



## **Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Governor Brown's Executive Orders  
Newsflash to licensees  
Erin K. Haag, Executive Director, March 24, 2020

### **STAY HOME – SAVE LIVES!**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Brown issued Executive Order #20-12 calling on the public to stay home in order to save lives due to the coronavirus. A copy of the order may be found here:

[https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive\\_orders/eo\\_20-12.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_20-12.pdf)

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Governor issued Executive Order #20-10 which prohibits all elective and non-urgent procedures across all settings that use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), effective March 23, 2020 through June 15, 2020. This order affects speech-language pathologists (SLPs), speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs), clinical fellows (CFs) and audiologists. All licensees are urged to read and follow this order, found here:

[https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive\\_orders/eo\\_20-10.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_20-10.pdf)

These new Executive Orders mean that most speech-language and audiology services will need to be provided via telepractice, rather than in-person/on-site, in order to maintain the required social distancing and to re-direct the PPE to hospitals.

**Oregon's Telepractice rules can be found here:**

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=260113>

**Recordkeeping rules can be found here:**

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=1406>

### **Frequently asked questions about Telepractice:**

Q. If I live in Oregon and hold an Oregon license, can I treat patients in Washington or other states via telepractice?

A. You must have the Oregon license and you may need a license in the state where the patient resides, so you will need to contact the other state regarding licensure and their rules.

Q. If I live outside of Oregon, can I treat Oregon patients via telepractice?

A. Yes, but you must hold the Oregon license. The Board is expediting licensing. Contact us for information.

Q. Are there additional requirements for conducting sessions via telepractice vs. on-site/in-person?

A. Yes, you must obtain prior authorization from the student/patient/client and document it in their record. In addition, you must determine and note in the record your professional judgement that the student/patient/client is suitable for this modality (according to ASHA, telepractice may not be appropriate for 5-15% of individuals). If the individual is not suitable for this modality, then it is the licensee's professional and ethical responsibility not to provide services via telepractice for that individual. In addition, the equipment used by both practitioner and student/patient/client must meet HIPAA/FERPA privacy standards. Please note that telepractice services may not be delivered by telephone-only. **Please see the link above and study all of the telepractice rules before beginning treatment using this method.**

Q. Can a speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) provide services via telepractice?

A. Yes, as long as the SLP of record for the student/patient/client is the official supervisor of the SLPA, and has determined that the specific student/patient/client is suitable for telepractice services by that SLPA. That professional determination must be documented in the individual's record. All other requirements for SLPA supervision must be met. SLPA Rules are here:

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=1416>

Q. Can a clinical fellow holding the Oregon Conditional Speech-Language Pathology license provide services via telepractice? In addition, can their supervising SLP provide that supervision via telepractice?

A. Clinical fellowships must meet standards of the American Speech-Language & Hearing Association (ASHA), which require clinical fellows to provide services on-site. They also require the SLP supervisor to supervise/rate the CF while physically on-site. However, due to COVID-19, ASHA is providing a temporary allowance in some of the standards related to telepractice and telesupervision from March 16 through April 30, 2020. (That date might be extended, check our websites on May 1). The details can be found here: <https://www.asha.org/Certification/COVID-19-Use-of-Telepractice-and-Telesupervision/>. Additional guidance can be found here: <https://www.asha.org/Certification/COVID-19-Guidance-From-CFCC/>. Please note that all other Oregon Board rules for supervising clinical fellows still apply. The rules are here:

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=1413>

Q. Where can I learn more about best practices to ensure I have the appropriate knowledge and training to move to a telepractice service model?

A. ASHA has a special resource page: <https://www.asha.org/About/Coronavirus-Updates/>.

In addition, the Board is working closely with the Oregon Speech-Language-Hearing Association (OSHA) to continue dissemination of telepractice resources. OSHA's Telepractice Advisory Committee held a livestream "Telepractice Q&A" last week. If you missed it, you can watch the recording of the livestream event on the OSHA YouTube page link: <https://youtu.be/OwbrjgkHrDw>

Please contact the Board for any questions related to Oregon statutes and rules relating to telepractice. The OSHA Telepractice Advisory Committee is willing to answer additional questions regarding best practices in the use of telepractice as they arise. Here is the roster of the committee members and their specialty areas:

**Megann McGill, PhD, CCC-SLP** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Portland State University. She specializes in clinical research of telepractice evaluation and treatment of fluency disorders, providing direct and indirect treatment to parents of young children who stutter, and supervising graduate student clinicians via telepractice. **Email:** [Megann.McGill@pdx.edu](mailto:Megann.McGill@pdx.edu)

**Kira Wright, MS, CCC-SLP** is Director of School-Based Services at The Hello Foundation. She is a telepractitioner with more than 10 years of experience serving rural Oregon and supervises SLP-Assistants. Kira is knowledgeable about how to implement telepractice in school settings with children individually and in groups. **Email:** [Kira.Wright@thehellofoundation.com](mailto:Kira.Wright@thehellofoundation.com)

**Jenny Peddicord, MA, CCC-SLP** is Clinic Director at The Hello Clinic, a private practice in Portland, OR. She specializes in telepractice evaluation and treatment services for adults and children across the SLP scope of practice. Jenny is knowledgeable about insurance reimbursement and private practice considerations for telepractice. **Email:** [jenny.peddicord@thehellofoundation.com](mailto:jenny.peddicord@thehellofoundation.com)

**Emily Quinn, PhD, CCC-SLP** is an Assistant Professor in the Institute on Development and Disability at Oregon Health Sciences University. She conducts clinical research via telepractice for specialty populations such as young children with language disorders using a parent-coaching model of intervention. **Email:** [QuinnEM@ohsu.edu](mailto:QuinnEM@ohsu.edu)

**Kate Morrell, MA, CCC-SLP** is the Regional Manager at Providence Rehabilitation Services. She leads the telehealth research and clinical programs across Providence. Kate is knowledgeable about telepractice with medical populations and using telepractice to evaluation dysphagia. **Email:** [Kate.Morrell@providence.org](mailto:Kate.Morrell@providence.org)

### **The Board is Open for Business**

In an effort to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon and protect employees and the public, the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (BSPA/the Board) has changed the way it provides services at its main office in Portland as of March 10, 2020. Board staff are working remotely and can be reached by phone during regular business hours. Interactions between staff and the public will be by telephone or conference call appointment only. All licensing and other services are available through the Board's online licensing system. Visit our Website at [www.oregon.gov/bspa](http://www.oregon.gov/bspa).

How to reach us:

Telephone: 971-673-0220

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