

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held May 20, 2021, Via Teleconference. Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:05 p.m.

Staff Present

Oluremi Dean, Acting Executive Director
Bethan Haaga, AAG Board Counsel
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III
Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator
Monica Wright, Office Secretary III
David Bruce, Investigator
Troy Pumphery, Investigator

Visitors

Present Members

Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole, AUD, Vice-Chair
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD
Mr. John Rouse, CON
Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD

Absent Members

Mr. Kim Keller, HAD
Dr. Jennifer Mertes, AUD, Board Chair

Agenda Review and Approval

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for April 15, 2021

Ms. Ellen Stein made a motion to approve minutes with amendments. Ms. Jill Silverman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Regulatory Review-Mrs. Oluremi Dean Acting Executive Director

2022 Concept paper review and approval-

Mrs. Dean stated that the proposed statute amendments included on the 2022 Concept paper.

Article §2-204. Currently §2-204 states that a member of each profession should hold a seat on our Board. The amendment would specify the Board members required for a quorum. AAs and SLPAs are supervised by Audiologist and Speech-Language Pathologists and therefore a seat is not required for their profession at this time. Our legislative committee has made the recommendation to hold off on adding a seat for our assistants at this time. However, that does not mean that the board will not move forward with adding a seat for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) or Audiology Assistants (AAs) in the future.

Article §2-301. Currently applications are reviewed and approved on a rolling basis by our licensing coordinator and are then ratifying at the following Board meeting. Our statutes state that those who are licensed in another state may be granted privileges to begin practicing while their application is pending approval before the Board. Since we are no longer distinguishing applications from individuals who are licensed in another state from those who are not, the language needs to be amended to reflect current practices. The proposed amendment to §2-301 would clarify that all applicants may be granted preliminary approval to practice after their application has completed final review and pending approval before the Board.

Articles §2-205, 2-314 and 2-319 will all be amended to add Audiology Assistant to sections of the statute excluded in HB161/SB379.

Barbara McLendon made a motion to approve the 2022 concept paper with amendments. Dr. Tinita Kearney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Telehealth regulations -

Mrs. Dean stated that the proposed telehealth regulations sent in October will be sent to the AELR committee. Ms. Lillian Reese, legislative Coordinator stated that the Secretary signed off on them May 12th, but they have not been sent off just yet. It still has to get approval from the Governor's office before heading to the AELR committee.

ASLP-IC

Mrs. Dean announced that the Board has just received our welcome letter from the Audiology Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). The compact now has 10 member states which indicates that the setup process may begin. The process typically takes 12 to 16 months to complete which means that the commission can begin issuing privileges to practice in 2022.

Board Chair Report- Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole, Vice Chair

The board is mandated per our statutes to hold Board elections annually. The positions of Board Chair and Vice Chair are up for nominations. The sole nominees were Ms. Carolyn Stine for Board Chair and Dr. Tinita Kearney for Vice-Chair. Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole initiated an election to appoint Ms. Carolyn Stine as Board Chair and Dr. Tinita Kearney as Vice Chair. The vote was unanimous.

Board Counsel report-None

Executive Director's Report-Mrs. Oluremi Dean

Renewal Applications Update-Mrs. Dean reported that the renewals are going well. The audits are also going very well. All renewal applications will be finalized by their expiration date. Mrs. Dean stated that she will be sending out another email blast to all licensees that are expiring to remind them that they have until June 30, 2021 to renew their licensee.

Website Updates-Smart Sheet-With our modernization of the website we are still in a freeze. IT gave us the exception to post the agenda and minutes. The April minutes will be posted. Mrs. Dean also stated that she has plans for additional changes to our website, such as adding inactive status forms and transfer forms and cleaning it up overall. According to the IT project manager, the context freeze should be lifted by the end of May.

Music Therapists Board Members-With the passing of the Maryland Music Therapy Act the board has to add two new Music Therapist members to our Board. Mrs. Dean stated that she has with Ms. Runge and Ms. Martin who are co-chairs for the Maryland Music Task force. They have already begun soliciting members for our board. There will be a posting on their Facebook page and on their website. All applications are due by July 23rd. An announcement will also be posted on our website to inform the public of the two vacancies.

Budget Report – Mrs. Oluremi Dean

Stated as of end April the current balance is 258,208.36.

License Coordinator Update-Ms. Zoann Mouzone

Ms. Mouzone reported a total active licensee count as of May 20, 2021 is 5,491. The total for May 2021 renewed by processing mail is 2,134 and the total for May 2021 non-renewed is 315. The total for the HAD 2021 renewed processing by mail is 95 and the total HAD non-renewed for 2021 is 19. The total for May 2021 processing licensee by mail is 1,543 and the approved applications for the board approval are a total of 70.

Review and Approval for Licensee

Ms. Carolyn Stine made a motion to approve all applications for approval. Mr. Richard Brisbane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Review for Committee List of CEU'S for Board Approval

Mr. James Sciabarrasi made a motion to approve all CEU'S as listed on the CEU Approval List. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Correspondence & F.Y.I

NONE

Next Board Meeting- June 17, 2021

Adjournment

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Mr. James Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 4:27 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole, AuD
Board Vice-Chair