Support Personnel: Highlights from the States
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Disclosures

• Financial
  I received partial travel reimbursement from both CSAP and KSHA.

• Non-financial
  I serve on the executive boards of both CSAP and KSHA, and am a member of the CSAP/ASHA Joint Committee.


(1) What criteria does an assistant have to meet?
(2) What actions can an assistant perform?
(3) What actions can an assistant not perform?
(4) Verification: What is the SLP/audiologist's role in supervision?
(5) Direct supervision of at least 10% of contact time
(6) Definition of "direct supervision"
(7) Definition of "indirect supervision"
(8) Reporting within 30 days of assistant employment
(9) Maintenance: What is the SLP/audiologist's role in supervision?

(1) What criteria does an assistant have to meet?

(1) Have received a high school diploma or equivalent.
(2) Complete a training program conducted by a Kansas-licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist. This training shall include the following:
(A) Ethical and legal responsibilities;
(B) An overview of the speech, language, and hearing disorders;
(C) Response discrimination skills;
(D) Behavior management;
(E) Charting of behavioral objectives and recordkeeping;
(F) Teaching principles, if applicable to the employment setting; and
(G) Other skill training as required by the employment setting;

(3) What actions can an assistant not perform?

(1) Perform standardized or nonstandardized diagnostic tests, conduct formal or informal evaluations, or provide clinical interpretations of test results;*
(2) Participate in parent conferences, case conferences, or any interdisciplinary team without the presence of a supervising Kansas-licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist;*
(3) Perform any procedure for which the assistant is not qualified, has not been adequately trained, or is not receiving adequate supervision;*
(4) Screen or diagnose clients for feeding or swallowing disorders;
(5) Write, develop, or modify a client's individualized treatment plan in any way;*
(6) Assist clients without following the individualized treatment plan prepared by a Kansas-licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist or without access to supervision;*

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(3) What actions can an assistant not perform?

(7) **sign any formal documents**, including treatment plans, reimbursement forms, or reports. An assistant shall sign or initial informal treatment notes for review and signing by a Kansas-licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist.∗

(8) **select clients for services**; ∗

(9) **discharge a client** from services; ∗

(10) **make referrals** for additional services; ∗

(11) **use a checklist or tabulate results of feeding or swallowing evaluations**; ∗

(12) **demonstrate swallowing strategies** or precautions to clients, family, or staff; or

(13) **represent that person as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist**; ∗

(2) What actions can an assistant perform?

(1) **Follow documented treatment plans** and protocols that are planned, designed, and supervised by a Kansas-licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist;

(2) **record, chart, graph, report, or otherwise display data** relative to client performance, including hearing screenings, and report this information to a supervising speech-language pathologist or audiologist;

(3) **participate with a Kansas-licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist in research projects, public relations programs, or similar activities**;

(4) **perform clerical duties**, including preparing materials and scheduling activities as directed by a Kansas-licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist;

(5) **prepare instructional materials**;

(6) **perform equipment checks and maintain equipment**, including hearing aids.

**Assistants in Kansas**

- Summary data from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), Health Occupations Credentialing (HOC)
- Data report date: 10/10/2013
- N = 454
- Education level, degree type, employment setting
Kansas SLPA Task Force Issues

(1) Concerns have been expressed that school administrators may hire fewer SLPs to actually do therapy, with their role becoming one primarily of supervision.

(2) SLPAs could be hired at lesser cost and be easier to recruit in some locations.

(3) With ever-decreasing dollars for schools, administrators will be willing to pay a licensed SLPA more money, when the services are being provided at the paraprofessional level.

(4) SLPAs are called by various titles in Kansas schools.