

ASHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT

ASHA's Board of Directors (BOD) met on August 7–8, 2026. Following are highlights of the Board's discussions.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

ASHA President Linda I. Rosa-Lugo convened the virtual BOD meeting at 10:25 a.m. ET on August 7, 2026, and welcomed Board members to the third-quarter BOD meeting of the year.

CEO UPDATE

Convention

Excitement continues to build as we prepare for the 2026 ASHA Convention in Indianapolis. As we move from planning into attendee engagement, several major milestones have been reached, reflecting the incredible work of our staff and volunteers. With registration now underway and new program elements taking shape, this year's Convention is well positioned to deliver an engaging and memorable experience.

Annie Glenn Award: We are pleased to announce that ASHA's 2026 Annie Glenn Award will be presented to HBO Max's *The Pitt* in recognition of its thoughtful and authentic portrayal of communication in health care. Through multiple storylines, the series highlights the critical role communication access plays in patient care, the impact of language access and other social determinants of health on clinical outcomes, and the complex decision-making that health care professionals navigate every day. Writer and co-producer Valerie Chu has been invited to accept the award on behalf of the production during ASHA's Awards Ceremony at Convention.

Opening General Session: We are excited to announce that Brian Ceci, a Canadian Hard of Hearing cinematographer and filmmaker, will deliver the 2026 Opening General Session keynote, "Heard: How I Ended Up Making a Film About My Hearing in 8 Ages." Through personal storytelling, archival imagery, humor, and reflection, Brian will share his journey from concealing his hearing loss to embracing his Hard of Hearing identity while exploring the importance of language, culture, community, and self-acceptance. As a special addition to this year's Opening General Session, attendees will also have the opportunity to attend a screening of Brian's 2026 documentary film, *Heard*, following the keynote, extending the conversation through a powerful and personal cinematic experience.

Program Notifications: Following notification of accepted presenters on July 16, planning has shifted toward finalizing attendees' educational experience for Indianapolis. The Convention Program Committee's rigorous peer-review process, supported by 58 topic chairs and hundreds of volunteer reviewers, has resulted in a program that reflects the latest research, clinical innovation, and emerging issues across the professions. Several topic areas have also been refined for 2026, ensuring the educational program remains responsive to the evolving needs of ASHA members.

Student Volunteer Program: Applications for the Student Volunteer Program opened on July 17, providing students with the opportunity to support Convention operations while gaining valuable professional experience and networking opportunities. We look forward to welcoming this year's student volunteers as an important part of the Convention team.

Registration: Early Access registration opened on July 22, followed by general registration on August 3. With registration now underway, attendees are beginning to build their Convention experience, and enthusiasm continues to grow as Indianapolis draws closer.

Exhibit Sales: Interest from exhibitors remains strong. As of early July, 255 exhibiting companies have secured 356 booths, surpassing the pace of exhibit sales at the same point leading into the 2024 Seattle Convention. This continued momentum reflects the value exhibitors place on engaging with ASHA members and the profession. Planning remains on schedule across all areas of Convention, and excitement continues to grow among attendees, exhibitors, volunteers, and staff. We look forward to welcoming the ASHA community to Indianapolis for what promises to be an inspiring and impactful Convention.

New ASHA Schools Workload Calculator Application

The ASHA Workload Calculator has been reimaged as a streamlined web application, giving school-based SLPs and SLPAs a more efficient way to document and manage their workload. As a member benefit, the enhanced tool helps SLPs and SLPAs capture, organize, and communicate the full scope of their responsibilities in one convenient place.

Members can log in and start using the tool on the [ASHA Workload Calculator](#) page or via their “My Account” page. The enhanced tool helps school-based SLPs and SLPAs spend less time managing spreadsheets and more time supporting students by tracking daily tasks, organizing workload, and providing customizable time-management features. It also generates clear data, graphics, and talking points that help members communicate workload needs and advocate for solutions that support effective service delivery. Additional information can be found at [ASHA Workload Calculator](#).

ASHA School SLP Office Hours

ASHA’s School SLP Office Hours is a monthly member benefit that brings school-based SLPs and SLPAs together for live, interactive professional learning and meaningful peer engagement. Held on the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 8 p.m. ET, each session features expert-led discussions on timely school-based clinical and professional topics, along with opportunities to ask questions, gain practical strategies, discover evidence-based best practices, and access curated resources you can use right away. Members can explore upcoming session dates and topics on the [School SLP Office Hours](#) webpage.

Sessions in June and July focused on Multilingual Assessments and Interventions and Workload Management: Service Delivery Scheduling. Past events were recorded and posted in [ASHA's School-Based Professionals Community](#) where members can access [all recordings](#).

ASHA Schools Learning Exchange

On July 11, ASHA hosted the in-person ASHA Schools Learning Exchange: Empowered Service Delivery for SLPs. During the morning session, Special Education 101: Evaluation and Eligibility, participants discussed how to apply a decision-making framework to make complex eligibility and dismissal decisions. In the afternoon session, Rethinking Service Delivery: Practical Strategies for Implementing a Flexible, Student-Centered Service Delivery Model, practical strategies on how to implement sustainable service delivery models were shared. Facilitated group discussions and breakout activities throughout the day emphasized active learning, real-world application, and peer-to-peer connection. Attendees left the event equipped with resources and new connections to empower them in the next school year.

Early Intervention

ASHA advanced national engagement with Part C early intervention leaders by partnering with the IDEA Infant & Toddler Coordinators Association to reach agency decision-makers from more than 30 states. ASHA elevated telepractice as an evidence-informed, system-level strategy for strengthening Part C service delivery through a webinar that equipped state EI leaders with practical information on how telepractice can help mitigate SLP workforce shortages, improve access to timely services for young children and families, and increase provider efficiency within early intervention systems.

Interstate Compact

Following the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) Commission's June 29, 2026, special meeting, the Commission reported that four jurisdictions—Louisiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia—are now issuing compact privileges to practice, with Tennessee having begun issuing privileges in May. The Commission also reported that 11 additional jurisdictions have completed technical onboarding and that another three to five states are expected to onboard by the end of September. During the meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the set of rules that were recently out for public comment, including those defining the national exam and the terms for the postgraduate professional experience required to participate in the compact. The Commission also adopted a bylaw amendment that will support consistent administration of the compact across member states, while also approving the FY 2027 operating budget. Finally, the Commission welcomed Claire Covert-ByBee as the Commission's new Executive Director. ASHA remains proud to support the ASLP-IC and its work to create new opportunities for practitioners and the individuals they serve.

International Engagement: New ASHA-PAHO Collaboration Project

At the request of the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Health, ASHA joined with the [Pan American Health Organization](#)—the World Health Organization's regional office for the Americas—for a needs assessment visit on July 20–22, 2026. This limited technical assistance effort allowed ASHA to share relevant expertise in response to a specific request from public health partners.

ASHA representatives met with government officials, health system leaders, and key institutions to assess needs and identify opportunities to strengthen speech, language, swallowing, and hearing services in the Dominican Republic. The visit will inform future collaboration through PAHO that will focus on building local professional and organizational capacity, strengthening provider knowledge and skills, and improving access to high-quality care for people with communication disorders.

ASHA Awards

[WTOP News](#) recognized ASHA as a Top Workplace in the Washington, DC metropolitan area once again in 2026. The awards are the result of employee surveys conducted by an objective third party who compiles the data and provides it to the media outlets. ASHA uses our data to inform decisions about changes to our organizational/office culture and where possible, staff policy, programming, or benefits. These awards also serve as a significant recruitment tool for vacant positions in the ASHA National Office.

Certification Administration

- Through the first 6 months of the year, applications for new certification and the retention/renewal rates for the CCC and Assistant Certifications are identical to 2025.
- In late March, the Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CFCC) disseminated the new [Audiology](#) and [Speech-Language Pathology](#) certification standards, which go into effect on August 1, 2027.

Assistant Certification Program

Since its inception, the program has awarded over 1,800 certifications, and there continues to be a steady pool of applicants. The Maintenance of Certification Assessment (MOCA) was launched in 2024 and was recently completed by hundreds of certificants completing their first 3-year interval. MOCA 2.0 is in development and will be deployed in August 2026.

Revalidations of the 2018 Assistant Job-Task Analysis (JTA) studies are in the final stages. The current examination blueprint and certification standards are based on the initial 2018 JTA studies. The 2026 JTA study results will provide the CFCC with suggested updates to the assistant examination blueprints. A

final review of the results including suggested updates to the exam blueprint were presented to the CFCC in the July meeting, and all approved updates will be distributed to the assistant community later this year.

We continue to build out professional development offerings tailored to assistants, including an updated ASHA Education Modules course and three additional courses in development for summer 2026, with more being recorded later in the year. The three new courses include an introductory look at the federal legislation and school-based frameworks shaping SLPA practice; a 60-minute course that explores intervention tips and tricks for speech sound disorders through case studies for SLPAs; and a candid look at strategies for stronger SLP–SLPA supervisory partnerships. For the latest information, please visit www.ashaassistants.org or email assistants@asha.org.

PRAXIS and Assistant Certification Examinations Transitioning to PSI

It was announced in June that on January 11, 2027, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology PRAXIS® examinations and the certification examinations for the Audiology Assistants and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants will transition to PSI, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The PRAXIS® and assistant certification examinations will continue to be available through ETS and Prometric through December 31, 2026.

Because ETS already has an established relationship with ASHA and PSI, this will be a smooth transition for everyone involved, including exam candidates, academic programs, and state licensure boards.

Below are a few high-level details about the transition to PSI:

- The examinations and exam content will remain the same.
- The passing points on the examinations will remain the same.
- The ASHA-certified volunteers who create the examinations will continue under PSI's leadership.
- ETS Data Manager will continue to support academic programs and licensure boards in verifying the results of their students/graduates and applicants for licensure.
- The PRAXIS® practice tests will continue to be available.
- The examinations will still be offered both in person, at over 400 secure test centers, and online through PSI's live remote proctoring system.

Please contact exams@asha.org with any questions.

Clinical Specialty Certification

The Committee for Clinical Specialty Certification (CCSC) recommended and the full CFCC approved specialty certification board recognition to the American Board of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AB-AAC). The AB-AAC is the first board in more than 10 years to receive this recognition. The clinical specialty certification program now recognizes five independent boards in the following areas of practice: AAC, interoperative monitoring (audiology), child language, swallowing, and stuttering, cluttering, and fluency.

The committee is now working on updating the CCSC policies and procedures manual to include clarifying procedures, streamlining text, and updating language. They have also been planning for the annual in-person meeting to be held at ASHA Convention, along with a poster presentation highlighting clinical specialty certification and an exhibit booth where members can stop by to learn more about becoming a board-certified specialist (BCS).

MEETING NORMS

ASHA President Linda I. Rosa-Lugo led a discussion about best practices and expectations for leader engagement in virtual board meetings. The BOD reviewed guidance for making space for differing viewpoints, following ASHA policies, and optimizing the online platforms used for the meeting and small group brainstorm sessions.

STRATEGIC PATHWAY UPDATE

The update on ASHA's 2026–2028 Strategic Pathway to Excellence was provided by Vice President for Planning Marlene Salas-Provence, Senior Director of the Office of Business Excellence Rozsa Felix, and Chief Executive Officer Vicki Deal-Williams.

The Board reviewed a high-level report summarizing progress on the organization's 2026 annual priorities aligned to the three Strategic Objectives of the Strategic Pathway to Excellence. The report indicated that all three Strategic Objectives are on track.

In addition to reviewing progress updates, Board members participated in an interactive exercise focused on the SLP and Audiology Competency Frameworks. Donna Smiley, Chief Staff Officer for Audiology, introduced the exercise, which provided Board members an opportunity to brainstorm applications of the frameworks.

More information about ASHA's 2026–2028 Strategic Pathway to Excellence can be found on [ASHA.org's Strategic Pathway to Excellence page](#).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Vice President of Finance Derek Stiles presented the second quarter financial report, for the period ending June 30, 2026. Total operating revenue was \$40,990,200 and total operating expenses were \$32,783,018, with a net revenue (revenue minus expenses) of \$8,207,182. Stiles cautioned the BOD that larger expenses in the fourth quarter of the year will impact the bottom line.

The BOD also approved a motion that the 2027 ASHA dues rates will remain at the same rate as 2026.

PROPOSED CHANGES BY THE USDE IMPACTING PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

Gretchen Ehret Hoshaw, Chief Accreditation Officer, and Maia Williams, Director of Accreditation, Policy & Education, provided the BOD with a summary of the proposed amendments to federal regulations governing the recognition of accrediting agencies by the United States Department of Education (ED). On May 21, 2026, ED's Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization (AIM) negotiated rulemaking committee reached consensus on these proposed amendments. In anticipation of ED's final language, the BOD discussed the impact that the proposed rules might have on accreditation and specifically the work of the CAA.

AUDIOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The BOD Audiology Subcommittee met on Friday, August 7, 2026, as a part of the August BOD meeting, with Board Member at Large in Audiology, Anita Vereb, facilitating. The members received updates on federal and state level advocacy issues and continued their discussion on scope modernization and the plans for updating the ASHA Scope of Practice.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The BOD Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee convened on Friday, August 7, 2026, during the August BOD meeting, led by Board Member at Large in Speech-Language Pathology Julie Malone. Bill Knudsen, ASHA Director of Education Policy, provided an overview of changes within the U.S. Department of Education and their potential implications for SLPs working in school-based settings. The

subcommittee then explored issues and controversies surrounding Facilitated Communication, Rapid Prompting Method, and Spelling to Communicate in a discussion facilitated by Diane Paul, Senior Director of Clinical Services in Speech-Language Pathology. The subcommittee members had a robust exchange related to both topics in the context of impact on science, research, and evidence-based practice.

GENERATIVE DISCUSSION

ASHA's BOD conducts generative discussions during each BOD meeting. At the August meeting, Chief Staff Officer for Science and Research Margaret Rogers facilitated a generative discussion on the topics of the American Instability, Splintered Society, Rejection of Expertise, and Declining Trust, with a focus on how ASHA, audiologists and SLPs, and academic programs might prepare for a future that has been heavily influenced by these persistent trends. They discussed the strain on America's rules-based democratic system, noting that increasing polarization and distrust may be pushing the country beyond political gridlock toward potential institutional breakdowns. The Board also discussed the ways Americans are increasingly self-segregating across multiple dimensions, including political affiliation, economic status, educational attainment, social relationships, consumer spending, media consumption, and geography. They noted that political, economic, and technological trends are contributing to these divisions. The discussion included how these developments could create a more uncertain and insecure operating environment for the Association and the members. The Board discussed trends related to these topics to consider their future impact, to guide future decision-making, and to help identify future challenges to the Association's mission, academic preparation, professional practice, and service delivery.

NSSLHA UPDATE

National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) National Advisor Erica Ellis provided updates on National NSSLHA governance, activities, and upcoming programs for students.

- **Student Volunteer Leaders:** As of July 1, six students began their 2-year terms with the National NSSLHA Executive Council. Each NSSLHA Councilor is paired with an ASHA BOD member and expectations of the mentor–mentee pairs were reiterated. More information about student leadership and volunteer opportunities is available on the [National NSSLHA website](#).
- **Student Resources and News:** NSSLHA is currently promoting their [Graduate School Apps Resource](#) and [CSD Student Scholarships](#) resource to students applying to graduate school and those looking for additional funding. In addition, NSSLHA is keeping students updated on [Instagram about the upcoming ETS to PSI transition for the Praxis exam](#).
- **Upcoming Student Opportunities:**
 - **National NSSLHA Travel Award:** National NSSLHA is launching a new [Travel Award](#), sponsored by AMN Healthcare. They will give away ASHA Convention registrations and \$500 towards travel expenses to four students (two undergraduate and two graduate students). The application will close on September 11.
 - **Membership Scholarships:** National NSSLHA has a [membership scholarship](#), funded through donations, through which they were able to give away 72 memberships to students last year. The scholarships are given away on a rolling basis and as funds permit. Students can apply for this year's membership scholarships starting in September.

- **Undergraduate Scholarship:** The [National NSSLHA Undergrad Scholarship](#) application will open September 1 and will close December 30. Six \$1,000 scholarships for undergraduate juniors and four \$500 scholarships for undergraduate sophomores are available.
- **Fall Events and ASHA Convention Programming:** National NSSLHA also provided a preview of their fall virtual events and their events at ASHA Convention. More information about upcoming [virtual events](#) and [NSSLHA events at ASHA Convention](#) are now available on the National NSSLHA website.

SUPPORTING THE ASHFOUNDATION

The BOD discussed the critical role they play in championing the ASHFoundation's mission and advancing the future of the professions through philanthropic support. As the ASHFoundation celebrates its 80th anniversary, the BOD emphasized the importance of encouraging members to contribute to scholarship and research initiatives that invest in the next generation of audiology and speech-language pathology leaders.

LEADERSHIP PROFILE AND TRACKING SYSTEM (LPTS)

DJ Johnson, Senior Director of Association Governance, reviewed the strategic drivers, timeline, and recommendations that have shaped the strategy and phased approach to ASHA's new platform to better assess the interests and skills of members interested in volunteering with ASHA. The BOD reviewed the key strategic differences between the LPTS and the annual call for volunteers to ASHA's committees, boards, and councils (CBCs) as well as the planned LPTS launch and implementation phases from 2026 through 2028. The BOD also discussed what new data points about member interests and skills could inform future strategic discussions.

BOARD ACTIVITIES AT CONVENTION

The BOD's schedule for the 2026 ASHA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this November was reviewed by Board of Directors Manager Andrea Ducker. BOD involvement is expected in various activities beginning on Tuesday and ending on Saturday. BOD members will also be attending a variety of sessions and activities as presenters, participants, and active supporters, and will be available at the ASHA Leadership Q&A on Friday, November 20, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Q&A SESSION

The following topics were posted prior to the BOD meeting for review by each BOD member, with the opportunity to provide feedback or have questions answered during the BOD meeting.

InTouch Report

[InTouch Forms](#) and member feedback are summarized monthly and reviewed with the BOD at Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee meetings and at each BOD meeting. InTouch Forms received from members since the last BOD meeting, along with a cumulative summary of the messages, were shared prior to the meeting. Chief Staff Officer for Communications Selena Ramkeesoon answered BOD members' questions regarding topics covered in the InTouch forms.

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned on August 8 at 4:03 p.m. ET.