

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on April 20, 2017, in Room 110 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. Mr. John Sloan called the meeting to order at 4:24 p.m. Present for the quorum were Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, Mr. John Cummins, Ms. Jillian DeLuca, Dr. Ronald Kaplan, Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan, Dr. Candace Robinson, Mr. John Rouse, Mr. George Sheckells, Mr. John Sloan, Ms. Ellen Stein, and Dr. Heather Weinreich.

Staff Present

Anthony DeFranco, AAG, Nursing Board Counsel
Christopher Kelter, Executive Director
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III
Danielle Vallone, Board Investigator
Kristen Neville, DHMH Boards & Commissions

Guests

Leslie Grant, SLP

Absent Members

Dr. Scott London

Agenda Approval

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Section E made by Mr. Kelter. Dr. Robinson seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for February, 2017

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the Minutes for the January 2017, February 2017 and March 2017 meetings will be available at the May 18, 2017 Board meeting for review and approval.

2017 Legislative Session

HB 628/SB 517 – “The NC Dental Bill”

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that this bill affects all Boards and that a handful of other states will be taking action. Ms. Neville gave a brief overview of the bill. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that he will be present for the drafting the regulations that are required by the bill after it becomes law when signed by the Governor.

SB 38: DHMH – Updating Advisory Boards and Councils

This bill carves out the Med-Chi Society of Maryland from the process of submitting ENT nominees to the Board. The Otolaryngology Society of Maryland will solely have that responsibility now. Ms. Neville indicated that the bill has been passed.

SB 82: Changes Name of Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to Department of Health

Ms. Neville gave the Board a brief summary how the Department will be affected by the change of the Department name.

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he will focus on the 2018 Legislative Session and will work with Ms. Neville and other Administrators.

Regulatory Review

None

Executive Director's Report

MSHA Convention

Mr. Kelter will be attending the Maryland Speech Hearing Association Convention on Friday, April 28, 2017 and will bring report back to the Board at the May 2017 meeting. He also informed the Board that staff will be out of the office on that day, therefore the office will be closed.

Criminal History Records Check Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that approximately 1,400 audiology and speech-language pathology licensees have completed the criminal history records check requirement for the 2017 renewal process. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that he would monitor the situation and take necessary action to continue to communicate the requirement to the remaining licensees.

Administrative Closure Letters

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he is still issuing letters as he had had an opportunity to do so. A handful of the administrative closure letters have been returned to the Board as undeliverable.

2017 AUD and SLP Renewal – CE Audit for SLPs

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that there has been no substantial change in the overall continuing education audit for speech-language pathologists. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that the database records were amended for those speech-language pathologists that had not yet complied with the audit requirements so that additional notice would be provide at the time the audit candidates began the online renewal process. Mr. Kelter informed that twenty-five audiologists were randomly selected for a continuing education audit and that twelve audiologists have submitted the continuing education documentation. Mr. Kelter noted that he is awaiting audiometer calibration certificates from many of the audit candidates.

Board Membership Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that there has been no news report from Kim Bennardi on the selection of an individual to fill the current speech-language pathologist vacancy.

May is Better Speech and Hearing Month

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that Lisa Ellis will e-mail every employee of the Department regarding hearing loss and speech and communication disorders. Each year each description is rotated with hearing first during odd-numbered years.

Standing Committees

Mr. Kelter explained to the Board that members of the Board would assist Board staff on issues that may arise. A continuing education committee was established that would handle difficult matters involving continuing education. A legislative committee was established that would handle matters dealing with legislation. A licensure committee was established to handle difficult applications.

National Practitioner Data Bank – Compliance Audit

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that an e-mail was sent from the National Practitioner Databank (NPDB) to him regarding an employee from another Board who is no longer employed with that Board. Mr. Kelter advised that once that matter had been cleared up that the NPDB informed this Board that the Board was selected for a compliance audit for Calendar Year 2015. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that since the Board did not have any public orders during Calendar Year 2015 that the Board was in compliance with the NPDB.

Treasurer's Report – Ronald Kaplan

Mr. Kaplan reported that the Board has available funds in the amount of \$114,929.00.

Correspondence & FYI

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he has been sending out lots of Emails to individuals that needs to complete the criminal history records check.

The Board recognized visitor Dr. Leslie Grant, SLP, who briefly gave remarks and thanked the Board for their service.

Adjournment

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular session meeting pursuant to Maryland State Government Article, 10-508(a) Annotated Code of Maryland. The regular session meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regular Session Minutes
April 20, 2017
Page 4

John Sloan, M.S., CCC-SLP
Chair