

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on February 15, 2018, in Room 110 of the MDH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Sloan called the meeting to order at 4:23 p.m. Present for the quorum were Ms. Jillian DeLuca, Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Dr. Candace Robinson, Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan, Mr. George Sheckells, Mr. John Sloan, Ms. Ellen Stein, Mr. John Rouse.

Staff Present

Christopher Kelter, Executive Director
Carla Boyd, AAG, Board Counsel
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III
Danielle Vallone, Investigator

Absent Members

Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole
Mr. John Cummins
Dr. Tinita Kearney
Dr. Scott London

Agenda Review and Approval for February 2018

Ms. Stein made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Sheckells seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for January 2018

Ms. Stein made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Ms. DeLuca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

2018 Legislative Session

HB 168 – Inactive Status of Licenses

Mr. Kelter attended the bill hearing at the House and testified on behalf of the Board. Mr. Kelter distributed the bill and documents pertaining to the bill to the Board members and gave a brief summary of the documents distributed. Mr. Kelter indicated that there are a significant number of bills before the General Assembly this year and that he would take every effort to make certain that the bill gets scheduled for a hearing in the Senate.

Regulatory Review

None

Executive Director's Report

2018 Renewal – AUD, SLP and SLP-A

Mr. Kelter indicated he would like to open the online renewal system early for the Spring 2018 renewal candidates as early as possible. Mr. Kelter reported that the process for receiving information from the Office of the Comptroller regarding delinquent obligations to the State that prevent a licensee from renewing is now in process and the results are expected soon.

2018 Renewal – SLP Continuing Education Audit

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that there are approximately 2,100 licensees eligible for renewal; there are 209 licensees that have been randomly chosen for the continuing education audit. Mr. Kelter reported that of the 209 licensees that will have selected for the audit, 147 licensees have submitted their continuing education credits for review. Twenty licensees have submitted continuing education documents but Mr. Kelter has not had an opportunity to review those documents or there's a problem with the documents submitted. Thirty-nine licensees have not responded to the audit and three licensees have declared non-renewal or inactive status. Mr. Kelter also informed the Board that there are 125 licensees that are eligible for the voluntary audit; of the 125 licensees 68 have submitted their continuing education documents for review. Fifteen licensees have submitted their continuing education but Mr. Kelter has not had an opportunity to review those documents. Thirty-four licensees have not responded to the audit request and seven licensees have declared non-renewed or inactive status. One licensee has passed away (deceased). Mr. Kelter will send letters to the licensees who agreed to the voluntary audit, but have not submitted any continuing education documents for review.

Criminal History Records Check (CHRC) Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that on January 20, 2018 he emailed all eligible candidates for the Spring 2018 renewal the requirements and the process for the CHRC. He also informed the eligible candidates that previous CHRCs results for other entities cannot be used for the Board; the licensee would have to complete the CHRC specifically for the Board. Mr. Kelter informed the Board that there is still a glitch with the CHRC system, whereas one of the required reports may be received, but the other report may not be received. Mr. Kelter reported that he intends to be as aggressive as possible in communication with licensees affected by the glitch to resolve the matter as quickly as possible.

Maryland Speech-Language Hearing Association (MSHA) Annual Convention – April 20, 2018

Mr. Kelter and Mr. Sloan will be attending and conducting a Questions and Answers Session at the convention from 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm. Dr. Robinson suggested that Mr. Kelter also attend the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) Convention due to many audiologists not attending the MSHA Convention. Mr. Sloan gave a brief summary of a presentation he attended where there were several speech-language pathology students also in attendance that did not understand the purpose of the Board until he explained the Board's purpose to them.

Mid-Atlantic Expo – March 22-24, 2018

Mr. Kelter will try to attend on March 23, 2018 as that is the day for the state meetings. Mr. Kelter reported that a Maryland-based lobbyist who has provided pro-bono services to The Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, DC and Delaware may attend as well. Mr. Kelter reported his main reason for attending is to recruit for the vacancy that will be created by Ms. O'Donovan's term-limited position.

Graduate Student Presentations

Towson University (February 20, 2018 and February 22, 2018)

Loyola University (March 12, 2018)

Mr. Kelter will attend both dates for the presentation. Mr. Sloan will also be in attendance for the Loyola University presentations.

InterState Compact

Mr. Sloan informed the Board that there is an in-person meeting scheduling in progress. Mr. Sloan reported that the committee members have been reviewing the nursing, medical community and the physical therapy interstate compact processes. The main purpose of the review is to generate ideas of what they would like to be included in the process. The goal of the committee is to have enough information to form a writing committee by the end of Spring 2018.

Administrative Closure of Incomplete Applications – Update

Mr. Kelter will draft a final letter for Attorney Boyd to review that will notify the applicant that their application has been closed by the Board. Mr. Kelter inquired of Attorney Boyd how to proceed if the licensees mail or email is returned as undeliverable.

Board Membership Update

Mr. Kelter has communicated with Kim Bernardi of the Governor's Office and she has informed him that she has received approximately six or seven names for Board appointments. Mr. Kelter is not sure if only three of the names will be forwarded to the Governor's Office or if all of the names will be forwarded.

Legislation & Regulations Specialist Position

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that four applicants have been chosen to be interviewed on Thursday February 22, 2018.

Treasurer's Report

In Mr. Cummins' absence Mr. Kelter reported to the Board for the month of January 2018 the budget is \$376,337.00, the expenditures is 174,949.00, and has available funds in the amount of \$201,388.00.

Regular Session Minutes
February 15, 2018
Page 4

Correspondence & FYI
None

Adjournment

The regular session meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sloan, SLP
Chair