



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 of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists was held September 15, 2022, via Teleconference. The Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:02 p.m.

Staff Present

Ms. Oluremi Dean, Executive Director
Mr. Joshua Frazer, AAG Board Counsel
Ms. Bernadette Henderson, Deputy Director
Ms. Monica Wright, Office Secretary III

Members Present

Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP-Vice Chair
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD
Ms. Fatima Salem, SLP
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON
Dr. Stacey Cole, AUD
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD
Ms. Mariya Hutto, HAD
Ms. Niki Runge, MT
Ms. Alicia Barksdale, MT
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD
Ms. Valerie Hooper, CON
Dr. Tam Nguye, MD

Visitors

Absent Members

Dr. Arifa Qureshi, AUD Board Chair

Agenda Review and Approval

Dr. Stacey Cole made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Jill Silverman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for July 21, 2022

Ms. Fatima Salem made a motion to approve minutes. Dr. Stacey Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Board Chair Report- Dr. Tinita Kearney-

Dr. Kearney addressed a communication the Board received from a constituent regarding documentation Music Therapists are being asked to complete by their employers. Music Therapists are concerned employees are being asked to complete documentation meant for other professions such as Occupational Therapists. These concerns are not within the Board's jurisdiction; however, members are aware of the discussions happening among Music Therapists.

Board Counsel report- None

Legislative Review - Ms. Lillian Reese

Telehealth Regulations- Twelve Boards put together regulations for telehealth and teletherapy. In 2021 another bill was passed changing the definition of telehealth to include audio on calls. The Secretary signed off on all the Boards' telehealth regulations on August 29, 2022. This started in 2020 when legislation was passed. The next step is to be reviewed by the AELR committee. Hopefully, that will happen next week. There are several steps to be finalized.

Executive Director Report – Mrs. Oluremi Dean

Implicit Bias- The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD) has updated their website on the courses they have approved for Implicit Bias training. The previously approved courses have been removed and an updated list of approved courses are on their website. Licensees that took the previously approved courses prior to the change will be accepted. Moving forward, licensees will have to take one of the approved courses on the OMHHD's website. The Implicit Bias notice has been updated on our Board's website directing all licensees to OMHHD's webpage along with a step-by-step guide on accessing courses offered through ACCME. An email blast was sent to all licensees renewing their license in 2023 regarding the change.

Office Updates

The Hearing Aid Dispenser renewal period will open in 90 days instead of 60 days. A reminder email will be sent out to all Hearing Aid Dispensers eligible for renewal. A notice was sent out to licensees selected for the random audit. The HAD practical exam will be proctored on October 20, 2022. There are three eligible licensees scheduled for the practical exam on October 20, 2022.

We are still pending reconnection to the network. The Board is waiting to hear back from DOIT to learn what the next steps in the reconnection process will be. The Board was able to go live with our Frequently Asked Questions page on our website. A link to the FAQ page has been added to each online application and request form. Mrs. Dean has been working with Medicaid to establish a data use agreement to help update provider information more seamlessly. Medicaid will be able to login into our interface to update their system with licensees' expiration dates and contact information when needed.

Deputy Director Report- Ms. Bernadette Henderson

Subscription Application Manager (SAM)- CJIS has asked us to begin using the SAM portal. The purpose of SAM is to create an employee list for licensees so that they will not have to be fingerprinted as frequently. Everyone that has been fingerprinted is updated in SAM as hired, or not hired. If we indicate that they have been hired, they go on an employee roster and anytime CJIS gets a hit on their fingerprints we are alerted through the Rap Back notification system. This potentially will stop licensees from getting fingerprinted every six years which we are proposing.

Return Mail -When mail is returned, staff are currently tracking this information with Smartsheet. Automated emails are sent for the applicant or licensee to confirm their mailing address. Once the address is confirmed or a new address is provided, we will send the mail back out. If there have been multiple returns, we will send it back out via certified mail to make sure someone receives and signs for it.

Budget Report – Mrs. Oluremi Dean

The Board's current balance is \$557,754.41.

Licensee Update - Mrs. Oluremi Dean-

There are a total of 5,619 active licenses:

AUD-520, AUD-A 3,
HAD -117, HAD-LL-32,
SLP - 4,371, SLP-LL - 346, SLPA- 45, SLPA-LL-50 and
MT-135

The total reactivation: 1 SLP

The total number of reinstatements:

AUD - 1,
HAD - 0,
SLP Full -14,
SLP-A - 0 and
MT - 0.

The total number of Inactive Status request: SLP-Full - 1

The total number of Limited License Renewals:

SLP-LL – 2 and SLPA-LL - 1.

The total number of CFY Delegation Changes: SLP-LL - 3

The total number for board approval applications: 231

AUD Full - 6, SLP Full -129, SLP-LL - 64, SLPA-LL - 15, SLPA Full - 2,
HAD Full - 2, HAD-LL - 5, and
MT Full - 6.

License applications for Board Approval

Ms. Nikki Runge made a motion to approve all applications for licensure. Dr. Barbara McLendon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Review for Committee List of CEU's for Board Approval

Dr. Stacey Cole made a motion to approve all CEU courses listed as recommended by the CEU committee. Mr. James Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Correspondence & F.Y.I

None

Closing Statement - Dr. Tinita Kearney, Board Vice-Chair

Next Board Meeting- October 20, 2022

Adjournment

Ms. Ellen Stein made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Mr. Richard Brisbane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP
Board Vice Chair