

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Open Session Minutes—Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Date: February 10, 2025

Locations:	Room 5C1	Room 357	Webex
	555 W Monroe	320 W Washington St	
	Chicago, Illinois	Springfield, Illinois	

Call to order: 10:11 am

Roll Call: Cara Boester, Chair
Catherine Balthazar
Heidi Ramrattan
Brittney Ray
Landria Seals-Green

Division Staff Present: Gwendolyn Payton and Daniel Kelber, General Council; Rochelle Hartman, Board Liaison, Health Services Section

Guests: Elizabeth Nielsen, SLP

Public Comment (Nielsen)

Advocated for an expansion of an expanded range of approved continuing education beyond ASHA-approved coursework. She argued that this would better align with other states' CE rules.

Asked for consideration to replace the use of the term "Clinical Fellowship," because of its specificity to AHSA, Nielsen suggested the term "supervised professional experience" or similar neutral terms so that ASHA CCC requirements are not conflated with Illinois requirements for licensure. She also asked for the removal of other AHSA-specific language from laws and regulations.

Hartman indicated that a letter with similar suggestions was received from Cindy Pogel, SLP.

Kelber pointed out that CE outside of ASHA is included in the rules.

Balthazar educated Nielsen about the limitation of the board's ability to effect such change and indicated that the rules are reviewed periodically. Balthazar thanked for Nielsen for her thoughts and indicated that they would be included in future rules discussions.

Election of Officers

Balthazar nominated Boester for Chair. Boester accepted the nomination. There was no opposition and all voted aye to retain Boester as Chair.

Boester nominated Balthazar for Vice Chair. Boester declined the nomination when Ramrattan nominated herself for Vice Chair. There was no opposition and all members voted aye. Ramrattan will serve as Vice Chair

Old Business

License delays: Several board members expressed continuing concern about ongoing licensing delays. Hartman

reminded the board that one of the biggest slow-downs in the licensing process is incomplete applications and to make sure students and other applicants were diligent about submitting complete applications. The SLPA profession will be one of the first to be rolled out as an online application in the new CORE system.

100 hours required for Assistants

Those who earn associate's degrees fulfill the required 100 hours through their programs, before graduation. Bachelor's degree candidates do not have supervised training as part of their programs and typically need to earn those hours after graduation, when they are no longer insured by their schools. It's a challenge to find that clinical experience because of liability issues and because their services cannot be billed to Medicaid. There was consensus that there is nothing for the state to do, but that the onus is on the schools and the applicants.

Reinstatement/Restoration Fees

While most professions have a two-cycle renewal fee cap, there is no cap for SLPs. This has proved to be burdensome for many applicants wanting to return to the profession. Kelber indicated that this was likely an oversight and that he would look at getting it corrected.

Closed Session

Motion was made and seconded (Ramrattran/Seals-Green) to close the session for the purpose of reviewing deliberations, applications and closed minutes pursuant to Section 2(c)(4), (15) and (21) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Bathazar, Boester, Ramrattan, Ray, Seals-Green. The motion carried and the session closed at 10:51 am.

Return to Open Session

11:39 am

Move approval of recommendations made in Closed Session: Ramrattan/Ray

All voted aye. The following 217 applications are approved:

Kaiz, Amanda

McCoy, Jill

Rich, Joanna

Brandt, Kristine

The board's next meeting will be June 23, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11: 45