



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

January 26, 2018

Drew Snyder, Interim Executive Director
Mississippi Division of Medicaid
550 High Street, Suite 1000
Walters Sillers Building
Jackson, MS 39201-1325

Dear Mr. Snyder:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to offer our support for the proposed telepractice regulations.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 191,500 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 1,600 of our members reside in Mississippi.

As the leading national organization for the certification and advancement of audiologists and SLPs, we support the development and use of telehealth or “telepractice.” ASHA has a family of professional practice documents approved by ASHA’s Board of Directors, including a position statement that defines telepractice as:

“the application of telecommunications technology to deliver professional services at a distance by linking clinician to client, or clinician to clinician for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation.”

ASHA’s telepractice documents include a technical report, knowledge, and skills needed by SLPs who provide clinical services via telepractice and service delivery guidelines.*

The Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) spent two years in developing the proposed regulations, which will allow practitioners to provide services to individuals where there is a provider shortage. ASHA agrees with MSHA on the need for regulations to provide services to clients in remote underserved areas and assist with access to services for clients who are unable to leave their homes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed telepractice regulations. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA’s director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Elise Davis-McFarland, PhD, CCC-SLP
2018 ASHA President

* American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Telepractice. Retrieved from <http://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Telepractice/>.