

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on June 15, 2017, in Room 110 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. John Sloan called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m. Present for the quorum were Mr. John Cummins, Ms. Jillian DeLuca, Dr. Ronald Kaplan, Ms. Tinita Kearney, Dr. Scott London, Dr. Candace Robinson, Mr. John Rouse, Mr. George Sheckells, Mr. John Sloan, and Dr. Heather Weinreich.

Staff Present

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

Absent Members

Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole
Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan

Agenda Review and Approval for June 15, 2017

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

Minutes Review and Approval for May, 2017

Mr. Sheckells made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Rouse seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Regulatory Review

None

Executive Director's Report

Department's Name Change – Maryland Department of Health

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that effective July 1, 2017, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will be changing its name to Maryland Department of Health. Mr. Kelter will be reviewing and updating all online forms.

Criminal History Records Check Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he will make revisions to the licensure applications and other forms such as the frequently asked questions form to incorporate all of the lessons learned and anecdotal evidence collected from new applicants and renewal applicants to provide better information on the process and to set reasonable expectations on how the process works.

2017 AUD and SLP Renewal – Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that approximately 1,893 licensees have renewed their license; the number of individuals submitting inactive requests has increased. Mr. Kelter also informed the Board that the renewal fee for 2018 will remain the same as this year's amount which is \$206.00; \$170.00 renewal fee and \$36.00 HCC fee.

Continuing Education Audit – Post-Renewal Audit

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he conducted a review of all the continuing education credit dates entered into the online renewal database and all were entered according to the proper timeframe.

Mr. Sloan introduced Brett Felter to the Board as the Board Counsel that will be substituting until a new Board Counsel has been assigned to the Board. Mr. Felter gave a brief summary of the boards that he is assigned to.

Treasurer's Report- Ronald Kaplan

Mr. Sloan reported for the month of June 2017 the Board has available funds in the amount of \$43,759.00.

Dr. London entered meeting at this time.

ASHA Request – S.670/H.R. 1652: Over-the –Counter Hearing Aid of 2017

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the contact person regarding this bill, Mr. Webster Yee, is on vacation and he will try to communicate with Mr. Yee again. Mr. Felter informed the Board that the Board of Pharmacy commented via letter to Congress on federal legislation that would have allowed for the importation on drugs in regards to price issues. Mr. Kelter made the Board aware of his concern that a consumer may make a complaint regarding purchasing an OTC hearing aid and that the Board would not have any jurisdiction over the entity that sold the hearing aid. Mr. Rouse asked the audiologists and hearing aid dispensers on the Board if they have ever or would service a hearing aid that was not purchased from their business but from another business. Dr. Robinson indicated that her place of business tries to help everyone that comes in, whether they purchased the hearing aids from them or from another business. Other audiologists and hearing aid dispensers gave their opinions and scenarios of various hearing aid devices from other businesses in and out of the country. Mr. Sloan made a statement that it is the Board's duty to inform consumers of what is happening with over-the-counter hearing aids. Mr. Felter researched the language of the bill for over-the-counter

hearing aids and informed the Board that the bill has a severe pre-emptive clause regarding a state's ability to override the federal legislation.

Consideration of Penalties for Failure to Complete Continuing Education Requirements

Mr. Kelter informed the Board of the dialogue that evolved at the May 2017 Executive Session Board Meeting, in which Mr. DeFranco suggested that it be reviewed at this month's Regular Session Board Meeting. Mr. Kelter will speak with Ms. DeLuca and Dr. Kearney to update them with the information.

Inquiry – Supervision of Fully Licensed Speech-Language Pathologists

The Board reviewed the Email received by Mr. Kelter. Mr. Sloan gave a brief summary noting that the school system does all bargaining. Dr. Kearney gave a brief summary of when she was employed with the school system. Mr. Sloan suggested requesting additional information regarding the request. Mr. Kelter also gave a brief summary of the law passed on October 1, 2007, in which all individuals must have a license to practice in Maryland.

Correspondence & FYI

None

Adjournment

Mr. Sheckells made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting. Ms. O'Donovan 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 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sloan, SLP
Chair