

July 25, 2018

Board of Speech/Language Pathologists, Audiologists & Hearing Aid Dispensers  
Attn: Karen Carn  
861 Silver Lake Blvd.  
Dover, DE 19904

**RE: Board of Examiners of Speech/Language Pathologists, Audiologists & Hearing Aid Dispensers Regulation [22 DE Reg. 30 (July 1, 2018)]**

Dear Ms. Carn:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the proposed revisions to the rules and regulations of the Board of Examiners of Speech/Language Pathologists, Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers. Council **endorses** the proposed amendments.

The proposed revisions primarily update clinical practicum and fellowship requirements to make them consistent with the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) standards. Under state law, speech/language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists must meet ASHA standards for certification in order to be licensed. See 24 Del. Code §3708. Council understands that under this revision, the minimum number of clinical practicum for graduate level will increase from 250 to 325 hours. The regulation also more completely defines the Clinical Fellowship to be 36 weeks of full time work rather than defining it in months. There is a new requirement that audiologists and hearing aid dispensers inform clients of Telecoil technology and provide them with written materials. This change is required by 24 Del Code §3706(a), which was amended in 2016. The regulations also update the list of felonies that prelude licensure, to include accurate descriptions of drug-related offenses. As mentioned earlier, Council endorses the proposed changes as they primarily more clearly define requirements and alignment with updates in ASHA and Delaware Code.

Thank you for your consideration of our endorsement. Please contact me or Wendy Strauss at the GACEC office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Ann C Fisher*

Ann C. Fisher  
Chairperson

ACF:kpc