

The open session emergency meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on February 1, 2021, teleconference. The meeting came to order at 9:45 a.m.

Staff Present

Dr. Candace G. Robinson, Executive Director
Bethan Haaga, AAG Board Counsel
Oluremi Dean, Discipline & Compliance Officer
Lillian Reese, Legislative & Regulations Coordinator

Absent Members

Mr. Kim Keller, HAD
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP
Dr. Carrie Nieman, ENT

Present Board Members

Dr. Tam Nguyen, ENT
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD
Dr. Jennifer Mertes, AUD, Chair
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON
Mr. John Rouse, CON
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD
Dr. Tinita, Kearney, SLP
Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, AUD, Vice Chair

Absent Staff

Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III
Monica H. Wright, Office Secretary III

Visitors

- C’Rai Shannon Weeden, SLP – President, Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- Susan Adams, counsel with ASHA
- Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy, SLP – The Summit Resource Center
- Chloe Ratchford, SLP - Frederick County
- Laura Michie, SLP – Frederick County
- Dr. Melissa Segev, AUD – Audiology Associates, Inc./Member at Large of the MAA
- Meredith Adams, SLP – Baltimore County Public Schools
- Deborah Crawford, SLP – Kennedy Krieger Institute
- Maureen Peltier, SLP
- Dr. Amanda Reed, AUD – Live Better Hearing & Balance
- Lindsay Crable, SLP – Frederick County
- Dr. Angela Mezzomo – legislative liaison with MSHA
- Dr. Colleen Zenczak, AUD – Johns Hopkins
- Allison McGrath – Johns Hopkins
- Dr. Vic Gladstone, AUD
- Dr. Alicia Spoor, AUD – Legislative Chair with MAA
- Susan Abrams, SLP
- Ellen Conover, SLP
- Mr. Rick Masters, Special Counsel for National Center for Interstate Compacts and Council of State Governments
- Ms. Nahale Kalfas, Special Counsel for National Center for Interstate Compacts and Council of State Governments
- Leslie Jefferson, SLP – Caroline County Public Schools
- Amy Wetherill, SLP – The Pediatric Development Center
- Karen Blomberg, SLP
- Elizabeth Weiser, SLP
- Dr. Kate Van Dyke, AUD – Johns Hopkins Hospital

-Dr. Leslie Grant, SLP
-Jeri Berman, MACS
-Lynnley Moore, SLP

Agenda Review and Approval for February 1, 2021

Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole made a motion to approve the agenda with amendment to add Chair, Dr. Jennifer Mertes, AUD, addressing the recent bill for Music Therapists and particularly the email blast sent by MSHA to their members regarding their concerns for them possibly joining our Board. Dr. Tinita Kearney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Regulatory Review

HB 288/SB 183 ASLP – IC. A discussion ensued with Ms. Nahale Kalfas and Mr. Rick Masters, both counsel for the National Center for Interstate compact and Council of State Governments. They had written a letter to Senator Pinsky and chair to address the Board’s concerns that were submitted and testified upon on SB 183. The concerns were addressed regarding what would constitute “significant information” that could be submitted to the compact regarding a licensee. Concerns regarding the compact language regarding which law would supersede in a conflict, sovereign immunity and criminal background checks were also addressed. Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to rescind the letter of concern for the upcoming hearing on HB 288 and issue a letter of support. Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

HB 732/SB 568 – Discussion ensued regarding the bill and that the Speaker introduced it for the Governor. Concerns were voiced regarding registration and using resources to do the same thing for registrants as we would for licensees. Additionally, as we are anticipating becoming part of the ASLP – IC, the process of registering out of state telehealth providers, would be redundant. Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole made a motion to issue a SWA on the same line as the PT Board, in that as we will be expecting to enter the ASLP-IC and this would be a redundant process. Dr. Tinita Kearney seconded the motion. The vote was anonymous. The motion passed.

Board Chair – Dr. Mertes addressed the email blast sent to licensees by MSHA regarding the Music Therapist Act and some of the statements made in it. Particularly, Dr. Mertes addressed that Music Therapists do fall within communication disorders which are stated through their certification body site and through research with the NIH, that Music Therapists would need 2 seats on the Board because of the workload and that they would never be able to overtake a vote on scope of practice issues for SLPs, as our Board requires a quorum, which is more than 50% of the Board members and one from each discipline, with the SLPs always having one more seat than the Music Therapists. Ms. C’Rai Weeden Shannon, President of MSHA voiced that there were concerns of encroachment of Music Therapists into SLPs scope of practice and making sure that regulations are in place to protect SLPs and consumers.

Correspondence & F.Y.I - None

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Adjournment

Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole made a motion to adjourn the emergency regular session of the Board meeting. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular emergency session meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mertes, Au.D.
Board Chair