

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on August 17, 2017, in Room 110 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. John Sloan called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m. Present for the quorum were Mr. John Cummins, Ms. Jillian DeLuca, Dr. Tinita Kearney, Dr. Scott London, Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Dr. Candace Robinson, Mr. John Rouse, Mr. George Sheckells, Mr. John Sloan, Ms. Ellen Stein, and Dr. Heather Weinreich.

Staff Present

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

Absent Members

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

Dr. Jennifer Mertes, the new Audiologist member appointed to the Board, was introduced to the Board members.

The Board congratulated Ms. DeLuca on the birth of her new son.

Agenda Review and Approval for August 17, 2017

Mr. Cummins made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions made by Mr. Kelter. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for June, 2017

Ms. DeLuca made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Dr. Robinson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Regulatory Review

None

Executive Director's Report

Department's Name Change – Maryland Department of Health

Mr. Kelter gave the Board a copy of the new letterhead for the Department of Health that the Board is currently using and informed the Board that effective July 1, 2017, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has changed its name to Maryland Department of Health. Mr. Kelter will be reviewing and updating all online forms for the Board as time permits.

Criminal History Records Check Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he is working on revisions to the licensure applications for in state and out of state applicants and other forms and documents. The Board will have a chance to review all revisions made.

2017 AUD and SLP Renewal – Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the 2017 renewal process has been completed and that the total number of licensees that renewed their license were approximately 110 short of his anticipated renewals. Mr. Kelter also informed the Board that estimates for the 2018 renewal year are being made and that the Board will be informed of anticipated renewals at the March 2018 Board meeting.

ASHA – Interstate Compact Meeting (October 9-10, 2017)

Mr. Kelter and Mr. Sloan gave a brief summary of the upcoming Interstate Compact Meeting. Mr. Sloan informed the Board that he has been reviewing this for a number of years and is interested in going. Mr. Sloan gave a scenario of an individual who tried to get licensed in PA to see a client in York through telehealth, in which that individual needed to submit Praxis scores from several years in the past. Mr. Sloan informed the Board that he will be participating on the committee. Mr. Kelter will check to see if he will be available to attend. Mr. Sloan informed the Board that information will be given out at the meeting only to the attendees. Mr. Kelter will contact other non-audiology and non-speech-language pathology boards and gather information about the development of the Interstate Compact process.

2018 AUD, SLP and SLP-A Renewal – Preparation

Mr. Kelter will be revisiting all procedures and notices for the 2018 renewal process based on what he learned from the 2017 renewal process. Mr. Kelter will soon send an email to all licensees with a May 31, 2018 expiration date informing them of the renewal process and the criminal history records check requirement.

Treasurer

The Board decided that a Treasurer will be elected at the September, 2017 Board meeting. Mr. Kelter encouraged the members to nominate themselves.

Dr. London entered the Meeting at this time

Regulatory Review - Work Plan

Mr. Kelter advised the Board that he received assistance from Ms. Kristen Neville on the development of the draft work plan to review the Board's regulations that had not been changed or substantively changed in the last decade. Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he will review information on telehealth and other suggested regulations and will communicate with the Board regarding this process.

HAD Examination

Mr. Kelter indicated that the demand for the October 2017 practical examination would be more than the four available slots and that accommodations to the candidates not able to sit for the October 2017 practical examination should be considered for November 2017.

Mr. Shekells entered the meeting at this time

Treasurer's Report- Ronald Kaplan

Dr. Kaplan reported for the month of June, 2017 that the Board has available funds in the amount of \$369,248.00

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 bill to allow for the sale of hearing aids "over-the-counter" has been passed and will go to the House. The Board was informed that the Hearing Review bundled this bill with Food and Drug Administration and a few other bills. Mr. Kelter will continue to review the status of the bill and keep the Board informed of the status.

Consideration of Penalties for Failure to Complete Continuing Education Requirements

Mr. Kelter recommended to the Board that this item be reviewed at a future Board meeting once all candidates had been interviewed.

Revisions to COMAR 10.09.17 Physical Therapy Services

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he received the revisions this morning for the Board to review.

Open Meetings Act Training – Required

Mr. Felter informed the Board that a new requirement is in place for a Board member and a Board staffer to complete training in the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Felter advised that the training was developed by the Attorney General's Office and must be completed by October 1, 2017. Mr. Felter advised the Board that he will send an email to Mr. Kelter with the link for the training. Mr. Kelter advised that he would forward the link to the volunteers to complete the training. Ms. DeLuca, Dr.

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Mertes, Mr. Sloan and Mr. Sheckells volunteered to take the training. Mr. Felter informed the Board that he also will take the required training.

Correspondence & FYI

None

Adjournment

Ms. DeLuca made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting. Dr. Weinreich 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 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sloan, SLP
Chair