

Alignment of ASHA Standards to California's Adopted Program Standards

October 2009

Overview of this Report

This agenda item reports on an alignment study comparing California's adopted program standards for the (Educational Specialist) Other Related Services: Speech-Language Pathology Services credential with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's adopted standards. After the presentation of the draft alignment, staff will collect stakeholder feedback on the proposed alignment. The alignment will return to the Committee on Accreditation (COA) at its January 2010 meeting for consideration and possible adoption.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item.

Background

The COA has the responsibility to review national program standards and determine the alignment between the national standards and California's adopted program standards (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/accred-align.html>). If the alignment is quite close, the national program standards may be used in California's accreditation activities in lieu of the adopted program standards. If the national standards are aligned in some areas, but other areas of the California adopted program standards are not adequately addressed, the COA may determine that an approved program may utilize the national standards and address the identified portions of California's adopted program standards.

The Commission staff consultant with expertise in special education areas, Dr. Jan Jones Wadsworth, facilitated work with faculty from California institutions reviewing the recently adopted California program standards and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) program standards.

One of the requirements for California's Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) programs is that the SLP program must also be ASHA accredited. An alignment matrix which identifies the concepts in California's SLP standards which are adequately addressed in the ASHA standards and which concepts are not adequately addressed by the ASHA standards would be very useful to all California SLP programs. An adopted alignment matrix would allow California's SLP programs to submit the institution's ASHA document with an addendum that addresses the concepts identified in California's SLP standards that are not adequately addressed by the ASHA standards.

The major discrepancy identified between the California standards and ASHA's standards is California's focus on the student and schools. ASHA's focus is much broader and includes a focus on health care as is demonstrated by this information from the ASHA web page:

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are essential professionals in every health care setting—acute care, rehabilitation, pediatric, and psychiatric hospitals; long term care; outpatient facilities; and home health. Their expertise provides invaluable benefit to patients and other staff in managing problems (swallowing, communication, and cognitive-linguistic disorders) that affect patients' overall health, well-being, and ability to benefit from other medical or rehabilitation interventions. The qualifications and expertise of SLPs in health care settings cannot be duplicated by members of other professions. (retrieved October 12, 2009 from <http://www.asha.org/careers/recruitment/healthcare/default.htm>)

The matrix will identify the concepts in California's standards that would not necessarily be adequately addressed when a program is responding to the ASHA standards. The draft matrix is being reviewed one final time and will be posted in an in-folder by October 20, 2009.

Next Steps

Stakeholder feedback will be collected on the draft alignment matrix. Staff will facilitate a review of all feedback to identify if any modifications need to be made to the draft matrix. Then the matrix will return to a future COA meeting for consideration and possible adoption.