

ASHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT

ASHA's Board of Directors (BOD) met on October 16–18, 2026. Following are highlights of the Board's discussions.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

ASHA President Linda I. Rosa-Lugo convened the in-person BOD meeting at 8:47 a.m. ET on October 16, 2026, and welcomed Board members to the fourth quarter BOD meeting of the year.

CEO UPDATE

Convention

The Convention & Meetings team has entered the final stages of preparation for the 2026 ASHA Convention in Indianapolis. Building on the milestones shared in August, including program notifications, the launch of registration, and the announcement of this year's Opening General Session keynote and Annie Glenn Award recipient, staff and volunteers are now focused on bringing the full Convention experience to life.

Registration: Registration continues to pace just above the 2022 New Orleans Convention and slightly behind the 2025 Washington, DC Convention at this point in the cycle. Based on current trends, we are hopeful that attendance in Indianapolis will be between 11,500 and 13,500 attendees.

Student Volunteer Program: Interest in the Student Volunteer Program has been exceptionally positive, with more than 500 applications received. We expect to schedule approximately 300 student volunteers for the event. Their participation will provide critical onsite support while offering students meaningful opportunities to engage with the Convention and the broader ASHA community.

Exhibit Sales: Exhibit Hall sales continue to be strong, with more than 400 booths on the floor representing 298 companies. Sales are already ahead of the 2024 Seattle Convention and remain on target to meet the projected budget. Space remains available, and the team will continue selling exhibit space through the close of the sales period to maximize participation and revenue. This continued exhibitor interest underscores the value of the ASHA Convention as an opportunity to connect with attendees.

Opening General Session and Film Screening: Following Brian Ceci's Opening General Session keynote, *Heard: How I Ended Up Making a Film About My Hearing in 8 Ages*, attendees will have the opportunity to view a screening of his documentary film, [Heard](#), on Thursday, November 19, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the general session room. The timing provides a convenient opportunity for attendees to engage more deeply with the themes of Brian's story while on-site.

Across all areas, final planning is progressing as the team prepares to welcome attendees, exhibitors, presenters, volunteers, and partners to Indianapolis. We are grateful for the continued commitment of staff and volunteers whose work is helping bring this year's Convention to life.

Capitol Hill Day

More than **159 ASHA members and staff** representing **41 states** participated in **170 congressional meetings** as part of [Capitol Hill Day 2026](#). Participants highlighted the need to improve Medicare reimbursement, protect Medicaid, and preserve funding and programs that ensure access to audiology and speech-language pathology services. The event started with more than two dozen members braving the rain to complete the ASHFoundation's 7th annual run/walk and ended with federal lawmakers better understanding the issues most important to audiologists and SLPs. Participants [delivered more than 6,000 letters from ASHA members who could not participate in person](#). ASHA's advocacy team is **busy**

following up with more than 107 offices who asked questions or wanted more information on the issues discussed during the meetings.

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

Implementation efforts for the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) continued throughout the summer. Current onboarding activities are underway in numerous member states as boards work through technical integration, data-sharing, and information technology requirements necessary to participate in the CompactConnect system. Recent reports indicate progress in Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Florida, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

ASHA Advocacy has continued to support compact implementation and expansion efforts through outreach and education. In late July, ASHA staff and volunteers showcased the ASLP-IC at the National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit, providing information to legislators and legislative staff from across the country about the compact's benefits for workforce mobility, telepractice, and access to care. Work continues to support legislation in Michigan and Pennsylvania, where discussions are underway regarding movement of compact legislation during the fall legislative sessions. Discussions for the 2027 legislative sessions have also begun.

The Commission held its Annual Business Meeting, October 3, 2026, in Denver, Colorado, where commissioners received updated onboarding reports, conducted elections for Commission leadership positions, reviewed implementation progress, and continued planning for long-term sustainability and growth of the compact. More information can be found at www.aslpcompact.com.

Advocates for Evidence-Based Communication Services in Federal Autism Strategy

ASHA submitted [comments](#) to the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) urging the committee to strengthen its strategic plan to better reflect evidence-based communication services and the roles of audiologists and SLPs. The letter outlines concerns about facilitator-dependent communication methods where authorship cannot be verified and calls for increased SLP involvement in evaluations. ASHA also recommends greater recognition of audiologists' role in autism evaluation, stronger attention to literacy and responsible use of AI, and policies that support access to evidence-based services across the lifespan. These proposed changes are essential to ensuring that autistic individuals receive safe, effective, individualized communication supports—and that federal policy reflects the expertise of audiologists and SLPs. ASHA will continue to monitor and engage on this issue.

Advancing Health Care Service Delivery

ASHA recently expanded member resources focused on population health and evidence-based practice through a new [social determinants of health \(SDOH\) explainer video](#), a public health survey designed to inform future resources and priorities, and a new [Breaking Down the Research video](#) highlighting the Progressive Aphasia Communication Toolkit (PACT). Together, these initiatives help members apply research, address factors that influence health outcomes, and support individuals with communication and swallowing disorders across diverse settings.

ASHA Supports Needs Assessment in the Dominican Republic

At the request of the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Health, ASHA and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recently completed a needs assessment focused on speech, language, swallowing, and hearing services. ASHA met with government health officials, university faculty, health system leaders, and other local stakeholders to better understand current services, workforce needs, and opportunities to strengthen access to care.

The assessment identified several priority areas, including workforce training in pediatric and adult communication and swallowing disorders, cochlear implant rehabilitation, audiology service standards, newborn hearing screening, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), and assistive technology. Stakeholders also noted opportunities to strengthen academic preparation and increase consistency across speech-language pathology and audiology training programs. ASHA and PAHO are now finalizing a work plan that will outline focused technical assistance based on the needs identified during the visit.

Transition to New SLP Treatment Codes

ASHA is actively addressing the policy and implementation issues associated with the [10 new time-based speech-language pathology treatment codes](#) that will replace CPT code 92507 on January 1, 2027. We are finalizing comments on the proposed 2027 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, including the proposed payment policies for the new codes, the unexpected pediatric HCPCS G code, and broader payment issues that could affect clinical practice and access to services. ASHA also supported members in sharing their experiences directly with CMS through [a customizable comment tool](#) before the September 14 deadline. In addition, we are providing webinars, online guidance, and a [free, interactive in-person workshop](#) for Convention attendees from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on November 18, with further implementation support planned through 2027.

ASHA Workload Calculator Education Session

On September 24, ASHA provided a live walkthrough of the enhanced ASHA Workload Calculator (AWC) web-based application. During the session, 236 participants received a virtual tour of the calculator's expanded features and learned how to use the tool to track workload activities, identify patterns and trends over time, and generate individualized reports. This type of data can be invaluable for supporting workload discussions with administrators, informing problem-solving efforts, and strengthening advocacy initiatives at the school, district, and systems levels. The AWC helps transform the often unseen work of school-based SLPs and SLPAs into clear, actionable data that can inform conversations about service delivery, staffing, scheduling, and workload management. The recording along with more information about the AWC can be found on the [ASHA Workload Calculator](#) webpage.

School SLP Office Hours

ASHA's School SLP Office Hours is a monthly member benefit that brings school-based SLPs and SLPAs together for interactive learning, practical problem-solving, and peer connection. Held on the third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. ET, each session features expert-led consultations, strategies on timely clinical and professional topics, resources, and opportunities for live Q&A. Recent sessions explored "Beyond the Classroom: Postsecondary Transition Planning for Adolescents" and "Ethical Dilemmas in School-Based Practice." Members can register for upcoming sessions and explore future topics on the [School SLP Office Hours](#) webpage. Recordings are available on [ASHA's School-Based Professionals Community site](#).

2027 Dues Renewal

Renewal for the 2027 membership/affiliation year is now open. Members can renew [online](#), by phone, or by mailing in a check through December 31, 2026.

Certification Administration

Through August 2026, ASHA has received more than 10,000 applications for certification, representing a small increase from 2025. In addition, the number and percentage of renewals in 2026 were also higher than in 2025. In late March, the CFCC disseminated the new [Audiology](#) and [Speech-Language Pathology](#) certification standards, which go into effect on August 1, 2027.

Assistant Certification Programs

The Assistant Certification Program has continued its steady month-over-month growth in new C-AA and C-SLPA certifications, with more than 1,900 certifications awarded since the program's inception. Later this year, the second version of the Maintenance of Certification Assessment (MOCA) will be deployed for assistants in the last year of the 2024–2026 maintenance interval.

In September, ASHA-certified assistants began writing new exam items aligned with the updated [Audiology Assistant and SLPA exam blueprints](#), which will go into effect next summer. Item review and test construction will follow in January 2027. ASHA's newly recorded [SLPA Assistant Education courses](#) are now available.

For the latest information, visit www.ashaassistants.org or email assistants@asha.org.

PRAXIS and Assistant Certification Examinations Transitioning to PSI

The PRAXIS® and Assistant Certification exams will be transitioning from ETS and Prometric to PSI, which is a subsidiary of ETS, in January 2027. The PRAXIS® and Assistant Certification exams will remain available through ETS and Prometric until the final ETS and Prometric testing windows in December 2026.

While the content, passing scores, etc. will remain the same, beginning in 2027 the examinations will be referred to as the National Audiology Examination™, National Speech-Language Pathology Examination™, National Audiology Assistant Examination™, and National Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Examination™.

Beginning on November 3, 2026, individuals interested in taking the examinations beginning on January 11, 2027, will be able to register through ASHA and PSI's websites. Individuals with unused ETS and Prometric testing vouchers at the end of 2026 will have their vouchers transitioned to PSI. Please contact exams@asha.org for more information.

Clinical Specialty Certification

The Committee on Clinical Specialty Certification (CCSC) received formal notice from the Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences (ANCDS) of their intent to apply for ASHA recognition of their board specialty certification. The application materials were sent to ANCDS to begin Step 1 of the process.

Updates are being made to the CCSC policies and procedures manual to clarify procedures, condense text, and update language. There will be an annual in-person meeting at the ASHA Convention for leadership from the recognized specialty boards as well as a poster presentation highlighting clinical specialty certification and an exhibit booth as Convention 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 brief discussion on best practices and expectations for effective Board member engagement during Board meetings. The BOD identified behaviors and approaches that foster productivity and considered how these shared norms could be incorporated into future interactions and activities. The result was a shared understanding of expectations for respectful, engaged, and productive participation, with members recognizing the importance of applying these practices consistently in future Board interactions.

STRATEGIC PATHWAY UPDATE

The update on ASHA's 2026–2028 Strategic Pathway to Excellence was provided by Vice President for Planning Marlene B. 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 with the three Strategic Objectives of the Strategic Pathway to Excellence. At the end of Q3, all three Strategic Objectives were reported as "On Track."

The Board also received an overview of the difference ASHA's taxonomy and ontology work will make in member experiences with the Association. Monica Fulvio, ASHA's Taxonomist/Ontologist, illustrated how a stronger, more connected content structure can help members find, discover, and navigate relevant ASHA information and resources. This work will support ASHA's website update with improved findability, related content, and personalization; help staff better understand and tailor content to member needs, improve content coordination and other member-serving efforts; and make AI use cases more accurate and better tailored to the communication sciences and ASHA.

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

CYBERSECURITY UPDATE

ASHA holds personal, certification, and payment information for our members, so protecting it is central to member trust. As attackers increasingly use AI to create convincing phishing scams, ASHA focuses on both people and technology. Staff have completed required security training annually for many years; 98% completed it this year. We upgraded staff sign-in security last year and are designing a similar upgrade for members. Each year, independent experts test our defenses and audit our security policies and system configurations. This year's review is taking place in October 2026. Staff use of AI tools follows an approved policy that protects ASHA and member data.

PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

The proposed 2027–2028 Public Policy Agenda (PPA) was presented by Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Policy Louis Malerba and Senior Director for Advocacy Communications and Operations Michelle Hostler. They explained that the PPA—developed by the Government Affairs and Public Policy Board (GAPPB)—outlines the priorities that guide ASHA's advocacy efforts. Informed by a membership survey, consultation with ASHA boards, committees, and councils, and staff expertise, the agenda reflects member needs and experiences and advances policies that support the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology and the people they serve. The BOD approved the 2027–2028 PPA.

ASHFOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOD

ASHFoundation President Bernard Rousseau and Executive Director Sharon Moss presented an update recognizing the Foundation's 80th anniversary and highlighting key programmatic and fundraising accomplishments. The Foundation reported record participation and award activity, including more than \$1 million in research grants and scholarships for the second consecutive year. Additional highlights included establishing a new endowed research fund, approving a Data Sharing Policy for 2027, providing emergency research funding, and continued growth in donor engagement. ASHFoundation leadership thanked the Board for its longstanding support and partnership in advancing the Foundation's mission.

AUDIOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The BOD Audiology Subcommittee met on Friday, October 16, 2026, as a part of the October BOD meeting, with Board Member At Large for Audiology Anita Vereb facilitating. Vereb welcomed the new

members of the Subcommittee who will join the ASHA BOD in 2027. Tricia Ashby-Scabis, ASHA Senior Director, Audiology Practices, shared plans and the timeline for updating the ASHA Audiology Scope of Practice. Kimberly Ward, ASHA Vice-President for Academic Affairs in Audiology, initiated a discussion regarding pipeline and workforce issues in audiology. This discussion will continue at future meetings. Lastly, subcommittee members (current and incoming) reviewed audiology-related meetings and conferences for 2027.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Julie Malone, Board Member at Large in Speech-Language Pathology, welcomed the new members of the Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee. Tiffany White, Senior Director of School Services in Speech-Language Pathology, and Bill Knudsen, Director of Education Policy, led a discussion with Julie about ASHA's advocacy efforts on behalf of school-based SLPs with policymakers, education leaders, and school administrators. The discussion focused on strengthening external decision makers' understanding of the essential role SLPs play in supporting access to services and educational outcomes. Members also examined challenges affecting school-based SLP practice, including workforce shortages, high caseloads and workloads, recruitment and retention challenges, and limited awareness of the breadth of school-based SLP responsibilities by external decision makers. The Subcommittee emphasized the importance of continuing to incorporate member experiences and workforce data to create clear, audience-specific advocacy messages that highlight ASHA's policy, practice, and member-engagement efforts.

GENERATIVE DISCUSSION

ASHA's BOD engages in generative discussions during each BOD meeting. At the October meeting, Chief Staff Officer for Science and Research Margaret Rogers facilitated a generative discussion on the impact of AI, focusing on how AI may reshape workforce education and clinical practice in audiology and speech-language pathology over the next five years. The conversation explored anticipated changes in learning, clinical education, and service delivery, as well as how ASHA, audiologists, SLPs, and academic programs might prepare for a future increasingly influenced by AI. Board members considered trends related to these topics to assess their potential impact, to guide future decision-making, and to identify challenges that may affect the Association's mission, clinical education in CSD, and service delivery.

BOD ACTIVITIES AT CONVENTION

ASHA Board of Directors Manager Andrea Ducker reviewed expectations for Convention activities with the BOD, including the Leadership Q&A—an opportunity for ASHA Convention attendees to engage directly with ASHA leaders. This year's Leadership Q&A will be held on Friday, November 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at The Westin Indianapolis, Grand Ballroom 3.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Vice President for Finance Derek Stiles presented the August 2026 financial report. Total revenue was \$53,743,342, and total expenses to date are \$43,668,814, resulting in net revenue of \$10,074,528. This outcome was higher than the prior year, driven primarily by continued strong membership growth. Stiles advised the Board of Directors (BOD) that significant expenses are anticipated in the fourth quarter and will affect the year-end financial results.

Stiles also presented the proposed 2027 budget, which the Financial Planning Board (FPB) reviewed in detail and recommended for approval at its September meeting. The BOD approved the 2027 budget, reflecting total revenue of \$82,255,487, total expenses of \$82,191,675, and net income of \$63,812.

Stiles also presented the following FPB recommendations to the BOD, which will be submitted as resolutions: (1) approval of \$643,011 from the Special Opportunities Fund for 2027 budgeted strategic

objectives and special projects; (2) approval of \$688,890 from the Special Opportunities Fund for the development and implementation of the new ASHA.org Re-envisioning project; and (3) updates to the Financial Planning Board Standard Operating Procedures.

The BOD also received ASHA's 2025 Form 990 for review.

NSSLHA UPDATE

Erica Ellis, the National Advisor for the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA), provided recent updates related to membership trends and activities, 2027–2029 strategic plan development, and upcoming student opportunities.

2026 Membership Counts

On August 31, NSSLHA's 2026 membership year closed with a total of 9,634 National NSSLHA members.

Strategic Plan Update

The National NSSLHA Executive Council is developing their 2027–2029 strategic plan. Highlights from their membership survey were shared, including themes and insights from current students and recent graduates. The ASHA Board considered how insights from NSSLHA's work could inform ASHA's strategy and the Board's deliberations about engaging and supporting emerging career professionals.

Upcoming Student Opportunities: More information about [NSSLHA events at ASHA Convention](#) is available on the National NSSLHA website.

COC METRICS

Since 2015, the BOD has worked intentionally to ensure representation and inclusion on committees, boards, and councils across dimensions such as but not limited to age, profession, employment setting, and state of employment. ASHA Chief Staff Officer for Multicultural Affairs Megan-Brette Hamilton updated the BOD on progress toward the 2027 Committee on Committees (CoC) appointments, noting advancement across several areas aligned with the Board's goals. The BOD reviewed its goals and progress to date and discussed priorities for continued focus.

RISK SPRINT – ORGANIZATIONAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH AI

CEO Vicki Deal-Williams led the Board of Directors in an exercise using the Association's risk assessment matrix to evaluate potential AI-related risks, consequences, and the BOD's overall risk tolerance. The discussion addressed reputational, legal and regulatory, financial, organizational capacity, advocacy, political, member, public, and industry considerations. The BOD also explored current and emerging risks, the assumptions they may be more or less willing to make, and the level of risk they are prepared to accept, especially under extreme conditions to help guide the Association's future decision-making.

UPDATE: RELEASE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES

Donna Smiley, Chief Staff Officer for Audiology, updated the Board on the U.S. Department of Education's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking titled, "Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization: Secretary's Recognition of Accrediting Agencies: Institutional Eligibility under the Higher Education Act, as Amended, Student Assistance General Provisions [Docket ID: ED-2025-OPE-1042-0002]," which was published on August 20, 2026. The Board considered the potential impacts of these proposed rules on the accreditation of audiology and speech-language pathology academic programs. Once the final rule is published, the Board will continue to discuss a path forward.

IN TOUCH 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 and other staff answered BOD members' questions regarding topics covered in the InTouch forms.

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned on October 18 at 11:50 a.m. ET.