

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on January 18, 2018, in Room 110 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Sloan called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. Present for the quorum were Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, Mr. John Cummins, Dr. Tinita Kearney, Dr. Scott London, Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan, Mr. George Sheckells, Ms. Ellen Stein, Mr. John Rouse.

Staff Present

Christopher Kelter, Executive Director
Carla Boyd, AAG, Board Counsel
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III

Absent Members

Ms. Jillian DeLuca
Dr. Candace Robinson

Agenda Review and Approval for January 2018

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Item G. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for October 2017

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Mr. Sheckells seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

2018 Legislative Session

HB 168; Inactive Status of Licenses

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the 2018 legislative session has started and that he would like all legislative inquiries referred to him. Mr. Kelter also informed the Board that there is one bill in to codify the inactive status in the Board's statute. Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the bill is scheduled for a hearing on February 1, 2018 and that he will testify in support of the bill on behalf of the Board. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that without a statute and regulations coordinator he will write a position paper for the bill.

Regulatory Review

None

Executive Director's Report

Board Chair and Executive Directors Meeting with Lt. Governor Rutherford

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that Mr. Sloan was unable to attend. Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the meeting was to provide an update on the State's focus on regulatory reform. Mr. Kelter informed the Board that out-going Department Secretary Schraeder spoke on the prescription drug monitoring program and the specific requirements for those health care professionals that have the authority to prescribe certain prescription drugs and controlled dangerous substance.

2018 Renewal – SLP Continuing Education Audit

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the process is going well with just a few outstanding issues that he will handle or that will be reviewed at future Disciplinary Case Review Committee (DCRC) Meetings.

Board Meeting Schedule – CY 2018 and Beyond

Mr. Kelter advised the Board that he was not able to confer with Ms. Stein regarding religious holidays creating conflicts with Board meeting dates, but that he was able to confer with other boards and their support staff who had insight in to possible conflicts. Mr. Kelter was confident that the Calendar Year 2018 Board meeting schedule would not present any conflicts with religious holidays.

Criminal History Records Check (CHRC) Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board approximately 2,100 individuals are eligible to renew in 2018. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that he will prepare an in-state and an out-of-state document for the CHRC process to alleviate some of the confusion experienced by licensees during the 2017 renewal process. Mr. Sloan addressed the Board regarding problems that arise when an individual ages their fingerprints will become thinner over time and that three sets of fingerprints will be taken; the prints that are of better quality will be used for the CHRC process.

Graduate Student Presentations

Towson University (February 20, 2018 and February 22, 2018)

Loyola University (March 12, 2018)

Mr. Kelter advised the Board that he will make presentations to prospective graduates and that Mr. Sloan will attend if possible. Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he has explained to representatives at Towson University that if he has to testify on behalf of a bill that rescheduling the presentation for an alternative date would be necessary.

Inclement Weather Policy

Mr. Kelter will send an updated electronic notice to all Board members.

InterState Compact

Mr. Sloan informed the Board that he has had three telephone conferences with the original committee members. The committee is reviewing the Physical Therapy interstate compact process

and some other for states to ally with other compact states for licensure. Mr. Sloan stated that he hopes that later in Spring 2018 the initial draft of interstate compact language will be distributed to the committee members. Mr. Sloan feels that neighboring states should know each other's licensing process.

Administrative Closure of Incomplete Applications – Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that this process became effective February 28, 2017 and correspondence has been issued to applicants with incomplete applications. Mr. Kelter will write and issue the final letter notifying an applicant that their application has been administratively closed.

Board Membership Update

Mr. Kelter reviewed Board member's term expiration dates. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that there are four Board members whose term ends June 30, 2018. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that he will advertise the Board member openings via e-mail in compliance with State law. Attorney Carla Boyd will inquire into the distinction of Board meeting and committee meetings. Mr. Kelter spoke with Kim Bernardi in reference to the November 2017 Board meeting and it was deemed that it was not an official Board meeting due to the a quorum not being present. Mr. Kelter will review the meeting minutes for all meetings in calendar year 2017 and finalize the annual attendance report to be provided to Ms. Bennardi.

Legislation & Regulations Specialist Position

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that twenty-five resumés and state applications were received for the position. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that approximately seven to eight applicants will be chosen for the interview process.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Cummins reported for the Board for the month of January 2018 the budget is \$376,337.00, with expenditures of 164,838.00, and that the Board has available funds in the amount of \$211,499.00.

Proposal to Amend Administrative Procedure – Failure to Submit Official Transcript

The Board reviewed Mr. Kelter's Draft for Administrative Procedures – Official Transcripts for New Graduates Applying for a License. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that changes to the timeline of actions taken by Board staff are needed to more accurately reflect reasonable opportunities by licensees to take action on the Board's requests. Mr. Kelter further advised the Board that the revisions are needed to address Office of the Attorney General concerns that administrative issuance of informal discipline without Board review and approval is problematic.

Proposal to Amend Administrative Procedure – Failure to Complete Continuing Education

The Board reviewed Mr. Kelter's Draft for Administrative Procedures – Failure to Complete Continuing Education Requirements to Renew a License. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that the revisions are needed to address Office of the Attorney General concerns that administrative issuance of informal discipline without Board review and approval is problematic.

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Health Choice Audiology Regulations – Draft Revisions

The Board reviewed questions from Ms. Woodlinger’s regarding revisions to the Health Choice Audiology regulations.

Correspondence & FYI

None

Adjournment

The regular session meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sloan, SLP
Chair