



Tennessee Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences Meeting

Friday, May 16, 2025

MINUTES

The Board meeting of the Tennessee Communication Disorders and Sciences was called to order at - 10:00a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Candyce Wilson, Unit 1 Board Director on Friday, May 16, 2025.

Board members present: Carrie Mills, Speech Pathologist
Skye Jones, Audiologist, Board Secretary
Matthew Ward, Board Chair
Alicia Barker, Audiologist

Board member(s) absent: Richard Morton, Citizen Member
Kenneth Fletcher, MD

Staff present: Candyce Wilson, Unit 1 Board Director
Michael Varnell, JD, General Counsel
Mario Douglas, Board Administrator

Ms. Candyce Wilson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was confirmed.

REPORT FROM FINANCIAL OFFICE

The financial report was presented by Noranda French, Interim Fiscal Director. The upcoming fees related to the Speech-Language Pathology Compact were also discussed. All questions from board members were addressed. All Board members were in favor of the proposed Speech-Language Pathology Compact fee of \$150.00, reflecting the current state licensure fee minus the state regulatory fee, with no objection.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed August 16, 2024, October 29, 2024, and January 31, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Ms. Skye Jones motioned to approve the August 16, 2024, minutes. Ms. Carrie Mills seconded the motion, and it passed.

Ms. Skye Jones motioned to approve the October 29, 2024, minutes. Ms. Carrie Mills seconded the motion, and it passed.

Ms. Skye Jones motioned to approve the January 31, 2025, minutes. Ms. Carrie Mills seconded the motion, and it passed.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

David Puckett: Applicant not present. Mr. Micheal Varnell indicated that Mr. Puckett may qualify for executive session based on applicant criteria and explained the executive session process to the board members. Ms. Carrie Mills motioned to defer application review until August 29, 2025 Board Meeting, Ms. Skye Jones seconded the motion, and it passed.

Paige Claro: The applicant appeared before the Board and provided an explanation regarding the indication on her criminal background check. The Board reviewed the applicant's materials. Ms. Candyce Wilson requested that the applicant update her application for licensure and Mandatory Practitioner Profile to reflect a prior conviction before the application could be approved. Ms. Skye Jones motioned to approve the application contingent upon the required updates. Ms. Alicia Barker seconded the motion, and it passed.

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. Angela Esaw Intake Coordinator with the Office of Investigations, presented the current complaints report for the Board. The board had no questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REPORT

Mr. Mario Douglas, Board Administrator, presented the statistical licensing report as of May 15, 2025. The Board currently has 575 actively licensed Audiologists, 4,073 Speech Pathologists, and 178 Speech-Language Pathology Assistants. Since the last meeting, there were 4 newly licensed, 9 expired, 74 renewed, and 2 reinstated Audiologists; 129 newly licensed, 5 retired, 67 expired, 513 renewed, and 21 reinstated Speech Pathologists; and 13 newly licensed Clinical Fellows. Additionally, there were 14 newly registered, 11 expired, 12 renewed, and 1 reinstated Speech-Language Pathology Assistants. Upcoming Board meetings are scheduled for August 29, 2025; October 31, 2025; February 24, 2026; May 15, 2026; August 25, 2026; and November 4, 2026. The board had no questions

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Mr. Michael Varnell reviewed the conflict-of-interest Policy.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Varnell provided an update on the following rules:

- Hearing Instrument Repeal for Rule 1370-02-.03, Mr. Varnell indicated that the repeal was recently approved by Attorney General's Office and is currently under review by the Governor's Office.
- Communications Disorders and Sciences rule project #23-0757 for proposed rule changes that gives speech language pathologist and clinical fellows more time to complete their clinical fellowship, which is required to obtain licensure. A rulemaking hearing was held at the January 31, 2025, Board meeting.

- Communications Disorders and Sciences rule project #24-0356 for the retrospective rule changes that were approved by the Board at the May 2024 meeting. This retrospective rule change is currently in the Office of General Counsel’s internal review process. A Rulemaking Hearing is scheduled for the August 2025 Communications Disorders and Sciences Board meeting.

There are currently three (3) licensees being monitored for discipline. One (1) Audiologist on probation and one (1) Speech Pathologist licensee on probation and one (1) is revoked.

PRESENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY ORDERS

Consent order(s)

Ms. Paetria Morgan, Attorney with the Office of General Counsel, presented the consent order for **Kimberly Crawford SLP license # 1530**. With no recusals, Ms. Carrie Mills motioned to ratify the consent order for Ms. Kimberly Crawford. Ms. Skye Jones seconded the motion, and it passed.

Ms. Paetria Morgan, Attorney with the Office of General Counsel, presented the current consent order for **Tyrice Cartwright SLPA license # 712**. With no recusals, Ms. Carrie Mills motioned to ratify the consent order for Tyrice Cartwright. Ms. Skye Jones seconded the motion, and it passed.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of New Licensees

The Board reviewed the newly licensed and reinstated licensees since the last Board meeting. Ms. Skye Jones motioned to ratify all names on ratification list. Ms. Carrie Mills seconded the motion, and it passed.

Correspondence

The Board members discussed concerns with Blue Cross Blue Shield (hereinafter “BCBS”) regarding Clinical Fellows providing services to patients. Mr. Varnell indicated this Board has no jurisdiction over BCBS. Ms. Skye Jones motioned to appoint Dr. Matthew Ward and Carrie Mills to work alongside Ms. Candyce Wilson and Mr. Micheal Varnell to draft a response regarding the BCBS concerns with Clinical Fellows Treating Patients. Dr. Matthew Ward seconded the motion, and it passed.

Rules and process for adding the specialty of Endoscopy to a license pursuant to TCA 63-17-103(5)(b)

Mr. Varnell indicated a section in the practice act, TCA 63-17-103(5)(b) that speaks to licensees having the option to add the ability to add the endoscopy specialty to their license. Mr. Varnell proposed that a rule be implemented as opposed to a policy. Mr. Varnell will work with Ms. Wilson to redline and present at the next board meeting scheduled for August 2025. Part of the consideration for the Board is whether there should be a fee imposed for the administrative process. Mr. Varnell added that a fee increase would also constitute a rule change rather than a policy.

ASLP Compact Update

Ms. Barker announced that a new executive director has been appointed. She also stated that the ASLP-IC newsletter has been sent out to all individuals that have signed up. All compact information is currently in

discussion and the project is ongoing. The compact system is not ready to begin issuing privileges to practice yet.

Discuss legislation and consider any action, as needed

Ms. Candyce Wilson indicated the public comment received from president of TAASLP to the board. Board tabled discussion until next meeting provided that a representative is present.

Discuss and consider approval for attendance to upcoming conference(s), as needed

None

Disciplinary Order(s)

Mr. Michael Varnell, Attorney with the Office of General Counsel, presented the Order of Compliance for **David Hutchings** to whom was also present. Dr. Matthew Ward motioned to ratify the Order of Compliance for David Hutchings. Ms. Skye Jones seconded the motion, and it passed.

Ms. Candyce Wilson, Unit 1 Board Director, presented the agreed citation for **Emily Davis SLP license # 7663**. Ms. Carrie Mills motioned to ratify the agreed citation for Emily Davis. Ms. Alicia Barker seconded the motion, and it passed.

Ms. Candyce Wilson, Unit 1 Board Director, presented the agreed citation for **Sarah Duke Wilhite SLP license # 3493**. Ms. Carrie Mills motioned to ratify the agreed citation for Sarah Duke Wilhite. Ms. Alicia Barker seconded the motion, and it passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment requests were received.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Carrie Mills motioned to adjourn. Ms. Skye Jones seconded the motion, and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 CT.