



October 28, 2024

Mr. Timothy Hunsaker, Vice Chair
Nevada Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board
Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee
6170 Mae Avenue, Suite 1
Reno, NV 89523

RE: Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Regulations

Dear Mr. Hunsaker:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to share our recommendations for amending the regulations governing speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) and their supervisors.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 234,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Over 1,100 ASHA members reside in Nevada.¹

ASHA supports the regulation of SLPAs via licensure and the use of telesupervision for SLPAs; however, we offer the following recommended amendments.

While ASHA supports the training and education for SLPAs, we noted that there is no clinical practicum experience required for the SLPA. We recommend requiring the following:

“100 hours of clinical practicum or on-the-job experience.”

III Scope of Practice/Prohibited Activities

B. NAC 637B.NEW Speech-language pathology assistant prohibited from performing certain activities; disciplinary action.

ASHA recommends deleting (g) from restricted activities. ASHA's SLPA scope of practice does not prohibit voice treatment.²

IV Supervision

A. NAC 637B.NEW Authority and qualifications to act as a supervising speech-language pathologist; supervision ratios.

2.d. ASHA does not require the supervising SLP to share the same employer as the SLPA, as is required in this section. We recommend removing this requirement.

Thank you for considering ASHA's comments on these proposed regulations. If you have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tena L. McNamara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Tena L. McNamara, AuD, CCC-A/SLP
2024 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2023). *Nevada* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/nevada-state-flyer.pdf>

² American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). *Scope of Practice for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)*. <https://www.asha.org/policy/slpa-scope-of-practice/>