



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS, HEARING AID DISPENSERS, SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS & MUSIC THERAPISTS

The regular session meeting for the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapist was held May 19, 2022, Via Teleconference. The Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:08 p.m.

Staff Present

Ms. Oluremi Dean, Executive Director
Ms. Andria Keller, Licensing Coordinator
Ms. Monica Wright, Office Secretary III
Mr. Joshua Frazer, AAG Board Counsel
Ms. Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator
Mr. Troy Pumphrey, Board Investigator

Present Members

Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP, Vice Chair
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP
Dr. Arifa Qureshi, AUD
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD
Mr. Kim Keller, HAD
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD
Ms. Niki Runge, MT
Dr. Alicia Barksdale, MT
Ms. Valerie Hooper, CON
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON

Visitors

None

Absent Members

Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole, AUD
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP, Board Chair

Agenda Review and Approval

Ms. Jill Silverman made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

Minutes Review and Approval for April 21, 2022

Ms. Jill Silverman made a motion to approve the April 21, 2022, minutes with amendments. Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Board Chair Report – Mrs. Oluremi Dean

An email was sent out asking for Board Chair nominations. Dr. Qureshi was the sole nominee able to commit to the duties of Board Chair. Mr. James Sciabarrasi made a motion to accept Dr. Qureshi as Board Chair and Dr. Tinita Kearney as Vice Chair. Mr. Richard Brisbane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Board Counsel Report – None

Executive Director Report – Mrs. Oluremi Dean

Board Member Seats - The appointment application deadline has passed. We received applications for all open seats. That includes our vacant SLP, ENT and HAD seats. The applications were sent to each corresponding association for review and for nominations. We received official nomination letters from the Maryland Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA) and the Maryland Society of Otolaryngology (MSO). We are still waiting for the official nomination letter from the Hearing Society of Maryland. The administrator from the appointment office has reached out to advise the Board of consistent difficulties with contacting the Hearing Society President. As a result, the administrator has suggested that the Board considers revising our statutes to remove the Hearing Society from the appointment process. Mrs. Dean does not recommend removing the association from the appointment process but recommended the Board try to first attempt to improve communications with the Hearing Society. Mr. Richard Brisbane volunteered to reach out to the President of the association. Effective July 1, the Board will have a new SLP and HAD member join the Board. Both of our current physician members have applied for reappointment and were nominated for reappointment by MSO.

Renewals - Just a reminder, licensees with an expiration date of May 31, 2022, have until the end of May to renew their license without a late fee. Applications received June 1-30, 2022, will incur a \$100 late fee. A reminder email was sent to all licensees who have not renewed. A separate email was sent to applicants with an application in progress. Due to glitches and unexplained errors in how payments are being captured in the licensing renewal system this year, we are monitoring and pulling payments and forwarding them to IT so we can manually process and close out those applications experiencing this error. We are also actively monitoring everyone with an in-progress application to ensure no one is missed. Another reminder will be sent out to licensees who have not attempted to renew their license.

Electronic Signatures - When the Smartsheet platform was first implemented last year, the Board voted not to accept electronic signatures. Mrs. Dean asked the Board if they still felt that a notarized application is still necessary and if the Board would reconsider accepting electronic signatures as well. The Board performs FBI and MD background checks on each applicant. We also collect an applicant's SSN, and primary source verifications with a photo. Mr. Richard Brisbane made a motion to accept electronic signatures and no longer require a notarized application. Mr. James Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

DocuXplorer - DocuXplorer is a virtual electronic filing system. The software allows

documents to be received and organized electronically and then stored in a cloud. The system pulls documents and organized files under each licensee. A few Boards are utilizing the software now. Several Boards are looking to utilize the software as well. Therefore, DocuXplorer was able to offer a group enterprise price per license. The start-up cost is \$2,500. There will then be a \$137 monthly maintenance fee and a \$882 annual fee which comes to \$2,527 per year. Mr. James Sciabarrasi made a motion to purchase the DocuXplorer software. Mr. Richard Brisbane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Report – Mrs. Oluremi Dean

The Board's current balance is \$581,375.00, which includes MHCC fees and shared staff expenses that will be deducted.

Licensee Update – Mrs. Andria Keller

As of May 2022, there are a total of 5,557 active licenses. AUD-529, AUD-LL-0, HAD-1124, HAD-LL-24, SLP-4,386, SLP-LL 284, SLP-A 59, SLPA-LL 42 and MT 121. The total number of reactivations is 2 SLP Full. The total number of reinstatements is AUD 0, HAD 0, SLP-Full 2, SLP-A 0 and MT 0. The total number of Inactive Status requests is 5 SLP-Full and 1 AUD Full. The total number of Limited License Renewals is 2 SLP-LL. The total number of CFY Delegation Changes is 1 SLP-LL. The total number for Board approval applications is 64. AUD-Full 4, SLP-Full 39, SLP-LL 4, SLPA-LL 2, HAD-Full 1, HAD-LL 1 and MT-Full 11. The 2022 Renewal Applications Completed, AUD 139, SLP 1305 and SLP Asst. 14.

License Applications for Board Approval

Ms. Jill Silverman made a motion to approve all applications for licensure. Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Review for Committee List of CEU's for Board Approval

Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to approve all CEU courses listed as recommended by the CEU committee. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Correspondence & F.Y.I – None

Closing Statement – Dr. Tinita Kearney, Board Vice Chair

Next Board Meeting – June 16, 2022

Adjournment

Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 4:42 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP
Board Vice Chair