

Licensure



An Official Publication of the National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Summer 2022

Special Points of Interest:

- NCSB 35th Annual Conference
- Board Member Honored by State Association
- Update on the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Licensing Compact (ASLP-IC)
- Spotlight on Licensure Boards
- Membership in NCSB
- Join Us on Facebook
- NCSB Board of Directors

President's Corner

BY: Amy Goldman

I can't wait to welcome you all to our 2022 NCSB Board Training and Conference! We are excited about the amenities offered by the conference venue as well as the wonders of the "Land of Enchantment". These are outshone only by the stellar line-up of timely and relevant topics and faculty our NCSB President-Elect Tammy Brown has assembled. As always, this event is the perfect opportunity to network with licensing boards across the country who share your responsibilities and challenges.

A complete program is included elsewhere in the newsletter, so please read it for specific details. A highlight of the conference is always the Board Member Training that is held on the day preceding the conference. Initially designed for new board members, the training includes activities for seasoned as well as new board members. Information on statutory authority is presented, and attendees are encouraged to share their legislative experiences. Participants are also provided the opportunity to participate in both a compliance hearing and a formal disciplinary hearing. At the conclusion of the workshop ethical dilemmas are presented so regulatory board members can provide input.

The conference itself focuses on inclusion and collaboration, topics that have an impact on licensure boards across the country. As always, the state information exchange provides attendees with networking opportunities and with information regarding what challenges other licensing boards are facing.

The conference hotel has a number of amenities to appeal to all attendees. Breakfast is provided each morning, and a happy hour complete with snacks and drinks is provided each afternoon. The rooms are spacious, and the hotel itself is located within walking distance of the unique Santa Fe downtown.

Plan to take advantage of all there is to do in the charming city of Santa Fe. I would like to wish everyone the best in health and, and we look forward to seeing you at our conference in October. See you in Santa Fe!

Best,

Amy

NCSB 35th Annual Conference
**“Good Governance: Inclusion and Collaboration in the
 Regulation of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology”**



Please join us in beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico for the 35th Annual NCSB Conference, October 13-15.

Santa Fe, New Mexico is a city unlike any other. With legendary history and culture around every corner, an art scene that spans from traditional to contemporary, accommodations with a local feel yet world-class status, award-winning cuisine that’s as eclectic as it is sumptuous, and countless experiences to encounter, you’re sure to uncover something different about yourself when you visit.

Pre-Conference Workshop
<https://ncsb.info/workshop>

Time	Thursday, October 13
8am - 5pm	<p><i>Pre-Conference Workshop: Training for Board Members</i></p> <p><i>Separate Registration Fee Required</i></p> <p><i>Facilitators:</i> Glenn Waguespack, Theresa H. Rodgers & Nahale Kalfas</p>
8 - 8:30am	<p><i>Welcome and Overview of the NCSB Reference Manual</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenn Waguespack, MS, CCC-A • Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP, L-SLP, EdS (LD)
8:30 - 9:45am	<p><i>Statutory Authority</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nahale Kalfas, Esq.

9:45 - 10am	BREAK
10 - 11:30am	Statutory Authority (continued)
11:30 - 12:45pm	LUNCH (on your own)
12:45 - 2:45pm	<p>Review of Complaints, Mock Compliance & Mock Disciplinary Hearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenn Waguespack, MS, CCC-A • Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP, L-SLP, EdS (LD)
2:45 - 3pm	BREAK
3 - 5pm	<p>Ethical Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenn Waguespack, MS, CCC-A • Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP, L-SLP, EdS (LD)

Learner Outcomes:

1. Delineate key components of laws, rules and regulations that govern the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology.
2. Describe elements of the disciplinary process and application to the professions through participation in a mock hearing.
3. Demonstrate the process utilized for examining ethics violations as well as reporting licensure board disciplinary actions to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

Workshop Faculty:

- **Nahale Freeland Kalfas, Esq**, has served as General Counsel for the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists for the past fourteen years, is legal counsel to the Counsel of State Governments National Center for Interstate Compacts (CSG-NCIC).
- **Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP, L-SLP, EdS (LD)**, is ASHA's Past President, an SLP and special education consultant. A Board Certified Specialist in Child Language and an ASHA Fellow, she has served as president of ASHA, CSAP, NCSB, and LSHA. Theresa is a former member of the Louisiana licensure board and chaired the ASHA Board of Ethics.
- **Glenn M. Waguespack, MS, CCC-A**, is a private practice audiologist and ASHA Fellow. He is a past president of NCSB, former chair of ASHA's Continuing Education Board and Council on Academic Accreditation, and former Vice-Chair of the Council for Clinical Certification. Having served five years on ASHA's Board of Ethics, he co-presents sessions in ethics resolution at the annual NCSB Board training.

Conference Schedule
<https://ncsb.info/schedule>

Friday, October 14	
8 - 8:30am	Registration
8:30 - 8:45am	<p>Welcome & Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy S. Goldman, MS, CCC-SLP; NCSB President • Tammy H. Brown, M.A., CCC-A; NCSB President-Elect & Conference Chair
8:45 - 9:30am	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address</p> <p><i>DIY Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – Initiatives in the Regulatory Space</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Francis, MBA
9:30 - 10:15am	<p><i>Consumer Protection DEI</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnnie Sexton, Aud
10:15 - 10:30am	BREAK
10:30 - 11:00am	<p><i>Ableism</i> (Virtual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India Ochs, Esq
11:00 - 12:00pm	<p><i>State Information Exchange</i> - Part 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy S. Goldman, MS, CCC-SLP; Facilitator <p>A state representative should come prepared to speak for 5 minutes on successes and challenges in their state.</p>
12:00 - 1:00pm	LUNCHEON and CORPORATE BUSINESS MEETING
1:15 - 1:45pm	<p><i>Group Breakout & Discussion of Case Studies</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Brown • Brenda Fairfax, EdD • Amy S. Goldman, MS, CCC-SLP • Johnnie Sexton, AuD

1:45 - 2:15pm	Group Breakout and Reporting
2:15 - 3:00pm	National Practitioner Databank Reporting Requirements & Queries (Virtual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashley B. Carothers, MS Lorraine Lockett-Amaechi
3 - 3:15pm	BREAK
3:15 - 3:45pm	State Information Exchange - Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above
3:45 - 4:30pm	Interprofessional Care-IPP/IPE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jo Ann Linseisen Carol Breeze, MS CCC-SLP
4:30 - 5:15pm	Update of OTC Hearing Aids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Pilch, JD

Time	Saturday, October 15
8:30 - 9:15am	Update on ASLP-IC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Adams, Esq, CAE Kerri Phillips, SLP.D Lawrence F. Molt, PhD, CCC-SLP/AUD
9:15 - 10am	ASLP-IC - Challenges and Advantages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nahale Freeland Kalfas, Esq
10 - 10:45am	Credentialing & Testing Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Pilch, JD; American Association of Audiology Thomas Muller, AuD, CCC-A, FAAA; American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Nick Bellack; Educational Testing Service

10:45 - 11:15am	<p><i>A New Day in Efficacy and Efficiencies in Licensure Boards</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Brown; North Carolina • Jolie Jones; Louisiana • Gregg B. Thornton, Esq; Ohio
11:15 - 12pm	<p><i>What are we missing in new trends? Supervision, Tele-Supervision & Generational Workforce</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherry Sancibrian, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL, FASHA
12 - 12:15pm	<p><i>Wrap-Up and 2023 Preview</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy S. Goldman, MS, CCC-SLP • Tammy H. Brown, M.A., CCC-A

Learner Outcomes

1. Identify the role of audiology and speech-language pathology licensure boards in regulating diversity, equity, and inclusion for consumer protection.
2. Define ableism and its impact on consumer protection.
3. List the reporting requirements of the National Practitioner Databank and understand NPDB queries to ensure consumer protection.
4. Explain collaborative interprofessional care.
5. List 3 potential components of the FDA's proposed regulations for over-the-counter hearing aids.
6. Delineate next steps for the ASLP-IC and identify challenges and advantages of the compact.
7. Demonstrate efficiencies of regulatory licensure boards.
8. Describe trends in supervision, tele-supervision, and the generational workforce.
9. List requirements for ETS' Praxis exams and AAA and ASHA certifications in audiology and speech-language pathology.
10. Summarize accomplishments and challenges experienced by NCSB member states during the past year.

Conference Faculty

Susan Adams, Esq, CAE, is the Director of State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Nick Bellack is a client relations director for ETS and is responsible for providing support for professional licensure and certification stakeholders around the country.

Carol Breeze, MS CCC-SLP, is a Director in Continuing Education (CE) at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and consults on best practices in audiology and speech-language pathology to support CE policies.

Denise Brown is the Executive Director for the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and has been with the NC Board for 15 years.

Tammy H. Brown, M.A., CCC-A, is a licensed audiologist and Board President of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board. She is a member of the American Academy of Audiology, American-Speech-Language Hearing Association, and the Ohio Speech-Language Hearing Association. She is president-elect and this year's conference planning chair of NCSB.

Ashley B. Carothers, M.S., joined the National Practitioner Databank (NPDB) in the Health Resources and Services Administration in July 2021 as the Compliance Branch Chief.

Brian Francis, MBA, is the top executive of the largest occupational licensing agency in the state of Texas. He has 36 years of public service experience, 22 of which were in executive level roles.

Brenda Fairfax, Ed.D., is a public board member on the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

Amy S. Goldman, MS, CCC-SLP, is chair of the Pennsylvania Board of Examiners, and president of NCSB. She is also president of the US Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC) and past president of the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Jolie Jones has served as the Executive Director for 7 years for the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, in addition to 7 years as the Board's Administrative Assistant.

Nahale Freeland Kalfas, Esq., has served as General Counsel for the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists for the past fourteen years, is legal counsel to the Counsel of State Governments National Center for Interstate Compacts (CSG-NCIC).

Jo Ann Linseisen is the Senior Director, Continuing Education (CE) at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Jo Ann directs the association's system of approval of organizations offering continuing professional education.

Lorraine Lockett-Amaechi is a Compliance Officer for the Division of Practitioner Data Bank (DPDB), Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Lawrence F. Molt, Ph.D., CCC-SLP/AUD, is Professor and Director of the Neuroprocesses Research Laboratory in the Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Department at Auburn University in Alabama. An ASHA Fellow, he holds both CCC-A and CCC-SLP and was in the initial cadre of Board Certified Fluency Specialists. He teaches, does research, and provides both clinical supervision and clinical services in both audiology and speech-language pathology. As well as serving on the NCSB Board, Larry serves as Chair of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Commission.

Thomas Muller, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA, is a Clinical Professor and Coordinator of Clinical Education in Audiology at the University of Arizona. He is currently serving as Chair of ASHA's Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

India Ochs, Esq., is a mother, attorney, author, sports fanatic, and hardcore fan of Star Wars, musicals, and Robert Kennedy. An experienced public speaker and agitator, she has been involved in human rights and social policy for 35 years.

Kerri Philips, SLP.D., is Professor/Program Director at Louisiana Tech University as well as adjunct instructor at Nova Southeastern. Dr. Phillips has served multiple terms on the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. She is on the Board of Directors with NCSB.

Susan Pilch, JD, is the Senior Director of Government Relations for the American Academy of Audiology and oversees federal and state legislative and regulatory efforts. She has significant experience on a wide range of issues including state licensure, reimbursement, contractual and policy-related insurance coverage issues, Medicare and Medicaid and patient access to services and care.

Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP, L-SLP, EdS (LD), is ASHA's Past President, an SLP and special education consultant. A Board Certified Specialist in Child Language and an ASHA Fellow, she has served as president of ASHA, CSAP, NCSB, and LSHA. Theresa is a former member of the Louisiana licensure board and chaired the ASHA Board of Ethics.

Sherry Sancibrian, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL, FASHA, is a University Distinguished Professor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, where she has been the Program Director for Speech-Language Pathology since 1999. She is past-chair of the Texas licensure board and a past president of NCSB.

Johnnie Sexton, Au.D., created the nonprofit agency, The CARE Project, serving as Executive Director, for the advancement of family, professional and pre-professional training opportunities in emotional/adjustment counseling. Dr. Sexton has worked with children who are deaf and hard of hearing for almost 4 decades.

Gregg B. Thornton, Esq., is the Executive Director of the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board. He is an affiliate member with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, American Academy of Audiology, International Hearing Society, and is on the Board of Directors with NCSB and currently serving as past-president.

Venue

<https://ncsb.info/venue>

Conference Hotel

Drury Plaza Hotel in Santa Fe
828 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Phone: 505-424-2175

Guest Room Group Rates

Single/Double: \$109; Triple: \$119; Quad: \$129 per night, not including taxes. The group rate is available until Monday, September 12, or when rooms sell out.

Room Reservation Procedures

Reserve your room online using the link below. Enter your travel dates and click "Search Rooms," then click "Add a Special Rate or Group," and enter the group number of 2358321 to select your room. Or, you may call 1-800-325-0720 and refer to the same group number.

Parking

On-site parking is valet only. Self-parking is not available on-site. The negotiated group rate is \$10 per day for meeting guests and \$10.00 per night per vehicle for overnight parking. (Advertised on-site parking non-group rates are \$25/night.)

Groome Transportation (formerly Sandia Shuttle) from Albuquerque Airport

\$78 + tax round trip or \$39+tax one-way. Reservations may be made by calling (505) 474-5696 or by visiting www.groometransportation.com/santa-fe/.

About the Hotel

This renovated historic property offers unique accommodations like private terraces and premium suites. The hotel is LEED® Certified by the U.S. Green Building Council for energy-efficiency in the design and features on-property restaurant, Eloisa. The hotel is a short walk from downtown Santa Fe's many attractions, including the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Palace Avenue Arts designed the artwork for the interiors of the hotel by curating the most creative artists from a wide array of art markets. You will enjoy the variety of mediums displayed on all floors.

The hotel features beautiful rooms, free long distance for one hour every room every night and free wireless internet access in all rooms, in the lobby and in all meeting space. Also offered is a free HOT breakfast including pancakes, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage and more. There is Soda and Popcorn from 3:00 to 10:00 pm every night in the mezzanine lobby and a 5:30 KICKBACK each evening with a rotating menu of free hot food and cold beverages. There is a heated outdoor rooftop pool and whirlpool overlooking the Santa Fe skyline.



Registration

<https://ncsb.info/registration>

Registration

- 1 Member Attendee - \$325
- 2 Member Attendees - \$600
- 3 Member Attendees - \$900
- 4 Member Attendees - \$1,200
- Non-Member Attendee - \$500

Pre-Conference Workshop

- 1 Member Attendee - \$225
- 2 Member Attendees - \$450
- 3 Member Attendees - \$675
- 4 Member Attendees - \$900
- Non-Member Attendee - \$325

Exhibitors & Sponsorship

<https://ncsb.info/exhibits>

An exhibit table (\$450) includes one conference registration. Exhibits will be open for the duration of the conference.

Sponsorship

Platinum: \$2,000

- Inclusion of promotional materials in conference participant folders
- Verbal recognition daily (during opening/announcements)
- Signage at registration table (and/or at entrance to the general session area, if registration area is in a separate location)
- Recognition in the conference program (all pages)
- Logo/link on conference web pages and in conference emails

Diamond: \$1,500

- Inclusion of promotional materials in conference participant folders
- Verbal recognition at beginning of conference
- Recognition in the conference program (in the "Sponsorship" section of the program)
- Logo/link on conference web pages

Lunch: \$1,000

- Verbal recognition at beginning of conference
- Signage at luncheon
- Recognition in the conference program (in the "Sponsorship" section of the program)
- Logo/link on conference web pages

Morning or Afternoon Breaks: \$500 each.

- Verbal recognition at beginning of conference
- Signage at sponsored event
- Recognition in the conference program (in the "Sponsorship" section of the program)
- Logo/link on conference web pages

Gold: \$500

- Verbal recognition at beginning of conference
- Recognition in the conference program (in the "Sponsorship" section of the program)
- Logo/link on conference web pages

Bronze: \$100

- Verbal recognition at beginning of conference
- Recognition in the conference program (in the "Sponsorship" section of the program)

Board Member Honored by State Association

Kerri Phillips, who has twice served as NCSB President, was honored with a Special Recognition Award by the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Kerri was recognized for her work in promoting and developing the interstate licensing compact for audiology and speech-language pathology. Kerri has served on the drafting team and has worked closely with the Council of State Governments in providing states with information regarding the compact. She currently serves as the NCSB representative to the Executive Committee. NCSB is grateful for Kerri's groundwork and assistance in this important endeavor.

Update on the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Licensing Compact (ASLP-IC)

A few years ago, a profession changing idea was proposed at the NCSB Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. As forward thinking as the idea was, NCSB members stepped in, and this revolutionary idea began to take shape.

As of the date of this newsletter, the ASLP-IC has been adopted by law in 23 states. The adoption has allowed the formation of the ASLP-IC Commission. During the 2022 year, the Commission established committees for Rules, Compliance, and Finance. A complete listing of committee members and meeting minutes can be found at the <https://aslpcompact.com/commission/aslp-ic-commission-executive-board-committees/>.

NCSB would like to acknowledge the financial support of ASHA, AAA, and ADA in pledging the initial startup funds to allow the activation of the Compact. All committee meetings are held via Zoom. Future committee meetings dates and times can be found at <https://aslpcompact.com/commission/>.

A Note on the Current Status of the ASLP-IC from the ASLP-IC Commission Chair:

Initial Meeting of the ASLP Interstate Compact Commission:

The commission that will govern the compact is composed of both an Audiology and a Speech-Language Pathology delegate from the Licensure Board in each member state, along with two non-voting ex-officio representatives from professional associations (ASHA, AAA, ADA rotating), the National Council of State Boards of Examiners in SLP/A (NCSB), and 5 executive directors or public members from licensing boards in member states. The commission met for the first time on January 12 & 13, 2022 and elected Officers, Executive Committee, Rules Committee, Finance Committee, and Compliance Committee members. Initial funding for the operation of the commission until it is fully operational and charging fees will come from ASHA, AAA, and ADA. At the time of the initial meeting there were 15 member states in the compact.

Current Compact Membership:

An additional 9 states enacted the compact in 2022, putting compact membership at 23 states.

Recent Commission Activity:

Over the last seven months the various commission committees have been working on reviewing funding agreements establishing an operating budget, further delineating rules and regulations for the operation of the compact, selection of a secretariat to interface between the funding agencies/sources and the commission, a job description for an executive director who will work for the commission, exploration of a

database sufficient for full compact operations across all member states, and establishment of the FBI fingerprint and background check process required for the compact. Onboarding of delegates from states that have recently ratified the compact is also a continuing process. It is anticipated those operations will continue through the remainder of 2022.

When will the Compact become Operational?

At the time of the initial meeting Commission members were told by representatives from the Council of State Governments that the typical time for setting up an interstate compact is about 18 months depending on funding availability. It is hoped that sometime in 2023 all the pieces will be finalized, in-place, and a data system funded so that the commission can begin issuing privileges for interstate practice to licensees in the member states. As can be seen from the description above, setting up a process that will function smoothly and efficiently across all member states and licensure boards and protect consumers and professionals alike is a very complex procedure, and it is important to note that all this work is being done by unpaid volunteers. t

Respectfully Submitted,
Lawrence F. Molt, Ph.D., CCC-A, CCC-SLP, FASHA, FAA
ASLP-ICC Chair

Audiology & Speech Language Pathology-Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC)

In support of the ASLP-IC NCSB has developed a position statement on interstate licensure compacts. Following is the text of the statement:

The National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (NCSB), consistent with its mission to promote consumer protection by supporting regulatory boards in speech-language pathology and audiology and in fulfilling statutory authority, professional, and ethical obligations, adopts the following position regarding the proposed Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

NCSB supports the proposed ASLP-IC. Since 2016 NCSB has worked closely with the Council of State Governments and their Interstate Compact Advisory Workgroup to develop a proposed interstate compact for audiology and speech-language pathology. The ASLP-IC is an occupational licensure compact that addresses the increased demand for practitioners to provide, and for consumers to receive, appropriate speech-language pathology and audiology services in concert with prevailing standards. It authorizes both telehealth and in-person practice across state lines without having to become licensed in additional ASLP-IC states. The compact permits audiologists and speech-language pathologists to provide services to populations currently underserved or geographically isolated. The compact also allows military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their professional license when relocating.

Additionally, the ASLP-IC improves consumer protection across state lines. The compact increases access to care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact member state. The compact also promotes cooperation between ASLP-IC member states on interstate licensure and regulation requirements such as continuing education. The compact ensures that audiologists and speech-language pathologists from other ASLP-IC member states who practice in another compact state, under the privilege granted by the compact, have met acceptable standards of practice. In summary, the ASLP-IC reduces regulatory barriers that negatively impact both consumers and practitioners. The compact does

not change a state's scope of practice for audiology or speech-language pathology, but it does ensure the ethical and legal provision of services while still protecting the public.

The NCSB Board of Directors support passage of the ASLP-IC and commit to supporting legislative efforts to that end.

NCSB encourages regulatory boards to become involved in the formation of a licensure compact in their respective states as a means of facilitating the interstate practice of audiology and speech-language pathology with the goal of improving public access to those services.

Nahale Kalfas, Board attorney in North Carolina, has been actively involved with the Council of State Governments in the formation of the compact.

Note: Through the years NCSB has been fortunate to receive periodic updates from Donald Illich and his colleagues regarding SLPs and AUD's whose sanctions have been reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB). All authors work at HRSA, and the following article is the latest in their updates regarding our profession. NCSB is grateful for the continued support and information provided by these authors.

Reporting Adverse Actions to the National Practitioner Data Bank

Donald Illich, Jiaying Hua, and Valerie Kamara

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW), Division of Practitioner Data Bank (DPDB)

What should state licensing boards know about the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB)? State boards of audiology and speech-language pathology *are required to report certain actions* to the NPDB. The NPDB can also provide valuable background information for them to use in conjunction with other resources when making licensing decisions, investigating licensees, and monitoring licensees.

The NPDB

A confidential information clearinghouse created by Congress in 1986, the NPDB's goals are to improve health care quality, protect the public, and reduce health care fraud and abuse in the United States. It provides information that assists queriers in performing comprehensive reviews of the credentials of health care practitioners, providers, and suppliers. The NPDB collects information on medical malpractice payments and certain adverse actions and discloses that information to eligible entities.

The Value of NPDB Reports

Querying the NPDB for information on speech-language pathologists and audiologists allows for informed decision-making. Reports can be used in conjunction with other information provided by applicants and licensees to create complete pictures of their professional histories.

Boards increase the value of the NPDB by reporting necessary actions, including licensure suspensions and revocations of licenses that result from formal proceedings. "Formal proceedings" mean proceedings held before a state licensing or certification authority, peer review organization, or private accreditation entity that maintains defined rules, policies, or procedures for such a proceeding.

If all legally required actions are reported, it is more likely that boards can identify unprofessional and/or incompetent practitioners before they are licensed. Reporting licensure actions adds to the completeness of NPDB information, which increases its value. Without reports, queriers might get an incomplete picture of a practitioner's record.

Reporting Requirements

State boards must report certain actions taken against speech-language pathologists and audiologists. [Federal regulations](#) require state boards to submit reports concerning various adverse actions. The actions must be the result of formal proceedings and may include:

- Any adverse action taken by a board as a result of a formal proceeding, including: revocation or suspension of a license; reprimand; censure; or probation.
- Any dismissal or closure of a formal proceeding because the audiologist/speech-language pathologist surrendered the license because the subject of the proceeding left the state or jurisdiction.
- Any other loss of license or the right to apply for, or renew, a license by an audiologist/speech-language pathologist, whether by operation of law, voluntary surrender, nonrenewal (excluding nonrenewals due to nonpayment of fees, retirement, or change to inactive status), or otherwise.
- Any negative action or finding by the board that, under the state's law, is publicly available information, including, but not limited to, limitations on the scope of practice, liquidations, injunctions, and forfeitures. This definition also includes final adverse actions rendered by a board – such as exclusions, revocations, or suspension of license – that occur in conjunction with settlements in which no finding of liability has been made (although such a settlement itself is not reportable). This definition excludes administrative fines or citations and corrective action plans and other personnel actions, unless: the underlying activity is connected to the delivery of health care services, or the action is taken in conjunction with other adverse licensure actions, such as revocation, suspension, censure, reprimand, probation, or surrender.

When a license is suspended, the length of the suspension must also be reported. Boards must report any revisions to a previously reported licensing action, such as a reinstatement of a suspended license, and whether an action is on appeal.

Compliance

To further its mission of improving the quality of health care, and reducing fraud and abuse, the NPDB operates a [compliance review](#) effort for state boards to improve the completeness and accuracy of reported data.

All boards renew their registration and complete their attestation.

All boards also verify and update their regulated professions list. The NPDB administrator(s) can review and edit their board's regulated professions list at any time by signing into their account. During the attestation process, boards will attest/confirm that they have reported all legally required reports for the professions that they regulate.

For select boards, registration renewal is the first step of their compliance review. The NPDB collects data regarding adverse actions taken by selected state licensing and certification boards (boards) for the 24 month period (or two years) before each board's registration renewal date. The purpose is to ensure that all required actions according to federal law have been correctly reported to the NPDB. The NPDB will

compare this data with the actions submitted by the selected boards, and will identify potential reporting gaps. The compliance review includes professions that are queried most often (by organizations registered with the NPDB), and, a random sampling of other professions.

The NPDB shares the results of its compliance reviews through an interactive compliance map. The interactive map allows users to find information about compliance for current and past board reviews, and displays each entity's [compliance results](#). For full compliance results, visit [Reporting Compliance Status by State](#).

Reports in the Data Bank

As of December 31, 2021, the NPDB contained over 1.6 million reports filed on over 833,000 individual practitioners of all types. Fifty-six percent of those reports are licensure actions, 30% malpractice payments, and 8% Medicare and Medicaid exclusions. The remaining reports include clinical privileges or panel membership actions, health plan actions, professional society membership actions, Drug Enforcement Administration actions, government administrative actions, and judgments or convictions.

Boards may take a variety of licensure actions against audiologists and speech-language pathologists; such as restrictions, suspensions, and probations. The majority of NPDB reports on audiologist and speech-language pathologists are licensure actions; however the table below details the other types of adverse actions reported against audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

Boards also may take a variety of licensure actions against practitioners related to audiologists and speech-language pathologists: **Hearing Aid (or Instrument) Specialists, Dealers, Dispensers** and **Other Speech, Language and Hearing Service Occupations**. The majority of NPDB reports on these practitioners are also licensure actions; however, the table below details the other types of adverse actions reported against them.

Table 1. Number of NPDB Reports by Practitioner Type
(September 1, 1990 – December 31, 2021)

Report Type	Audiologist	Speech/Language Pathologist	Hearing Aid (or Instrument) Specialist, Dealer, Dispenser	Other Speech, Language and Hearing Service Occupation	Total
Clinical Privileges/Panel Membership Action	2	3	0	0	5
Government Administrative Action	11	54	17	0	82
Health Plan Action	8	3	0	0	11
Judgment or Conviction	14	83	10	9	116
Malpractice Payment	72	26	4	1	103
State Licensure Action	381	1,928	632	33	2,974
Exclusions	52	32	5	2	91
<i>Total NPDB Reports</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>2,129</i>	<i>668</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>3,382</i>

For More Information

For additional information, visit the NPDB Web site at www.npdb.hrsa.gov. For technical questions related to billing, registration, and submitting a report, contact the Customer Service Center at help@npdb.hrsa.gov or 1-800-767-6732. Policy questions can also be sent via email to NPDBPolicy@hrsa.gov.

Disclaimer: This article is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government."

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Spotlight on Licensure Boards

NCSB periodically spotlights licensure boards so that readers can gain a perspective of what is happening with regulation across the country. The spotlight may contain information about the members of the Board, how to file a complaint, and other pertinent data for all interested audiologists and speech-language pathologists. This edition shines the spotlight on Kentucky.

Board Members

- Douglas Keefe, M.S. (SLP) - Chair
- Stephanie Graham, Citizen-at-Large
- Casey Rutledge Roof, Au.D. (Audiology)
- Mary Elizabeth Carrico, Au.D. (Audiology)
- Ciera Mills, M.S. (SLP)
- Beth McNulty, M.D. (Otolaryngology)
- Virginia T. Rose, M.S. (SLP)
- Margaret Adkins, Au.D. (Audiology)

Board Administrator: Megan Bradford

Address:

P.O.Box1360

Frankfort, KY 40602

Phone:502-782-8801

Fax:502-564-4818

Email: SLPA@ky.gov

Board Meetings

The Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology meets at 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601. Board meetings begin at 1 p.m., unless noted. The meeting schedule is linked below.

Continuing Education requirements:

1. A minimum of thirty (30) continuing education hours shall be accrued by each person holding licensure as a speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology assistant, or audiologist during the biennial period for renewal.”
2. A person who holds a license in both speech-language pathology and audiology shall complete a minimum of fifty (50) continuing education hours during the biennial period for renewal. This person shall obtain continuing education hours in both areas of licensure.

KY was one of the first 10 states to adopt the ASLP-IC.

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Search under “NCSB” or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/201684259941209/?fref=ts>

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End