

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on April 18, 2019, in Room 110 of the MDH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Mertes called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Present for the quorum were John Cummins, Ms. Jillian DeLuca, Dr. Tinita Kearney, Mr. Kim Keller, Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Dr. Tam Nhu Nguyen, Dr. Carrie Nieman, Dr. Candace Robinson, Mr. John Rouse, Mr. George Sheckells, Ms. Carolyn Stine and Ms. Ellen Stein:

**Staff Present**

Etzion Brand, Executive Director  
Carla Boyd, AAG, Board Counsel  
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III  
Monica Wright, Office Secretary III

**Absent Members**

Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole

**Visitors**

Kim Lang, Director of Health Occupations Boards and Commissions

Dr. Mertes informed the Board that all materials for the Board meetings will be available for view electronically.

**Agenda Review and Approval for April 2019**

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

**Minutes Review and Approval for April 2019**

Mr. Sheckells made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments. Dr. Robinson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Brand introduced himself to the Board and gave a brief summary of his past professional experience. He expressed his concerns with the various matters that he has encountered since his arrival at the Board. Mr. Brand informed the Board that Ms. Mouzone has been able to obtain a corporate credit card for the Board through the General Accounting process. Mr. Brand also informed the Board that he has been responding to public inquiries within a 48-hour timeframe. In the near future, Mr. Brand and staff will be reviewing and making sure the information located on the Board's website is accurate and consistent.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Brand informed the Board that he briefly met with Linda Beyer, Fiscal Specialist for the Board, to gain an understanding of how the Board's budget is regulated on a yearly basis. Mr. Brand also explained that, at this time, the Board has a negative balance of approximately \$98,000. However, once the renewal process is completed in June, the revenue generated from the renewal will result in a balance surplus.

## **Regulatory Review**

Attorney Boyd informed the Board that the Designated Private Practices bill did not pass but failed with the committee. Attorney Boyd also informed the Board that HB22 passed with amendments and that there is a possibility that this Bill may be signed. HB22 will limit the Board from looking at a person's criminal history beyond seven years.

## **Chair Report – Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Au.D.**

Dr. Mertes thanked Board staff and feels that the Board is moving in the right direction. She informed the Board that her school will be purchasing the amplification system for the Board meetings. The amplification system will be able to transcribe and type the minutes; staff would no longer need to take notes. The amplification system will be purchased through a contract set up by Dr. Mertes' school and the Board, whereby Dr. Mertes' school will purchase the system and the Board will reimburse the school. Dr. Mertes informed the Board that she has already spoken with procurement in reference to the contract to transfer the funds. Dr. Lang gave a brief summary of how the transferring of funds through a contract actually works. Dr. Mertes also spoke on the possibility of conducting virtual meetings for the Regular Session Board meetings in the future.

A discussion arose in reference to hiring additional staff temporarily at the time of renewals when the work load is increased.

Mr. Sheckells inquired as to whether the Board has list of approved organizations that provide continuing education to licensees. A discussion arose with the Board. Attorney Boyd suggested that the Board include in the regulations a list of organizations that are Board approved. Attorney Boyd suggested that the Board form a continuing education committee.

## **Correspondence & FYI**

### **Next Board Meeting – May 16, 2019**

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Sheckells made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Mr. Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mertes, Au.D.  
Chair