North Dakota

State Board of Examiners

on

Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The North Dakota State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology held a Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday April 8, 2026.

Date: April 8, 2026
Time: 12pm CST

I. Call to Order

- **Courtney Olson**
- **Krystal Mann**
- **Marin Almer**
- **Ashley Roll, AAG**
- **Brian Barrett, Apt, Inc.**

II. Presentation Request from Board Review Task Force

What measurable outcomes or accomplishments has the entity achieved in the past 3-5 years?

- **Website with an online application that corresponds with a database**
- **Expedited licensure**
- **Change to the ND Century Code eliminating barriers to SLPLA licensure**

Are these outcomes aligned with their original purpose?

- **The Board is paperless and files are store electronically**
- **Because of the website and database, applicants are typically licensed within 1 to 2 days upon submitting a completed application.**
- **The Board complies with Primary Source Verification.**

Are there performance metrics in place?

- **The database captures when an application is complete and licenses are issued.**
- **The database identifies who has renewed and who has not.**
- **Tracks the number of licensees per year.**

What are your goals and objectives as an organization?

- **To continue granting licensure under 5 days and offer service that is above and beyond what is expected.**

- **Keep the consumer safe by ensuring qualifications of applicants**
- **Identify barriers to licensure – interstate compact**
- **To amend the ND Administrative Rules, unnecessary barriers are eliminated.**
    - **For example, re-licensure once in every 5 years.**

Have you met your goals and objectives consistently and effectively?

- **Yes, Board members make a conscious effort to issue licenses as soon as it is complete**

What is the frequency of your organization's output (examples: reports, policy recommendations, decisions, licensing requirements, etc.)

- **Although the Board is statutorily required to meet 2x per year, however, the Board holds on average 10-12 meetings per year.**
- **Licensing requirements are reviewed and discussed in multiple meetings.**
- **The ND Century Code was amended during the last legislative session to eliminate barriers and provide the ability to issue a temporary license if needed.**
- **The Board is in the final phase of amending their administrative rules which will eliminate licensing barriers.**
    - Internal board question: Are the deliverables timely, impactful, and giving an outcome to our taxpayers?
        - **Deliverable: Renewal applications are process within 5 days of being submitted.**
        - **The cost of renewing the license is believed to be cost effective at @ $75.**
- How often does the entity meet and what is the average participation?
    - **The Board is statutorily required to meet 2x per year; however, the Board typically holds 10-12 meetings per year.**
    - **To have a quorum, the Board needs 5 of the 8 members present. On average, it seems the Board has 6 to 7 members present for most meetings.**

- Who are the stakeholders you serve?
    - **Audiologists**
    - **Speech-Language Pathologists**
    - **Speech-Language Pathology Licensed Assistants**
    - **Patients/clients/public**

    - What do you believe would be the consequences to the public & stakeholders if the entity were dissolved?
        - **The public receiving services from under qualified individuals**
        - **Clients receive non-evidence-based practices.**

III. Review benefits and barriers regarding combining with the ND Hearing Aid Specialist Board

- Barrier:
    - Restrict efficiency
    - Constraint on Board members
        - At least 5 audiologists would need to be on the Board, which is 5% of all those who ae licensed.
        - Audiologists would need to help administer the practicum test in ADDITION to participating in Board meetings which typically last 2-3 hours. Total possible hours dedicated could be 5-10 hours per month. Appointing audiologists to the Board would be extremely difficult.
        - Overall risk of losing Board volunteers

    - Constraint on finances
        - Increase in management fees.
        - Likely possibility of paying a 3rd party to administer Hearing Aid Licensing tests.
        - Increase cost to database and website.
        - Significant increase to licensing fees
            - ND already has some of the highest licensing fees in the nation.

- Benefits
    - Single board may simplify structure from the state perspective
    - Shared administrative resources, reduced duplication
    - Reduced duplication
    - Reduces the risk of someone not being dually licensed
    - Centralized area for licensure
    - One place to look for verification

VII. Adjourn

- 12:54pm CST