

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on October 17, 2019, in Room 110 of the MDH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:14 p.m. Present for the quorum were Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, John Cummins, Ms. Jillian DeLuca (via conference call), Tinita Kearney (via conference call), Mr. Kim Keller, Jennifer Mertes, Dr. Carrie Nieman, Mr. John Rouse, Mr. George Sheckells, Ms. Ellen Stein and Ms. Carolyn Stine

Staff Present

Donna Seidel, Executive Director
Carla Boyd, AAG, Board Counsel
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III
David Bruce, Investigator

Absent Members

Dr. Tam Nhu Nguyen

Absent Staff

Monica Wright, Office Secretary

Visitors

Kim Lang, Director of Health Occupations Boards and Commissions

Agenda Review and Approval for October 2019

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

Minutes Review and Approval for September, 2019

Mr. Cummins made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Board Counsel Report – Attorney Boyd

Vaping Reporting Requirements

Attorney Boyd informed the Board that there has been an Order issued by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) in reference to vaping. The Center for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration has been investigating health issues related to vaping. The Order requires that licensees report all suspected incidents related to vaping to MDH. More information can be located on MDH's website. The Board agreed that the information should be posted on the Board's website for licensees to view.

Executive Director's Report – Donna Seidel

Budget Report – Email from John Cummins

Mrs. Seidel reported on the Email from Mr. Cummins re: The role of the treasurer. Mrs. Seidel informed the Board that she is not familiar with the role of the Treasurer and suggested that the Board and/or Mr. Cummins reach out to the Ethic Commission for further information.

The Purchase of Lexis Nexis for the Investigator

Mrs. Seidel informed the Board that Lexis Nexis is an online tool that David Bruce, investigator for the Board, asked the Board to purchase, that will assist the investigator with the processing of cases. The tool costs approximately \$200 per month. Ms. Seidel reached out to several other Boards asking if they would like to

share in the cost for Lexis Nexis. Mrs. Seidel informed the Board that Boards were interested in sharing the cost. The cost for Lexis Nexis will cost approximately \$27.00 per month for each Board.

Webinar: State Reporting for CEU's

Mrs. Seidel informed the Board that she has scheduled a webinar for the Board to view at the next meeting in reference to tracking continuing education credits. Dr. Mertes informed Mrs. Seidel that the Board has previously spoken with another company in reference to tracking continuing education credits.

Treasurer's Report

None

Chairperson's Report

Dr. Mertes informed the Board that Dr. Candace Robinson was selected by the Board and the interview committee as the Board's new Executive Director. Dr. Robinson's start date with the Board is scheduled for November 6, 2019.

Dr. Mertes also informed the Board that the functions of the Board's office is being reviewed and thanked Mrs. Seidel for the Email blast that was sent to licensees informing them of the names and numbers of staff responsible for specific functions of the Board office.

Dr. Mertes informed the Board that this is the first time that the amplification system has been used for the Board meeting and that using the system is a learning process. She also gave the Board a brief summary of the amplification system and how it works. Dr. Mertes informed the Board that the amplification system will not be used during the closed session Board meeting. She also addressed all questions from the Board members reference the amplification system.

Committee Reports – Donna Seidel

Mrs. Seidel suggested that the following items should be reported to the Board

Approved Licenses per month

Continuing Education Requirement/CEU Extension Requests monthly status

Legislative/Regulatory Review – Plans for 2020

Committee Members

Correspondence

HAD Inquiry

Ms. Seidel gave a brief summary of the inquiry regarding hearing test results and cited COMAR 10.41.08.08D. A discussion arose with the Board. Mrs. Seidel will draft the response letter to the constituent.

\$5 Duplicate License Fee

Attorney Boyd informed the Board that the Board does not have a fee for a duplicate license. If a licensee requests a duplicate license, Board staff should provide the license to the licensee and place the request in the licensee's file.

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Announcements

None

Next Board Meeting – November 21, 2019

Adjournment

Mr. Sheckells made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mertes, Au.D.
Chair