

**South Carolina Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Board Meeting Thursday, July 17, 2025 10:00 A.M.
110 Centerview Drive, Upstate Room, Columbia, SC 29210**

Board Members Present

Gwendolyn Wilson, Ed.D. CCC-A, Chairperson
Jason Wigand, Au.D., CCC-A
Sarah Davis Emory, CCC-SLP
Michael Leonard, General Public Member

Board Members Not Present

Beth F. Montgomery

Staff Present

Mack Williams, Board Executive
Tara Nixon, Advice Counsel
Jonathan Owens, Program Coordinator
LeAnna McMenamin, Esq, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Bianca Smith, Office of Investigation & Enforcement

Other Attendees

Kelly Caldwell, SCSHA VP of Government Affairs

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at 110 Centerview Drive Columbia, SC 29210 Board of Examiners in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology office, lobby of the Kingstree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. A quorum was present at all times.

Call to Order

Dr. Wilson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented for review and approval.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

Approval or Disapproval of Absent Members

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve Ms. Montgomery's absence. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

Meeting Minutes

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve the April 17, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

Introduction of New Board Member

Mr. Michael Leonard, introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Leonard is the public member.

Administrative Reports

Office of Investigations Report: Ms. Smith, Office of Investigations & Enforcement, presented the OIE statistical report and training report. The Board accepted the reports as information.

Ms. Smith presented the IRC report to the Board. Case #'s 2024-7 and 2025-2 recommended for dismissal and Case # 2024-8 recommended for Formal Complaint.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to accept IRC recommendations for Case #'s 2024-7, 2025-2, and 2024-8. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wigand.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report: Ms. McMenemy presented the ODC report. The Board accepted the report as information.

Finance Report: Mr. Williams, Board Executive, presented the finance report to the Board. The Board accepted the report as information.

Application Hearings:

Jenna Whisenant: Ms. Whisenant made a personal appearance before the Board and was represented by Robyn Madden, Esq. The purpose of the hearing was to determine whether Ms. Whisenant should be granted a license as a speech-language pathologist assistant. The issue was Ms. Whisenant does not have a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from a regionally accredited institution.

Motion: In open session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. The motion was seconded by Ms. Emory.

(10:31 am – 10:43 am) – No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion: In open session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Emory.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion that Ms. Whisenant's education is equivalent to a bachelor's degree in speech language pathology and to grant the speech-language pathology assistant license. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wigand.

Kimberly Thompson: Ms. Thompson made a personal appearance before the Board and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of the hearing was to determine whether Ms. Thompson should be granted a license as a speech-language pathologist. The Chair closed the hearing to protect personal health information.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Emory made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wigand.

(10:54 am – 10:58 am) – No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Emory made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wigand.

Motion: In closed session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to grant the speech-language pathology license. The motion was seconded by Ms. Emory.

Motion: In closed session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Emory.

Kimberly Murray: Ms. Murray made a personal appearance before the Board and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of the hearing was to determine whether Ms. Murray should be granted a license as a speech-language pathologist assistant. The issue was Ms. Murray does not have a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from a regionally accredited institution.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wigand.

(11:17 am – 11:20 am) – No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion: In open session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Emory.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion that Ms. Murray's education is equivalent to a bachelor's degree in speech language pathology and to grant the speech-language pathology assistant license. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wigand.

Theresa Brown, Program Director Health and Wellness Boards:

Ms. Brown introduced herself to the Board and announced the agency will be creating public service announcements. She asked the Board members to provide an overview of their professions and share what they would like the public to know about their work.

CE Requests for Approval/Disapproval:

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to accept the recommendations from the Board members for their approved courses. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wigand.

Delegate Authority to Staff to Approve Applications Regarding Criminal History or Disciplinary Actions:

This item was deferred to the next Board meeting in October so the full Board will be able to review and provide input.

Resolution Guideline:

Ms. Nixon presented the resolution guidelines regarding criminal history and disciplinary to the Board. Ms. Nixon stated that the resolution guidelines provide an overview for the investigative staff for the Office of Disciplinary Counsel including hearing officers to understand what the Board's intention is for various violations of the Practice Act. The Board discussed the resolution guidelines.

2025-NCSB Annual Conference (Approve Members to Attend):

Mr. Williams informed the Board that all members have been approved to attend the NCSB 38th annual conference held in Charleston, SC, September 17-20, 2025.

2026 Board Meeting Dates:

Motion: In open session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to approve the 2026 Board meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Ms. Emory.

Regulatory Review:

Mr. Williams informed the Board that now is the time to review the current regulations for any updates for the 2026 legislative session. Ms. Nixon added that if any updates are required, a notice of drafting must be posted by a specific deadline. The Board then discussed updating the licensure requirements for the speech language pathology assistants by allowing the ASHA Assistant certification as an acceptable credential for licensure.

Motion: In open session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to agree with legal counsel to draft a notice for drafting to review the regulations for the speech-language pathology assistant qualifications for licensure and to coordinate a special call meeting to vote on the proposed changes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Emory.

ASLP Compact Update:

Dr. Wigand updated the Board on the ASLP Compact. He mentioned at a recent meeting the ASLP Compact appointed an executive director and requested that member states complete a survey regarding their criminal background check process. Also discussed were potential fees for a compact privilege. The ASLP Compact plans to use the existing Occupational Therapy and Counselors database system as the test model.

Ms. Caldwell, SCSHA VP of Government Affairs, reported that the FBI did not approve the criminal background check language in Article III of the SC Speech/Audiology Practice Act. To make this language valid, SCSHA will need to update the language in Article I of the SC Speech/Audiology Practice Act by including language in the requirements to conduct a criminal background check. SCSHA is preparing a bill for the spring legislative session to add the necessary language. SCSHA will use the approved language from the Social Work Compact as a model, hoping it will be accepted by the FBI and validate the background process for the ASLP Compact in South Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: In open session, Mr. Leonard motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory. (The meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm)