

Call to Order

The July 7, 2026, Virginia Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology full board meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 4, Henrico, Virginia.

Presiding Officer

Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, OD

Board Members Present

Melissa A. McNichol, AuD, CCC-A
Jennifer Radford Gay, MS, CCC-SLP
James Wells, RPh

Board Member Attending Virtually

Laura H. Vencill, MS, CCC-SLP – Board chair Dr. Wallace-Davis approved Ms. Vencill to attend the meeting by telephone after Ms. Vencill timely notified the board that she would be traveling out of the country and unable to attend the meeting in person but would be available to attend by phone.

Board Members Absent

Bethany Rose, AuD
Wayne Shaia, MD

Staff Present

David E. Brown, DC, Director, DHP
M. Brent Saunders, JD, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director
Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator
Claire C. Foley, JD, Deputy Executive Director
Laura L. Jackson, MSHSA, Board Administrator
Laura D. Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Public Present

No member of the public was present.

Establishment of Quorum

As four of the seven Board members were present in the Richmond office, a quorum was established for conducting business.

Ordering of Agenda

Dr. Wallace-Davis opened the floor to any changes to the agenda. Hearing none the agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment

Ms. Moss reported there was no public comment provided.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Wallace-Davis opened the floor to any additions or corrections to the draft minutes from the April 21, 2026, full board meeting. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Agency Director's Report

Dr. Brown shared his goal to participate in at least one full board meeting per year for each of the 13 health regulatory boards.

Dr. Brown provided information about Medicaid spending cuts due to federal legislation affecting rural hospitals and the effects of these cuts to healthcare access. He reported one of these effects is that thirteen rural hospitals in Virginia are at significant risk of closing. He provided details about the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program, a nationwide, five-year, \$50 billion federal initiative designed to strengthen health care access, delivery, and outcomes in rural communities: Virginia has received \$189.5 million in first-year funding to launch a statewide, community-focused rural health improvement strategy. The five-year program will award funds annually based on state performance and supports four initiatives: CareIQ to modernize systems and reduce provider burden, Hometown Heroes to expand training and strengthen workforce pipelines, Connected Care Closer to Home to bring flexible care models such as telehealth and mobile services to communities, and Live Well Together to advance prevention, improve access to health resources, and promote healthier lifestyles.

Legislative/Regulatory Report

Mr. Novak announced that there was no legislation specific to this board to report, but 2026 changes to the Callahan Act authorizes boards under DHP to collect fees related to investigation and adjudication when a board finds a licensee violated laws or regulations.

Mr. Novak presented exempt regulatory changes to the board's regulations to license speech-language pathology assistants starting in July 2027 as required by 2025 legislation to be enacted in 2027. He reviewed with the board proposed amendments to the draft proposed regulations in the agenda package. The board discussed the draft regulations and the proposed amendments and discussed additional amendments to further clarify the new regulations.

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Gay to adopt the exempt regulatory changes as amended to 18VAC30-21 to license speech-language pathology assistants. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wells and carried unanimously.

NOTE: Following the vote on this agenda item, Ms. Vencill lost telephone connection with the board and was not present for the remainder of the meeting. The meeting proceeded as a quorum remained with the in-person attendees.

Board Counsel's Report

Mr. Saunders stated he had no report to provide.

Chair's Report

Dr. Wallace-Davis stated she had no report to provide.

Staff Reports

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Moss provided an update on the ASLP Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC):

- The ASLP-IC met on June 29, 2026, to adopt its FY2027 budget and amendments to its bylaws and rules.
- Ms. Gay and Dr. Rose were present on the virtual meeting as Virginia's delegates.
- Thirty-seven jurisdictions have enacted legislation to join the compact and four states are currently issuing and accepting privileges.
- Board members are to refer to the board's office any inquiries about the ASLP-IC.

Ms. Moss reported that she anticipates hiring another support staff member to perform administrative duties required by new license types and ASLP-IC participants.

Ms. Moss stated board staff are developing a biannual newsletter to inform and update licensees on the board's activities. The first edition will be published on the board's webpage in the coming months.

Ms. Moss reminded board members who had not yet completed their required Conflict-of-Interest training to do so as soon as possible and notify her when they have completed it.

Licensing reports and statistics

Ms. Jackson reported that since the last board meeting staff licensed:

- 16 Audiologists
- 6 Provisional Audiologists
- 102 Provisional SLPs
- 8 School SLPs, and
- 118 SLPs.

She noted that 250 applicants were licensed during this period, which is comparative to the number of licenses issued in 2025 (261 licenses) but fewer than the 308 licenses issued in 2024.

She reported that the 2026-2027 license renewal period was completed on June 30 without issues, and that board staff processed the increased applications due to graduations successfully. She stated no information was available to report customer satisfaction results at this meeting.

Discipline report and statistics

Ms. Foley provided an update to the May 2026 snapshot of open and closed discipline cases provided in the agenda package as follows:

- Between June 1, 2026 and July 6, 2026, the board closed 6 cases.
- As of July 6, 2026, there are 15 open cases.
- The board currently does not have any upcoming hearings scheduled.

Ms. Foley reminded the board of the remaining hearing dates on the 2026 meeting calendar.

New Business

Election of Officers

Dr. Wallace-Davis stated that the board's bylaws define the organizational year as July 1 through June 30 and require the board at the first board meeting of the organizational year to elect from its members a Chair and Vice Chair, for a term of one year starting January 1, 2027. She called for nominations starting with board Chair.

Chair

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. McNichol to nominate Dr. Wallace-Davis to serve another term as Chair of the Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gay. No additional nominations were received.

A vote was taken with all board members in favor of Dr. Wallace-Davis serving a one-year term as Chair of the Board effective January 1, 2027.

Vice Chair

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. McNichol to nominate Ms. Vencill as Vice Chair of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wells. No additional motions were received.

A vote was taken with all board members in favor of Ms. Vencill serving a one-year term as Vice Chair of the board effective January 1, 2027.

Next Meeting

Ms. Moss announced that the next full board meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2026, and she reviewed the 2027 meeting calendar with the board members.

Adjournment

With no objection, Dr. Wallace-Davis adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Kelli G. Moss
Executive Director