BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 2, 2016

TIME AND PLACE: The Speech-Language Pathology Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 2, 2016, at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 3, Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Laura Verdun, MA, CCC-SLP, Board Member

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Marie Ireland, SLP, Department of Education (DOE)
Karen Lindberg, SLP, DOE
Scott Rankins, SLP, Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV)
Darlene Robke, SLP, SHAV

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Angela Moss, MA, CCC-SLP, Board Member

QUORUM: With five members of the Committee present, a quorum was established.

STAFF PRESENT:
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst
Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director
Carol Stamey, Operations Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:
Heidi Dellert, New Kent Public Schools
Marie Owens, SLP, New Kent Public Schools
LaVae Hoffman, SLP, University of Virginia

ORDERING OF AGENDA: No changes were made to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Review in-process regulatory action related to assistant speech-language pathologists
Ms. Yeatts provided a brief history regarding the Committee's previous work to develop proposed regulations consisting of licensed speech-language pathologist's (SLP) supervisory responsibilities and qualifications of assistant speech-language pathology assistants as required by 2014 legislation. Ms. Yeatts indicated that the regulations are in the final promulgation stage.

Review legislation and purpose of Committee
Ms. Yeatts reported that the 2016 General Assembly passed HB252 which directs the Board to review the need for and impact of licensure or certification of assistant speech-language pathologists. She reviewed a draft work plan to address the Committee's responsibilities.

Ms. Ireland moved to accept the Work Plan with amendments. The motion was seconded and carried. The Work Plan is attached.

Ms. Yeatts provided an overview of the differences and usage of licensure, certification and registration and the criteria for evaluating the need for

regulation referred to in the Board of Health Professions' *Policies and Procedures for Evaluation of the Need to Regulate Health Occupations and Profession*. The Committee reviewed and discussed the various criteria for licensure and noted the following concerns about regulating assistant speech-language pathologists:

1) No national examination currently exists;
2) Limited number of educational programs in the United States;
3) No specific educational programs in Virginia; and
4) No significant identified risk of harm to the public that would indicate the need to license, certify or register.

Review of additional information

Ms. Yeatts provided an overview of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) information and research on Speech-Language Pathology Assistants that included the following:

- Support Personnel Requirements in School Settings by State
- Support Personnel Excluding School Settings by State
- Scope of Practice
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Model Bill for States
- Technical Training Programs for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

The Committee discussed the need to recommend changing *assistant speech-language pathologist* to *speech-language pathology assistant* in §54.1-2605 of the Code of Virginia to be more consistent with other states and ASHA. Ms. Yeatts indicated that this could be added to the report.

Ms. Knachel provided an overview of her conversation with the program director for the closest technical training program located at Caldwell Community and Tech Institute in North Carolina. She noted that this training program was specifically developed to meet the North Carolina laws related to speech-language pathology assistants.

Ms. Yeatts reviewed the laws and regulations from neighboring states related to speech-language pathology assistants.

Ms. Knachel reported that the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) webpage on the use of speech-language pathology assistants was provided as a "for your information" for the Committee's review. When asked about the number of assistants used by VDOE, Ms. Ireland stated that it would be difficult to determine the number because the job titles and duties among the schools districts are inconsistent.

The Committee's next steps were discussed and the following information will be collected by board staff or considered for inclusion in the report to the legislature:

- Additional information will be requested from ASHA to determine availability regarding education, examinations and statistics about potential SLPAs.
- Laws and regulations will be collected for additional states (Minnesota, Utah and Oregon).
- A recent legislative change granting authority to the Board to be the

single licensing entity for SLPs took effect on July 1, 2015. Information is not yet available on how this change affects the practice of SLPs in the public schools and whether an increase in the use of assistants is needed.

- Committee members are to respond to staff generated questions related to the discussion during the meeting. The comments will be submitted to staff for inclusion in the next committee meeting.
- Potential fiscal impact of the licensure, certification, or registration will be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was presented.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Laura P. Verdun, MA, CCC-SLP
Chair

Date

Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H
Executive Director

Date

Draft

VIRGINIA BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGAUGE PATHOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Work Plan DRAFT
Review of the Need for and Impact of Licensure or Certification of Assistant Speech-Language Pathologists
Pursuant to HB252 (2016)

Background and Authority:

House Bill 252, patroned by Delegate Kaye Kory and passed by the 2016 Session of the General Assembly, requests the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, review the need for and impact of licensure or certification of assistant speech-language pathologists. The Board must complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2016. (A copy of HB 252 is attached to this workplan.)

Workgroup the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

During 2014, the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology convened a Speech-Language Pathology Ad Hoc Committee in 2014 to develop recommendations for prescribing qualifications for a person who may practice as an assistant speech-language pathologist. The Ad Hoc Committee was composed of two board members, two representatives from the Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia and a representative from the Department of Education. For the purpose of reviewing the need for and the impact of licensure or certification of assistant speech-language pathologists, the Ad Hoc Committee with the addition of another representative from the Department of Education will serve as the work group workgroup for HB 252.

The Executive Director of the Board of Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Leslie L. Knachel and Senior Agency Policy Analyst, Elaine J. Yeatts, will provide staff and research assistance for the Ad Hoc Committee.

Review Methodology

A. Examination of research collected by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association regarding scope of practice for assistant speech-language pathologists:

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is a large professional organization that has researched the use of assistant speech-language pathologists. The organization has issued documents related to the recommended scope of practice and Code of Ethics for assistant speech-language pathologists.

B. Examination of actions taken by other states with regard to the licensure or certification of assistant speech-language pathologists:

The Ad Hoc Committee will review whether other states have determined that the licensure or certification is necessary to protect the public.

C. Examination of fiscal impact to public school divisions if assistant speech-language pathologists are required to be licensed or certified.

Currently, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) employs individuals with the title of assistant speech-language pathologist. The VDOE is the identified as largest potential employer of these assistants going forward. Therefore, the Ad Hoc Committee will collect information on the fiscal impact on VDOE if licensure or certification is required for assistant speech-language pathologists.

D. Examination of the Department of Medical Assistance Services' reimbursement requirements:

The reimbursement requirements for school and medical settings may be different. The requirements for both settings need to be reviewed to determine if licensure, certification or registration has impact on reimbursement.

E. Public hearings and solicitation of public comment:

At least one public hearing and one 30-day public comment period will be conducted to ensure that the Ad Hoc Committee has reviewed information from stakeholders and interested parties.

Schedule for Completion of the Study

Discuss intent to develop work plan by the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology	February 18, 2016
Ad Hoc Committee Meetings (3 anticipated)	May 2, June 15 and August 17 of 2016
Public Hearing	August 2016
Adoption of draft report by the Board	TBD (September 1 or 8)
Administrative Approvals Completed	October 15, 2016
Final report to Division of Legislative Services	November 1, 2016

Anticipated Costs for the Study

The anticipated costs for the Ad Hoc Committee and Board meetings should not exceed $2,500. All costs can be absorbed within the existing budget for the Department and the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.