



# MEMORANDUM

DATE	February 23, 2022
TO	Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board
FROM	Paul Sanchez, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 8: Executive Officer Report

This report and the statistical information provided by staff is to update you on the current operations of the Board.

## a) Administration Update

### ***Board Projects***

Business Modernization Project – Since the last Board meeting, Board staff and management continue making progress on the Business Modernization Project. Most recent efforts have been focused on working with DCA’s Office of Information Services (OIS) on evaluating the project’s scope and costs. We will continue to update the Board as more information becomes available.

In January 2021 the Board was given an opportunity to compete for an award to fund part of our Business Modernization Project through the State’s Technology Modernization Fund (TMF).

The TMF is funding provided through the California Department of Technology (CDT) that provides an opportunity to California state departments to submit business challenges that require an IT solution to modernize government and improve digital services for California residents and state employees.

Funding from the TMF involved a multi-stage process including proposal submission, readiness assessment by the CDT, and a presentation to pitch the proposal to a TMF Selection Committee composed of executives from other state agencies and departments. Board management in partnership with the OIS developed a presentation for the TMF Selection Committee that pitched the Board’s proposed online system with application, processing, and payment functionality for thirteen licenses administered by the Board. As a result of the presentation, the TMF will fund external vendor costs for

our Board's Business Modernization Project of approximately \$400,000. The first license type should be implemented within six months, with the other 12 types following over approximately one more.

### ***Administration/Personnel/Staffing***

COVID-19 Plan and Response – Board management continues to monitor COVID-19 related public health updates and requirements and implements safety measures in the office as necessary. Board management will continue to ensure the operations of the Board are maintained in as safe and effective manner as possible.

Staffing –The Board will be looking to fill an analyst position created by the Business Modernization project workload. We expect to start recruitment for this temporary position to start in March and the position to remain throughout the duration of the Business Modernization Project. Additionally, due to receiving the TMF funding for the Business Modernization Project, the Board will be seeking temporary licensing staff, as the budget permits, to help address processing timeframes.

### **b) Budget Report**

Included in your Board materials is the most recent Expenditure Projection Report (Item 8b). This report reflects fiscal activity through December 31, 2021 and is based on data provided by DCA's Budgets Office. The initial projections in this report will be adjusted in the coming months and more accurately reflect the Boards projections.

Also included in your materials is the Board's current fund condition which reflects additional revenue due to the most recent fee increases discussed at our last Board meeting.

### **c) Regulations Report**

Below is a table with the Board's pending rulemaking files that are either in the DCA Initial Review Process or in the Official Rulemaking Process with the Office of Administrative Law. A separate detailed report (Item 13) is provided in your materials and will be discussed during the full Board meeting.

<b>Rulemaking File</b>	<b>Final OAL Filing Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
AB 2138: Criminal Conviction Substantial Relationship and Rehabilitation Criteria	3/5/2021	5/7/2021 – Approved by OAL 11/18/2020 – Submitted to OAL 10/12/2020 – Submitted for Agency review 10/8/2020 – Submitted for DCA review 7/6/2020 – 15-day comment period 6/30/2020 – Board approved modified text 3/6/2020 – Initial 45-day comment period 12/31/2019 – Submitted for Agency review 7/30/2019 – Submitted for DCA review 4/30/2019 – Submitted for Legal review 4/11/2019 – Board approved language	Regulations effective 5/7/2021
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Fees	8/6/2021	6/29/21 – Approved by OAL 4/7/2021 – Submitted to OAL 12/28/2020 – Submitted for Agency review 12/18/2020 – Submitted for DCA review 8/7/2020 – Initial 45-day comment period 6/1/2020 – Submitted for Agency review 1/23/2020 – Submitted for DCA review 10/8/2019 – Submitted for Legal review 7/19/2019 – Board approved language	Regulations effective 7/1/2021; new fees implemented 11/1/2021
Required Professional Experience Direct Supervision Requirements and Tele-Supervision		8/24/2021 – Submitted for DCA review 5/17/2021 – Submitted for Legal review 5/14/2021 – Board approved language	Board staff working with DCA Legal on requested changes to regulatory documents
Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Requirements		8/13/2021 – Board approved language	Board staff drafting regulatory documents

<b>Rulemaking File</b>	<b>Final OAL Filing Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Uniform Standards Related to Substance-Abusing Licensees		8/13/2021 – Board approved language	Board staff drafting regulatory documents
Board Location and Processing Times		10/8/2021 – Board approved language	Board staff drafting regulatory documents

**d) Licensing Report**

Licensing Cycle Times – The chart below provides a snapshot of Board’s current and past licensing cycle times. Due to increased workload and pandemic related requirements and leave usage, licensing application processing timeframes have increased. Board staff have worked overtime hours to address backlogs in licensing. Expected timeframes are regularly updated on the Board’s website.

<b>Licensing Cycle Times</b>	<b>2/1/21</b>	<b>6/1/21</b>	<b>8/1/21</b>	<b>10/1/21</b>	<b>Current</b>
Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) and Audiologists (AUD) Complete Licensing Applications	6 weeks	5 weeks	7 weeks	9 weeks	4 weeks
Review and Process SLP and AUD Supporting Licensing Documents	1 weeks	3 weeks	5 weeks	6 weeks	3 weeks
Review and Process RPE Applicant’s Verification Forms for Full Licensure	5 weeks	5 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	4 weeks
Hearing Aid Dispensers (HAD) Applications	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current

**e) Practical Examination Report**

This fiscal year practical examinations have been conducted in July and October of 2021. The next practical examinations will be held on April 8-9, 2022. Below is a summary of results from the practical examination that were conducted October 22-23, 2021:

<b>HAD Practical Examination Results for October 22-23, 2021</b>					
<b>Candidate Type</b>	<b>Number of Candidates</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Applicants with Supervision (Temporary Trainee License)</b>					
Hearing Aid Dispensers	17	11	65%	6	35%
Audiologists	4	2	50%	2	50%
Required Professional Experience	0				
Aide	0				
<b>Applicants Licensed in Another State (Temporary License)</b>					
Heaing Aid Dispenser	2	2	100%		
Audiologist	1	1	100%		
<b>Applicants without Supervision</b>					
Hearing Aid Dispensers	7	4	57%	3	43%
Audiologists	6	5	83%	1	17%
Required Professional Experience	2	2	100%		
<b>Total Number of Candidates</b>					
	39	27	69%	12	31%

#### **f) Enforcement Report**

The Board has received 58 complaints and subsequent arrest notifications through the second quarter of the 2021-22 reporting year. During this same period the Board has issued two (2) citation and fines for unlicensed activity and not cooperating with a Board investigation. The number of complaints and subsequent arrest notifications have declined in the past two years compared to previous years.

There are currently 15 formal discipline cases pending with the Attorney General's Office. The Board is currently monitoring 18 probationers of which three (3) probationers require drug or alcohol testing and six (6) are in a tolled status. Included in your Board materials (Item 5f) is the Board's statistical Enforcement report.

The following disciplinary actions have been adopted by the Board during the past 12 months:

<b>Name</b>	<b>License No.</b>	<b>License Type</b>	<b>Case No.</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
Long, Wayne Erwin	HA 7793	Hearing Aid Dispenser	1C-2017-019	December 3, 2021	Revocation of License
Lindahl, Holli Jollette	SPA 1981	Speech-Language Pathologist	1I-2019-154	December 2, 2021	Revocation of License

Avina, Arturo Frank	SP 27490	Speech-Language Pathologist	1I-2019-032	September 26, 2021	Revocation Stayed, Five Years' Probation with Specified Terms and Conditions
Rios, Keith Eric	HA 5058	Hearing Aid Dispenser	1C-2010-155	September 10, 2021	Probation extended seven years, actual suspension, ordered to pay cost recovery.
Jackson, Alisa	SPA 6731	Speech-Language Pathology Assistant	1I-2019-124	August 1, 2021	Revocation stayed, actual suspension, three years' probation with specified terms and conditions.
Stanton, Christine Lee	SP 9045	Speech-Language Pathologist	1I-2012-055	July 17, 2021	Petition for early termination of probation granted. Probation terminated.
Hernandez, Rachel V.	SP 24843	Speech-Language Pathologist	1I-2019-164	April 10, 2021	Revocation of license.
Blanchard, Miriam	SP 8627	Speech-Language Pathologist	1I-2019-017	March 20, 2021	Revocation of license.