 5% increase in licensees annually. In the last decade the number of graduate academic programs in SLP located within the state has expanded from 5 universities to 8, with a 9th in planning status. Consequently we have been experiencing increasing numbers of CFY/4th year registrants/provisional licensees. We have been registering A & SLP Assistants for over 2 decades and their numbers have also been increasing.

“Assistants”



“Sweet Home Alabama”

What is the status of assistants (speech or audiology) in your state (e.g. not covered in statute, covered but not awarded, no personnel prep programs)?

We have been registering Audiology & SLP Assistants for over 2 decades; both are also provided temporary certification status in the schools under Alabama Department of Education authority. Both ABESPA and ADOE regulations require the minimum of a Baccalaureate Degree in Communication Disorders, SLP, or Audiology so individuals meeting some of the new ASHA assistant certification programs will not meet ABESPA or ADOE requirements.

“Complaints”



“Sweet Home Alabama”

Is the number of complaints increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

The number of complaints annually has remained very consistent over the last decade (ABESPA has a very low complaint ratio, typically 5 or less annually)

What are the most frequent complaints about (e.g. impaired professional; billing)

Billing, violations by SLP/A Assistants, Licensee misconduct

“OTC Hearing Aids”



“Sweet Home Alabama”

Has the implementation of OTC hearing aids affected your board?
How? (e.g. have you passed/are you considering passing any additional regulations related to OTC hearing aids).

ABESPA has not been affected by OTC (non-prescription) hearing aids – all ABESPA rules and regulations for hearing aid dispensing by licensed audiologists remain in effect. Alabama has a separate Hearing Instrument Dealers Board (HIDB) which does not regulate licensed audiologists – we are not aware if they have been affected by OTC Hearing Aids.

“Successes and Challenges”



“Sweet Home Alabama”

What successes have you had since our 2022 conference?

ABESPA provides grants to appropriate organizations for CE activities that benefit Alabama licensees and professionals. In our most recently completed budget year we provided \$35,000 in funding for Continuing Education offerings by Alabama professional associations and academic programs

What is your biggest challenge?

We faced 2 significant challenges this year. Senate Bill 156 proposed putting almost all state licensure agencies under direct control of the Secretary of State, greatly diminishing our autonomy – that bill was defeated. Our governor issued 3 executive orders requiring all state agencies and boards to review all rules and regulations and remove any that were placing an undue burden on citizens and businesses. We have so far completed our review and notified the office monitoring the process the vast majority of our rules and regs did not place undue burdens, but that we are planning to simplify the section pertaining to the regulations for continuing education activities.

“Contact Information”



Who to contact for more information:

- **Board Office:**
Wanda Rawlinson, ABESPA Executive Director
(wanda.rawlinson@abespa.alabama.gov)
- **Presenter/Chair**
Dr. Larry Molt, ABESPA Chair (moltlaw@auburn.edu)



Arkansas license plate:



Arkansas data:



EMPLOYMENT “PICTURE”

Is the # of licensees in each area covered by your board increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same? Slow, steady increase in numbers:

Arkansas has 3,425 active licenses:

107 SLP-As, 208 Audiologists, 2957 SLPS

Arkansas



COMPLAINTS

Is the number of complaints increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same? Somewhat consistent

What are the most frequent complaints about?

practicing without a license

ASLP-IC



Successes in Arkansas:

Arkansas joined the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact in March 2023!!



Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech Pathology and Audiology
ABESPA

Director:

Nathaniel Roe Nathaniel.Roe@arkansas.gov

Current Board Chair: Aimee Cloud



BRAD LITTLE
Governor
RUSSELL BARRON
Administrator

State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Idaho Speech, Hearing and Communication Services
Licensure Board

11341 W Chinden Blvd.
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0063
(208) 334-3233
dopl.idaho.gov

IDAHO ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY



What is your board’s enforcement authority?

Idaho Code § 54-2925. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS--PENALTIES.

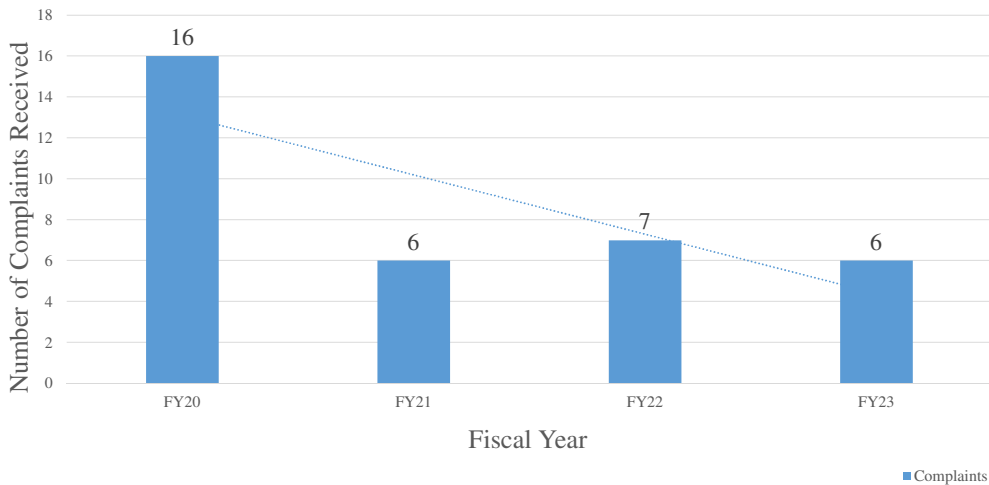
- a) Formal Reprimand.
- b) Require additional education for continued practice.
- c) Impose restrictions and/or conditions as to scope of practice, place of practice and supervision of practice.
- d) Suspend or Revoke a license.
- e) Impose a fine not to exceed \$1000 for each violation of Idaho Code, Title 54 Chapter 29 Speech and Hearing Services Practice Act.

IDAHO COMPLAINTS



The most frequent complaints in FY23 are related to missed diagnoses.

Idaho Speech, Hearing and Communication Services Licensure Board
Complaints Over Time



IDAHO



What successes have you had since our 2022 conference?

- The Board's Administrative Rules underwent a review and rewrite, Pursuant to Governor Brad Little's Executive Order 2020-01 Zero-Based Regulation.
- The Board implemented ways to decrease regulatory burden in their Administrative Rules, and the changes were authorized by the legislature in 2023.

What is your biggest challenge?

- One challenge the Board has encountered is OTC Hearing Aids.

IDAHO Contact



Nicki Chopski, Health Professions Bureau Chief

Email: Nicki.Chopski@dopl.idaho.gov

Phone: (208) 605-4702

Gayle Chaney, Board Chair

Email: dgchaney7273@gmail.com

Phone: (208) 934-4457

















SOCIAL MEDIA

What social media platforms does your Board use? Who manages the posts? Please comment on the success of each.

The MS State Department of Health has a Facebook page. The IT Department for MSDH manages the page.



ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

What is your board's enforcement authority? (e.g. fines; recouping costs of investigation; revocation; etc.)

Probation with consent orders, suspension or revocation of licensure.
We are unable to do monetary penalties.



Disability accommodation policy

Does your board have a written policy regarding accommodating board members with disabilities? licensees? Consumers?

MSDH has a non-discrimination notice posted on the website.

The Bureau of Professional Licensure is an umbrella with the MS State Department of Health.



EMPLOYMENT “PICTURE”

Is the # of licensees in each area covered by your board increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

For SLPs, the number is increasing. For AUDs, it is staying about the same.

The Bureau of Professional Licensure only licenses health licenses; educators licenses are issued by the MS Department of Education.



ASSISTANTS

What is the status of assistants (speech or audiology) in your state (e.g. not covered in statute, covered but not awarded, no personnel prep programs)?

Assistants are not covered. The SLP/AUD advisory council is interested in assistant, but it would take a law change since it is currently not covered.



COMPLAINTS

Is the number of complaints increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

What are the most frequent complaints about (e.g. impaired professional; billing)

The number of complaints is decreasing since COVID. The most frequent complaints have been failing drug screenings and falsifying notes/time.



OTC Hearing Aids

Has the implementation of OTC hearing aids affected your board?
How? (e.g. have you passed/are you considering passing any additional regulations related to OTC hearing aids).

A definition for OTC and RX hearing aids are in the process of being added. The next Board of Health meeting is in October, and on approval, it will go into effect 30 days after.



What successes have you had since our 2022 conference?
What is your biggest challenge?

Success:

- Advisory council approved definitions of OTC and RX hearing aids and should be approved at the next BOH meeting
- Increased communication with advisory council

Challenges:

- Only 1 of 4 schools taking advantage of school presentations for SLP



Contact:

Felicia Wang

Felicia.wang@msdh.ms.gov

Director – Yolanda Morrow

Yolanda.morrow@msdh.ms.gov

www.healthymms.com

601-364-7360



Social Media Platforms

The North Carolina Board does not use any social media platforms.

Electronic communication is through our website and emails.



ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

What is your board's enforcement authority? (e.g. fines; recouping costs of investigation; revocation; etc.)

Suspension, continuing education courses in specific areas, supervision, additional reporting, and the Board has been creative in creating other methods of assisting the licensees in their areas of weakness.

We do not have the authority to issue fines or fees for recouping the costs of investigations.

Disability accommodation policy

Does your board have a written policy regarding accommodating board members with disabilities? licensees? Consumers?

The Board's website is ADA-compliant. If prior notice is given, special accommodations can be put in place when the licensee/consumer comes by for their appointment, board meeting, or hearing. The Board has approved special accommodations for assistant testing.

The number of licenses consistently increases each year. There were 3,863 active licensees/registrants in 2003 and there are now 9,309 active licensees/registrants.



ASSISTANTS

SLP-Assistants and Audiology Assistants are covered in a limited way. New legislation has been introduced to increase the Board's disciplinary authority over Assistants.



The number of complaints we receive is increasing.

The most frequent complaints are fraudulent billing, licensees allowing unauthorized/unregistered individuals to serve their caseloads, racial prejudice, some instances of aggressive behavior by licensees, and lack of professionalism.

We have received 26 complaints since last October.

OTC Hearing Aids

We updated our language in the statute to reflect the FDA changes; however, the legislation did not pass. So, we are drafting further clarifying language regarding OTC hearing aid requirements versus the online sale of prescription hearing aids.

Areas of discussion include: otoscopy when selling a prescription hearing aid; in an office or online

What are the requirements for an Audiologist who services a previously purchased OTC hearing aid?





The biggest successes since the 2022 conference:

- Continued work with the ASLP-IC
- Electronic communication versus mail cuts costs and allows for a quicker response time. Electronic verification information can be verified and supplied more quickly.



The biggest challenges since the 2022 conference:

Legislative changes to modernize the statutes to comply with the Federal OTC hearing aid ruling and giving the Board more authority over SLP-Assistants have been delayed.

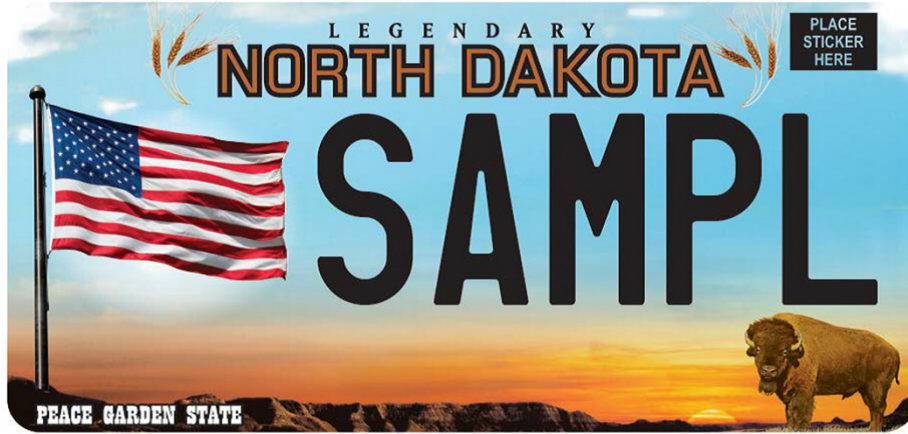


Thank you for joining us in North Carolina!!!

Contact: Denise Brown, Executive Director

Email: dbrown@ncboeslpa.org

Phone: 336-272-1828



SOCIAL MEDIA

Our board does not currently utilize any social media accounts.



ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

What is your board's enforcement authority? (e.g. fines; recouping costs of investigation; revocation; etc.)

Our board has the ability for revocation or the requirement for additional CEUs.



Disability accommodation policy

Does your board have a written policy regarding accommodating board members with disabilities? licensees? Consumers?

Our board does not currently have any written policy regarding accommodations for board members, licensees, or consumers.



EMPLOYMENT “PICTURE”

Is the # of licensees in each area covered by your board increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

We have seen an increase in SLPA applications and out-of-state applications in general.



ASSISTANTS

What is the status of assistants (speech or audiology) in your state (e.g. not covered in statute, covered but not awarded, no personnel prep programs)?

We are currently in the process of making rules changes with one large portion focusing on assistants. We hope to add language regarding audiology assistances (currently none) and refine the expectations for speech assistants.



COMPLAINTS

Is the number of complaints increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

What are the most frequent complaints about (e.g. impaired professional; billing)

Complaints have been consistently low, frequent questions seeking ethical or moral guidance not under the boards ruling.



OTC Hearing Aids

Has the implementation of OTC hearing aids affected your board?
How? (e.g. have you passed/are you considering passing any additional regulations related to OTC hearing aids).

We have received several questions about OTC hearing aids but have not taken any action.



What successes have you had since our 2022 conference?
What is your biggest challenge?

We are excited to be in the processes of reviewing and revising all of our rules and look forward to presenting them at the next legislative meeting. A challenge we face is finding board members to fill vacant spots.



Contact:

- North Dakota State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
- <https://www.ndsbe.com/>
- Phone: 701-775-7165
- State Exchange Presenters:
- Licensing Secretary: Courtney Olson M.S. CCC-SLP courtney.m.olson@minotstateu.edu



Ohio's License Plate



SOCIAL MEDIA

What social media platforms does your Board use?

- We discontinued Facebook due to not be able to control posts as a non-profit account.

Who manages the posts?

- Board staff

Please comment on the success of each.

- Difficult to take down posts and difficult to communicate with Facebook
- No inquiries as to why were not on social media
- The Board's website, direct e-mails, and newsletter is our method of communicating with licensees and the public



ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

What is your board's enforcement authority? (e.g. fines; recouping costs of investigation; revocation; etc.)

- The Board has the authority to deny applications and reprimand, suspend, place on probation, or revoke licenses.
- We cannot fine or recoup costs of investigations
- We have a late fee for late renewal of the license



Disability accommodation policy

Does your board have a written policy regarding accommodating board members with disabilities? licensees? Consumers?

- Yes, we have statewide policies to ensure reasonable accommodations to all persons with disabilities interacting with the board and attending board meetings. (The Ohio Department of Administrative Services coordinates)
- Accommodations are required to be posted on every board meeting agenda.



EMPLOYMENT “PICTURE”

Is the # of licensees in each area covered by your board increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

- The Board completed a 13-year licensure trend showing an increase in licenses.
- No critical shortages indicated in our state.



ASSISTANTS

What is the status of assistants (speech or audiology) in your state (e.g. not covered in statute, covered but not awarded, no personnel prep programs)?

- Ohio does not license assistants; however, we have licensure for support personnel and categorize them as Aides in both professions.
- Aides have a prescriptive scope of duties and are directly supervised by licensed speech-language pathologists or audiologists.
- We have few numbers in these license categories, e.g., 4 SLP Aides; 78 AUD Aides, with no critical shortage.



COMPLAINTS

Is the number of complaints increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

- The number of complaints increased slightly with third license type that was added during board consolidation in 2018.

What are the most frequent complaints about (e.g., impaired professional; billing)

- Misrepresentation services
- Misleading/False advertising of hearing aids
- Practicing under an expired license/continuing education violation
- Impaired practice



OTC Hearing Aids

Has the implementation of OTC hearing aids affected your board?
How? (e.g. have you passed/are you considering passing any additional regulations related to OTC hearing aids).

- Yes, the Board is in the process of amending rules on appropriate hearing test procedures, clarifying definitions, and rescinding medical clearance and medical waiver requirements for persons 18 years of age or older.



What successes have you had since our 2022 conference?

- Completed Sunset Review by legislature; next review in 6 years.
- Successfully navigated through concerns surrounding OTCs
- Continued streamlining of board operations post COVID national emergency
- Enhancements to state licensing system which has expedited processing of licensure applications
- New board website
- Increased collaboration with other state agencies who reach out for expertise about the programs they administer related to the professions.

What is your biggest challenge?

- Legislative oversight related to deregulation
- Impact of telehealth delivery
- Impact of healthcare artificial intelligence



Contact:

Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

77 S. High Street, Suite 1659

Columbus, OH 43215

Gregg Thornton, Esq.

Executive Director

(614) 644-9046

E-mail: Gregg.Thornton@shp.ohio.gov

Board Website: www.shp.ohio.gov



OKLAHOMA



SOCIAL MEDIA

What social media platforms does your Board use? Who manages the posts? Please comment on the success of each.

- Oklahoma only has a website, no social media



ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

What is your board's enforcement authority? (e.g. fines; recouping costs of investigation; revocation; etc.)

- Oklahoma uses former Board members that volunteer their time to investigate complaints
- We have an attorney that represents our Board to help guide them when investigating, deciding on agreeable terms and issuing Consent Agreements
- Fines are given depending upon the stipulations of fact and rules broken



Disability Accommodation Policy

Does your board have a written policy regarding accommodating board members with disabilities? licensees? Consumers?

- Oklahoma has no policies for board members or licensees with disabilities



EMPLOYMENT “PICTURE”

Is the # of licensees in each area covered by your board increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

- Oklahoma increases its number of licensees by at least 100 each year



ASSISTANTS

What is the status of assistants (speech or audiology) in your state (e.g. not covered in statute, covered but not awarded, no personnel prep programs)?

-Oklahoma currently has 182 active speech assistants and 28 active audiology assistant and both are covered under our rules

-Audiology assistants are considered authorized and Speech assistants are licensed

-Audiology assistants are required to be supervised 100% of the time and have specific duties that they can perform, and Speech assistants are required for the first 90 workdays from the start of employment be supervised 20% direct with 8 indirect activities. After the 90 days it changes to 4 hours of direct supervision and as much indirect needed to facilitate the quality of service a month.



COMPLAINTS

Is the number of complaints increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

What are the most frequent complaints about (e.g. impaired professional; billing)

-Oklahoma's number of complaints are staying about the same

-The most frequent complaint we have is working without a license



OTC Hearing Aids

Has the implementation of OTC hearing aids affected your board?
How? (e.g. have you passed/are you considering passing any additional regulations related to OTC hearing aids).

-Oklahoma has a separate Board for Hearing Aid Dispensing but as far as Audiologists we represent, it has not affected them.



What successes have you had since our 2022 conference?

What is your biggest challenge?

Success

-We passed a rule for SLPA reciprocity that includes the new SLPA ASHA certification

Challenge

-ASLP-IC compact and how it will affect us

-The need to increase our fees with rising costs but Oklahoma has not allowed fee increases since 2012



Contact:

Amy McPeck, Director

405-524-4955

Christina Cid, Board Chair

405-522-9282

Website: www.obespa.ok.gov



SOCIAL MEDIA

What social media platforms does your Board use? Who manages the posts?
Please comment on the success of each.

The Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology does not utilize social media platforms. If we need to reach the licensing community, we usually send email blasts.



ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

The Pennsylvania Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Licensure Act, (Act of Dec. 21, 1984, P.L. 1253, No. 238), grants the Pennsylvania Board the authority to do the following:

- Refuse to issue a license
- Suspend, revoke or otherwise restrict a license of any person or applicant by a vote of at least a majority of the members of the board for any of the following reasons:
 - o The practice of any fraud, misrepresentation or concealment in obtaining or attempting to obtain a license or renewal thereof.
 - o A violation of this act or noncompliance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the board.
 - o Aiding or abetting any person in the violation of this act or noncompliance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the board.
 - o Being convicted of a felony or misdemeanor of the first or second degree in any court of the United States or of any state within ten years prior to the date of application for licensure.
 - o Unprofessional conduct.
 - o The practice of fraud or deceit in connection with services rendered as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist.
 - o The speech-language pathologist or audiologist is unable to practice his profession with reasonable skill and safety because of illness, drunkenness, excessive use of controlled substances, chemicals or other types of
- Impose costs of investigation



Disability accommodation policy

Does your board have a written policy regarding accommodating board members with disabilities? licensees? Consumers?

While the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology does not have its own written policy regarding accommodations, all state services are required to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor's Office has previously released an executive order (EO 2002-5) and a management directive (MD 205.25) addressing employment-related disability accommodations. All executive orders and management directives govern the Boards.



EMPLOYMENT “PICTURE”

Is the # of licensees in each area covered by your board increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

The number of licensees licensed under the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology has increased over the last three years. This may be partly explained by the addition of granting PROVISIONAL licenses.

Speech-Language Pathologist

2020 – 7525

2021 – 8102

2022 – 8797

2023 – 9426

Audiologist

2020 – 906

2021 – 978

2022 – 1043

2023 - 1114



ASSISTANTS

What is the status of assistants (speech or audiology) in your state (e.g. not covered in statute, covered but not awarded, no personnel prep programs)?

The Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology allows the use of assistants by regulation if the assistant meets the minimum education, experience and training requirements. See 49 Pa. Code §§ 45.301-45.308.



COMPLAINTS

Is the number of complaints increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

The number of complaints stay about the same except for an audit year. See below:

2021 – professional compliance office (PCO) opened 42 cases based on complaints received

2022 – PCO opened 72 cases (this is a CE audit year)

2023 – PCO opened 26 cases to date.

The most common complaints are for practicing on a lapsed license, failure to meet continuing education requirements, and unprofessional conduct.



OTC Hearing Aids

Has the implementation of OTC hearing aids affected your board? How? (e.g. have you passed/are you considering passing any additional regulations related to OTC hearing aids).

The Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology lacks the authority to pass regulations relating to OTC hearing aids. The Pennsylvania Hearing Aid Sales Registration Law, Act 262, requires that all fitters or sellers of prescription hearing aids be registered with the Pennsylvania Department of Health Hearing Aid Program. Only the Department of Health has the authority to regulate hearing aid sales and registration.



Challenges:

- Lack of independence in configuring website, adding content, etc. due to the Department of State's interest in having consistency across all boards
- Paid staff are overworked and don't provide enough support to Board members
- Any regulatory change takes years and acts as a disincentive to pursue change (e.g. adding ethics requirement in continuing education)
- Persistent public member vacancies

Accomplishments:

- Engaging our Board counsel Dana Wucinski
- Licensee education (state speech-language hearing association, PSHA)

FYI Compact: Last year the Board went on the record in support of the ASLPIC. This year, with advocacy from PSHA, [House Bill 1235 P.N. 1326](#) was introduced, authorizing the Commonwealth to join the compact (currently in committee)



Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology contact information:

Board Counsel: Dana Wucinski, Esquire – dwucinski@pa.gov

Board Office email: ST-SPEECH@pa.gov

Board Office phone: (717) 783-1389

Board office fax: (717) 787-7769

Vice-chair: Lisa Butler, lisbutler@pa.gov



South Carolina



SOCIAL MEDIA

What social media platforms does your Board use? Who manages the posts? Please comment on the success of each.

SC LLR has social media regarding all LLR Boards. The Office of Communications for SCLLR manages these posts

Twitter: [@SCDLLR](https://twitter.com/SCDLLR)

Facebook: [@SCLLR](https://www.facebook.com/SCLLR)

South Carolina



ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

What is your board's enforcement authority? (e.g. fines; recouping costs of investigation; revocation; etc.)

- Fines
- Continuing education courses
- Suspension
- Revocation
- Public reprimand
- Letter of Caution
- Recoup costs of investigation

South Carolina



Disability accommodation policy

Does your board have a written policy regarding accommodating board members with disabilities? licensees? Consumers?

While the board does not have a written policy of its own, SCLLR is committed to meeting its responsibilities under the ADA and other applicable laws. In keeping with this commitment, it is the policy of SCLLR to not discriminate against any qualified individual on the basis of a disability and to provide reasonable accommodations for those individuals when needed

South Carolina



EMPLOYMENT "PICTURE"

Is the # of licensees in each area covered by your board increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

"According to the numbers from the past few year's licensees for SLPs, SLPAs and Audiology are increasing

Data:

2021 SLPs 2962	2023 SLPs 3331
2021 SLPAs 113	2023 SLPAs 143
2021 AUD 288	2023 AUD 328

South Carolina



ASSISTANTS

What is the status of assistants (speech or audiology) in your state (e.g. not covered in statute, covered but not awarded, no personnel prep programs)?

We do not have audiology assistants. We do have Speech Language Pathology Assistants and they are covered in statute and regulation. We have higher education prep programs such as Columbia College, Bob Jones University and SC State. Our updated regulation allows for SLPAs to obtain a pathway to licensure if their prior education did not include the specific requirements of our Board.

South Carolina



COMPLAINTS

Is the number of complaints increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

What are the most frequent complaints about (e.g. impaired professional; billing)

Complaints are about the same. There is not a most frequent complaint category. They involve billing and consumer complaints.

South Carolina



OTC Hearing Aids

Has the implementation of OTC hearing aids affected your board?
How? (e.g. have you passed/are you considering passing any additional regulations related to OTC hearing aids).

This does not appear to have affected our Board.

South Carolina



What successes have you had since our 2022 conference?

What is your biggest challenge?

Successes:

- SLPA “Alternate Pathway” procedures and applications are now up and running for our Board
- Board meeting space has been updated to allow for microphones, cameras and live streaming
- Meeting back in person for quarterly meetings
- Applying for reappointment for Board members with expired terms with Governor's office

Challenges:

- Ensuring adequate supervision of SLPAs
- Need a new public member for our Board

South Carolina



Contact:

Mack Williams

Board Executive

S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, S.C. 29210

Office: (803) 896-4655

Fax: (803) 896-4719

Twitter: [@SCDLLR](https://twitter.com/SCDLLR)

Facebook: [@SCLLR](https://www.facebook.com/SCDLLR)

Website: www.llr.sc.gov



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) uses:

Facebook:



Twitter:



Instagram:





ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

The advisory board provides advice and recommendations to the department on technical matters relevant to the administration of the program

Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation may:

- deny, probate, suspend, or revoke a license
- issue administrative fines up to \$5000/day
- require a refund of a hearing instrument if returned during trial



Disability Accommodation Policy

401.203(c) The department shall provide reasonable assistance to a person who wishes to file a complaint with the department regarding a person or activity regulated under this chapter.

Sec. 51.253. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. (a) The commission shall develop and implement policies that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear before the commission and to speak on any issue under the commission's jurisdiction.

(b) The commission shall prepare and maintain a written plan that describes how a person who does not speak English or who has a physical, mental, or developmental disability may be provided reasonable access to the commission's programs.

(c) The commission shall provide reasonable accommodations, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336 and any subsequent amendments, for the public to participate in the programs regulated by the department.

Formatting, functionality and development of content for the web site is performed with the intention of conforming to the requirements of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.



EMPLOYMENT “PICTURE”

License Population Count as of 2023-9-26		
LICENSE TYPE	LICENSE DESCRIPTION	TOTALS
	LICENSE TOTALS:	26074
6501	Speech Language Pathologist	18286
6501	Speech Language Pathologist Intern	1104
6502	Speech Language Pathologist Assistant	4953
6503	Audiologist	1615
6503	Audiologist Intern	56
6504	Audiologist Assistant	58



ASSISTANTS

We license SLP assistants (4,953) and Audiology assistants (58)

SLP assistants require 8 hours of supervision per month* per supervisor

- 2 hours of direct supervision per week

Audiology assistants require ten (10) hours of supervision per week*

- 1 hour of direct supervision per week



ASSISTANTS

SLP assistants require a bachelor’s degree with 24 hours in communicative science (up to 6 may be in audiology), including 3 hours in speech disorders and 3 hours in language disorders

Audiology assistants must have a high school diploma or equivalent and pass the Council for Accreditation of Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC) course OR have a bachelor’s degree in communicative science



COMPLAINTS 2021

Key Statistics	SPA Fiscal Year 2021
Number of Licensees	23,487
Complaints Received	509
Cases Opened	59
Cases Closed	74
Average Time to Close (days)	214.61
% of Cases Resolved Within 6 Months	44.59%
% of Cases Resulting in Disciplinary Action	8.11%
Open Cases Pending at End of Fiscal Year	36
Number of Cases Referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH)	2
Number of Contested Cases Heard at SOAH	1



Top SPA Alleged Violations at Opening

Fiscal Year 2021	
Alleged Violation at Opening	Count
Code of ethics violation	29
Falsified records	12
Billed for services not provided	7
Criminal History	6
Failed to maintain records	5
Practicing without a license	4
Medical evaluation waiver violation	2
Lacks honesty, trustworthiness, and integrity	1
Violation involving supervision	1
Failed to comply with an order	1
Violation of disaster ordinance or order	1

Top SPA Violations Resulting in Disciplinary Action

Fiscal Year 2021	
Violation Resulting in Disciplinary Action	Count
Criminal History	2
Failed to maintain records	2
Failed to comply with an order	1
Falsified records	1



COMPLAINTS 2022

Key Statistics	SPA Fiscal Year 2022
Total Licensees	24,918
Complaints Received by Source	194
<i>Consumer complaints</i>	67
<i>Department initiated complaints</i>	3
<i>Criminal History Records reviewed for licensure</i>	124
Cases Opened	69
<i>Consumer</i>	58
<i>Departmental</i>	3
<i>Criminal History</i>	8
Cases Closed	90
Average Time to Close (days)	180.92
% of Cases Resolved Within 6 Months	63.33%
% of Cases Resulting in Disciplinary Action	14.44%
Open Cases Pending at End of Fiscal Year	15
Cases Referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH)	0
Contested Cases Heard at SOAH	0



SPA Alleged Violations at Opening

Fiscal Year 2022	
Alleged Violation at Opening	Count
Code of ethics violation	38
Falsified records	11
Billed for services not provided	8
Criminal history	8
Violation involving supervision	7
Failed to pay dishonored check	3
Medical evaluation and waiver violation	3
Failed to maintain records	3
Practicing without a license	2
Allowed other practice out of scope	1
Failed to comply with an order	1

SPA Violations Resulting in Disciplinary Action

Fiscal Year 2022	
Violation Resulting in Disciplinary Action	Count
Billed for services not provided	8
Failed to maintain records	3
Falsified records	2



OTC Hearing Aids

SB 2017 passed in the 88th Legislative Session (R). The bill changes the definition of hearing instrument to mean a prescription hearing aid and adds the definition of over-the-counter hearing aid. The bill also allows licensees to sell and service over the counter hearing aids but clarifies that a license is not required to sell OTCs.

The Advisory Board has proposed rules which they will recommend for adoption at the end of October/beginning of November.



Our biggest success is getting legislation and proposing rules to address over the counter hearing aids, which include joint rules with the Hearing Instrument Fitters and Dispensers Advisory Board.

Our biggest challenges are determining how we could join the ASLP-IC with the organization of our agency, granting licenses to audiologists with a master's degree, and how to improve our licensing process.

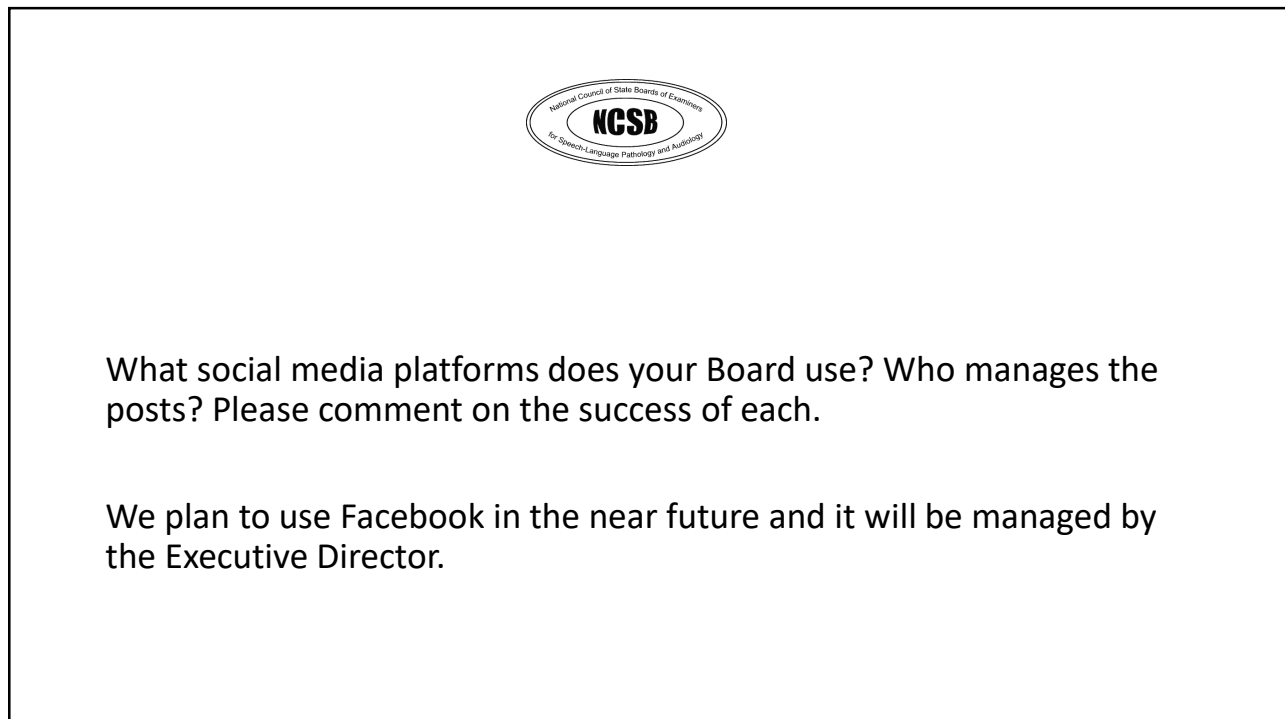


Contact:

Erica Rodriguez
Erica.Rodriguez@tdlr.Texas.gov

Katie Brice
Katie.Brice@tdlr.Texas.gov

(512) 463-6599
Relay Texas-TDD: (800) 735-2989



What social media platforms does your Board use? Who manages the posts? Please comment on the success of each.

We plan to use Facebook in the near future and it will be managed by the Executive Director.



ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

What is your board's enforcement authority? (e.g. fines; recouping costs of investigation; revocation; etc.)

- *Our Boards Enforcement Authorities is probation with consent orders, reprimand, suspension or revocation.*

WV Code §30-32-8. Funds.

- *(b) Any amount received as fines, imposed pursuant to this article, shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury.*



Disability accommodation policy

Does your board have a written policy regarding accommodating board members with disabilities? licensees? Consumers?

Yes, It falls under our Legislation Rule 29-5 Code of Ethics

§29-5-2.7.b.6. Individuals shall not discriminate in their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of allied professions on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.



EMPLOYMENT "PICTURE"

Is the # of licensees in each area covered by your board increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

For SLPs and AUDs licensees, it is staying about the same. We average the following:

SLP- 1050

AUD- 175

Telepractice-10

Dual - 4

SLPA- 5

AA- 1



ASSISTANTS

What is the status of assistants (speech or audiology) in your state (e.g. not covered in statute, covered but not awarded, no personnel prep programs)?

Assistants are not covered. They are only registered, not licensed. The Supervisor for the Assistants assumes all responsibilities.

There is one personnel prep program at Marshall University.



COMPLAINTS

Is the number of complaints increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

- Our complaints are staying the same. We average about 1 a year.

What are the most frequent complaints about (e.g. impaired professional; billing)

- The most frequent complaints have been fraudulent billing, falsifying notes/time, and diagnosis.



OTC Hearing Aids

Has the implementation of OTC hearing aids affected your board?
How? (e.g. have you passed/are you considering passing any additional regulations related to OTC hearing aids).

- The OTC hearing aids has had little affect our board. As of 7/1/2023 Hearing Aid Dealers will be regulated by the Speech and Audiology Board due to Hearing Aid Dealer Board sunset on 6/30/2023. The Board is in the process of working the rules and regulations.



What successes have you had since our 2022 conference?

What is your biggest challenge?

Success:

- Our new ED is becoming more competent with her new position
- The Hearing Aid Dealers have joined our board.

Challenges:

- The Hearing Aid Dealers joining our board
- Poor legal representation with our complaints



Contact:

President-Dr. Vern Mullins, Au.D., CCC-A



Secretary- Vickie Pullins, M.A., CCC-SLP

Executive Director – Pam Coughlin

wvbeslpa@wv.gov

www.wvspeechandaudiology.com

304-473-4289



SOCIAL MEDIA

Wyoming does not use Social Media. The current office staff serves seven different boards and because the office is the keeper of the records for the Board it would have to be maintained by the office.



ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

The Board has the authority summarily suspend a license, approve a settlement agreement, suspend a license, revoke a license, or impose probationary conditions.



EMPLOYMENT “PICTURE”

Wyoming saw an increase in the number of licensees during 2020 because the Wyoming Legislature removed the exemption for those working only in the school districts to be credentialed through the Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB).

Since then, the license numbers have remained steady with a change of less than ten (10) licensees at the start of each fiscal year.



ASSISTANTS

Wyoming enacted legislation for Assistants in 2017.

Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming offers an online Associate's Degree SLPA program that includes an internship.



COMPLAINTS

Wyoming does not see many complaints. Complaints have included failure to disclose information on the application that appears in their background check, ethical violations in dealing the other professionals, and impaired professionals in recent years.



OTC Hearing Aids

Rules are currently in the promulgation process to address this issue as the Hearing Aid Specialists Board in Wyoming is a separate Board.



What successes have you had since our 2022 conference?

- The Board has reviewed and proposed changes that allow CE to be obtained through supervision.
- The Board proposed reducing the number of CE hours required for renewal.
- The Board proposed reducing the burden of documentation for renewal by no longer requiring the actual certificates for CE.

What is your biggest challenge?

- The Board did receive requests for rule changes that they did not believe were in the best interest for regulating the profession and the burden it would place on the office. Therefore, the Board did not propose making those changes.



Contact:

Greg Searls, Executive Director

307-777-7788

Greg.Searls@wyo.gov

Emily McIlvaine, Licensing Specialist

307-777-3628

Emily.McIlvaine@wyo.gov

