



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

### **BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS, HEARING AID DISPENSERS, SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS & MUSIC THERAPISTS**

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists was held January 19, 2023, Via Teleconference. The Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:13 p.m.

#### **Staff Present**

Ms. Oluremi Dean, Executive Director  
Mr. Joshua Frazer, AAG Board Counsel  
Mr. Troy Pumphrey- Board Investigator  
Ms. Bernadette Henderson, Deputy Director  
Ms. Sarah Wickless, Licensing Coordinator  
Ms. Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator  
Ms. Kimberly Link, Boards Liaison

#### **Present Members**

Dr. Arifa Qureshi- AUD Board Chair  
Dr. Alicia Barksdale, MT  
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP  
Ms. Fatima Salem, SLP  
Dr. Carrie Neiman MD  
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD  
Ms. Valerie Hooper, CON  
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD  
Dr. Alicia Barksdale, MT  
Ms. Mariya Hutto, HAD  
Ms. Niki Runge, MT  
Ms. Valerie Hooper, CON

#### **Visitors**

Ms. Tatyana Martin  
Ms. Sarah Russell  
Ms. Alicia Spoor  
Ms. Katherine Schmicker  
Ms. Mary Casper  
Ms. Dianne Wawrzusin  
Ms. Leanne Frist  
Ms. Kelly Doig  
Ms. Zakiyyah Holmes  
Ms. Sarah Monroe

#### **Absent Members**

Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole, AUD  
Ms. Monica Wright, Office Secretary III  
Mr. James Sciacbarrasi, HAD  
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON  
Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP Vice Chair  
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD

**Review and Approval of the Agenda-**

Ms. Jill Silverman made a motion for the Board to approve the agenda. Ms. Niki Runge seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Review and Approval of Minutes- November 17, 2022**

Niki Runge made a motion for the Board to approve the Open Session minutes. Dr. Alicia Barksdale seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Board Chair Report- Dr. Arifa Qureshi**

Dr. Qureshi stated that there are three open Board member seats on the Board. Those positions are for an SLP, AUD and CON. The application deadline has been extended to April 30, 2023. The revised application deadline has been posted to the Board's website. Also, Governor Moore, has appointed a new Secretary of health and her name is Dr. Laura Herrera Scott.

**Board Counsel Report- None**

**Legislative Chair Report – Ms. Niki Runge**

- **SB 78 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration and Planning**  
The purpose of SB 78 is to require health occupations boards to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements. The Board currently has an expedited licensure process for service members. The Board is also able to issue a full license within 5 days of receiving a complete application. Niki Runge made a motion to send a letter of information for bill SB 78. Dr. Barbara McLendon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- **HB 136 - Child Support Enforcement - Occupational and Recreational Licenses- Taxpayer Identification Number**  
The purpose of HB 136 is to alter the duties of certain licensing authorities in provisions of law relating to the suspension or denial of a license due to child support arrearages to provide for the disclosure of the taxpayer identification number of a licensee or an applicant for a license if the licensee or applicant does not have a Social Security number; and generally relating to child support enforcement. The Board did not take a position.
- **HB 910 - Health Insurance-Hearing Aids for Adults-Coverage (2022 Legislative Session)**  
The purpose of HB 910 is to require insurers, nonprofit health services plans and maintain organizations that provide certain health insurance benefits under certain insurance policies or contracts to provide coverage for certain hearing aids for adults covered the policies or contracts. The Board confirmed their previous position to support with amendments. The Board recommended the minimum insurance coverage be increased from \$750 to \$1,400 per device.

- **MT Board Law Exam**

MT Law Exams are to be taken for new licensees. MT's currently licensed will be able to take the MT law exam at the time of licensure renewal. Niki Runge made a motion to include the MT law exam as a licensure requirement. Dr. Barbara McLendon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- **Telehealth Regulations**

The Board's telehealth regulations published in the Maryland Register received two public comment letters. The Board will need to review the comments to determine how the Board shall respond. The AAGs will be meeting to discuss the comments further.

### **Executive Director Report -Mrs. Oluremi Dean**

- **Introduction of New Licensing Coordinator** - Mrs. Dean introduced Ms. Sarah Wickless whom started in December 2022. Ms. Wickless also had the opportunity to greet the Board.
- **Reconnection Plan** - The IT manager was able to set up broad band in our building on our floor. As of right now, our laptops are connected to the broad band service. We are still waiting for our desktops to be connected. Before that can happen our IT team has to go through and make sure all the proper security measures are in place before we are reconnected.

### **Deputy Director Report - Ms. Bernadette Henderson**

- **HAD Renewals** -There are a total of 118 HAD Renewals. We received a total of 94 applications as of today. There is a total of 17 that are in progress and 81 that are completed. Out of the 12 licensees audited, 7 have satisfied the audit. There are 24 who have not started the renewal process and 3 of them are audit renewals. Mrs. Dean also added that the renewal deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>. Renewals received after the 31<sup>st</sup> will have a late fee of \$100 dollars applied.

### **Budget Report – Mrs. Dean, Executive Director**

The Current balance at the end of November is \$523,599.63

### **Licensing Coordinator Report- Mrs. Dean, Executive Director**

**There are a total of 5625 Active Licensees**

AUD-528, AUDA-10

HAD-117, HAD-LL 17

SLP-4,497, SLP-LL-216, SLPA-56, SLPA-LL-37

MT-147

**Total Reactivation (s): 2**

AUD-1

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HAD- 0

SLP-1

SLPA-0

MT-0

**Total Reinstatement (s):**

AUD-0

HAD-1

SLP-8

SLPA-0

MT-0

**Inactive Status Request:**

AUD-0

HAD-3

SLP-1

SLPA-0

MT-0

**Limited License Renewal (s):**

HAD-LL-1

SLP-LL-6

SLPA-LL-1

**CFY Delegation Changes:**

HAD-0

SLP-LL-6

SLPA-LL-2

SLP-A-2

**License Applications for Board Approval-**

AUD-Full 3, AUD-A-Full 1, HAD-Full 5, HAD-Limited 2, SLP-Full 62, SLP-Limited 29, SLPA-Full 4, SLPA-Limited 9 and MT-Full 7. The total number of applications for the Board's approval is 122.

Ms. Niki Runge made a motion to approve all application. Ms. Jill Silverman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Review of Committee List of CEU's for Board Approval**

Ms. Jill Silverman made a motion to approve all CEU applications listed as amended. Ms. Alicia Barksdale seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Correspondence & F.Y.I- Mrs. Oluremi Dean, Executive Director**

Mrs. Dean informed the Board that Mr. Richard Brisbane had 2 practical exams this morning. The next exam will be April 20, 2023. The deadline to request a seat for the April exam is March 16, 2023. Also, the Board has two upcoming presentations coming up. One will be for Towson University and the other will be at MSHA's Spring Symposium.

**Closing Statement- Dr. Arifa Qureshi**

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**Next Board Meeting – February 16, 2023**

**Adjourn**

The Meeting adjourned at 4:52pm.