Question:

Wisconsin has formulated a task force to look at our state licensure code as it relates to SLPAs. We are looking for information from other states on if/how they have been involved with licensure regulations for assistants.

Answers:

While ASHA has certification for AUD and SLP assistants, Ohio does not.

The Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (OBSLPA) in conjunction with the Ohio Academy of Audiology drafted a proposal for audiology assistants in 2017. Before they could propose rules, a law needed to be introduced and passed giving the OBSLPA the authority to regular audiology assistants. At no time were speech assistants being considered.

However then the governor of Ohio consolidated several licensing board (which officially happened in January 2018; now called the Ohio Speech & Hearing Professionals Board; OSHPB) and there was a dramatic legislative climate in Ohio against regulations. Consequently there is no legislative pathway for audiology or speech assistants. The OSHPB has maintained a long standing position against speech assistants.

This may not be helpful but OHIO does have rules for licensure of "aides" (speech-language pathology or audiology) – here is a link to the verbiage if interested http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4753-7

We recently had this conversation with our licensing board here in Maryland. They want to follow any regulations set forth by ASHA; we are in agreement with this decision. So, other than what had been approved by our Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), no changes or updates will be made until ASHA finalizes their work. We had reached out to our licensing board due to other issues and encouraged them to reach out to us regarding regulations, public policy, etc. They did reach out, we sent in written comments and also attended the open portion of their board meeting.

Here is a link to our SLPA state info, the "laws" will take you to the RCW and WAC info.

https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/SpeechLanguagePathologyAssistant/RulesinProgress

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CT has nothing for SLPA's