

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on October 19, 2017, in Room 110 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. John Sloan called the meeting to order at 04:23 p.m. Present for the quorum were Mr. John Cummins, Ms. Jillian DeLuca, Dr. Scott London, Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan, Dr. Candace Robinson, Mr. John Rouse, Mr. George Sheckells, and Ms. Ellen Stein.

Staff Present

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

Absent Members

Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole
Dr. Tinita Kearney
Dr. Heather Weinreich

Mr. Sloan and the Board welcomed guests: Dr. Lisa Nelson, Au.D., and Sharon Bloom to the Board meeting.

Agenda Review and Approval for October 19, 2017

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for September, 2017

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Regulatory Review

Mr. Kelter advised the Board that AELR has put a hold on new regulations. Ms. Neville explained to the Board that exemptions will be granted only under certain circumstances. Ms. Neville advised the Board that the Board can continue to discuss changes to regulations.

Executive Director's Report

Pro-Rated Continuing Education Requirements for First Time Renewal Candidates & Initial Full Licenses – Length of Time Prior to Expiration

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he met with Mr. Sloan to discuss the pro-rated continuing education requirement for new licensees for newly licensed speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Mr. Kelter indicated that this issue is germane to the issue raised by Ms. DeLuca at a previous Board meeting regarding the length of time that a license is effective for new licensees. Mr. Kelter will engage the Board in the coming months for input to address the administrative and budgetary impact of changes.

NCSL Occupational Licensing Policy Study

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that two days ago he was made aware that the Governor's office has submitted an application for Maryland to be one of the states to participate in the Occupational Licensing Policy Study. Ms. Neville informed the Board that the Board of Pharmacy was unaware of this nomination by the Governor. Mr. Kelter indicated that this study will start at the same time as the Interstate Compact Study. Mr. Sloan noted that the InterState Compact dialogue and the Policy Study will cover many of the same issues.

2018 AUD, SLP and SLP-A Renewal – Preparation

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the preparation for the 2018 renewal is back on track. Mr. Kelter indicated that continuing education audit notices to speech-language pathologists would be sent out next week. Mr. Kelter advised that he will also engage with Information Technology (IT) staff to make sure that the online renewal database will be set for the 2018 renewal period.

Criminal History Records Check (CHRC) Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board for the 2018 renewal period two documents will be made available for the CHRC process. One document will be instructions for individuals who reside in Maryland or can easily travel to Maryland for fingerprinting and the other document will be instructions for individuals that do not reside in Maryland and would be inconvenient for fingerprinting in Maryland.

2018 Legislative Session – Inactive Session

Ms. Neville informed the Board that a place holder was left in the draft that was submitted to the Office of the Governor. Ms. Neville answered a question from the Office of the Governor and was informed that a change in the title needs to be done. Ms. Neville has not heard back from the Office of the Governor. Mr. Kelter suggested to the Board that if any Board member receives any questions in reference to legislation that the Board member should direct all legislative inquiries to him. Additionally, Mr. Kelter advised the Board that he will be keeping track of a prospective bill to license or otherwise certify sign-language interpreters.

Board Meeting Scheduling – CY 2018 and Beyond

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the calendar for the Board meetings have been printed and he will meet with Board members after the meeting to check to see if there are any conflicts with the upcoming Board meeting dates.

New Director of Health Occupation Boards and Commission – Kim Lang, Ph.D.

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that a New Director has been appointed for the Health Occupation Boards and Commissions.

Kennedy Krieger – Presentation (November 8, 2017)

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he has been invited to make a presentation at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

MANSEF – Presentation (December 6, 2017)

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the original scheduled for the presentation date was October 4, 2017, but has been moved to December 6, 2017.

Treasurer

Mr. Cummins reported for the Board for the month of September, 2017 the budget is \$376,337.00, the expenditures are 83,145.00, and has available funds in the amount of \$293,192.00.

Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he had an extensive conversation with Dr. Spoor which allows for a dialogue for moving forward so that information can go to the correct/proper places. Dr. Robinson indicated that hearing care is an excellent process if done properly. A discussion arose with the Board. Mr. Kelter wanted to make sure that the process is unified and that the resources are being placed where they belong.

Inter State Compact Meeting (October 9 -10, 2017)

Mr. Sloan informed the Board that the compact is looking at an entryway for multiple state practice/licensure. There was an Inter State Agreement for Physicians, Nurses and Physical Therapists, in which the Physical Therapist Agreement was similar to Speech-Language Pathologists. The Compact would like a fifty state agreement. The participants would obtain a license in their home state and then the participant could channel through a pool to obtain a license in other states as opposed to applying for a separate license in each state. Mr. Sloan will be sent information regarding the Inter State Compact program and will keep the Board informed of the process. Mr. Kelter will continue reviewing information that was shared with him from other Boards.

Discussion to Eliminate Licenses (blue and white license)

Ms. Neville informed the Board that certain Boards that have opted to print licenses electronically

does print out congratulatory letters of renewal. Ms. Neville also indicated that the statute reads that the Board is the custodian of all official licenses. Mr. Sloan was concerned with what would guarantee that license would not be altered if it was available online to be printed. A discussion arose with the Board in reference to eliminating the blue and white licensees. Mr. Kelter will look into the process and talk with the IT staff on how other Boards moved into this process. The matter will be discussed at future Board meetings.

Standing Committees – Composition and Responsibilities

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that there has been a change to the Disciplinary Case Review Committee (DCRC) as Dr. Robinson will not be able to continue attending the DCRC due to her professional schedule. Other AUD members will be informed of their participation with the DCRC. The DCRC does involve a monthly commitment over the course of a year. Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he would like for the other two standing committees: Laws and Regulations Committee – to review regulations and the Continuing Education Committee – to review continuing education requests that Mr. Kelter is unable to make a decision on, to be in place by November 2017. Mr. Kelter suggested that meeting may also take place via email.

The following individuals agreed to be on the following committees:

Continuing Education Committee: Dr. Robinson and Ms. DeLuca
Disciplinary Case Review Committee: Mr. Sloan, Mr. Sheckells
Laws and Regulations Committee: Mr. Cummins

Participation on the committee will also be discussed at the November 2017 Board meeting.

Correspondence & FYI

Adjournment

Ms. DeLuca made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting. Mr. Sheckells 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 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sloan, SLP
Chair