



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, 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 Therapist was held February 17, 2022, Via Teleconference. The Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:06 p.m.

Staff Present

Ms. Oluremi Dean, Executive Director
Mr. Joshua Frazer, AAG Board Counsel
Ms. Monica Wright, Office Secretary III
Ms. Andria Keller, Licensing Coordinator
Ms. Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator

Present Members

Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP, Vice Chair
Dr. Arifa Qureshi, AUD
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD
Mr. James Sciaibarrasi, HAD
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON
Ms. Valerie Hooper, CON
Ms. Niki Runge, MT
Ms. Alicia Barksdale, MT
Ms. Carolyn Stine SLP, Board Chair
Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole, AUD
Mr. Kim Keller, HAD
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD

Visitors

Ms. Maria Fay

Absent Members

None

Agenda Review and Approval

Mrs. Dean requested to add HB 1130 to the agenda. Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. Ms. Jill Silverman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for January 20, 2022

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

Legislation

- **SB 899- Health Occupations Board- Authority Over Staffing Infrastructure Operations** - Dr. Tinita Kearney gave a summary of SB 899 which proposes several changes to how boards will operate. Due to several issues and concerns, the legislative committee voted to join a letter of opposition with several other Boards. Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to ratify the letter of opposition. Dr. Qureshi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- **HB 226- Public Schools-Self -Contained Special Education Classroom-Use of Video Recording** - Ms. Silverman gave a summary on HB 226 for the purpose of requiring each county Board of education to install a video recording device in each self - contained special education classroom to gain additional information concerning incidences of neglect within the classroom. Speech-Language Pathologists often work in self-contained classroom and therefore will also be impacted by this bill. The legislative committee voted to submit a letter of concern. Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to ratify the letter of concern. Mr. Richard Brisbane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- **SB 407- Health Occupations-Healthcare Staffing Storage Emergency-Declaration and Licensingand Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act of 2022)** - Dr. Barbara McLendon gave a summary SB 407 which will require the Board to issue temporary licenses during a healthcare staffing shortage emergency. The Board does not issue temporary licenses. Also, the processing time for a full license is only 3-5 days after a completed application has been received. Therefore, the legislative committee voted to issue a letter of information. Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to ratify the letter of information. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- **HB 625/SB 440- Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland** – Ms. Niki Runge gave a summary of HB 625/ SB 440 which will initiate a study of the health care workforce crisis in Maryland. Looking particularly at nursing homes, assistant livings, and hospitals, they are looking at short term solutions for the shortage and looking for future care workforce needs in the relationship between MDH and Boards. The commission would report findings and recommendations by December 31st of each year. The Board took no position on this.
- **HB 830- State Board of Examiners for AUD/HAD, SLP and MT-Physician Members- Repeal** - Mr. James Sciacbarrasi gave a summary of HB 830 which would remove the physician members from the board. The Board believes that the physician members are a valuable resource that the Board has readily available. The legislative committee voted to issue a letter of opposition. Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to ratify the letter of opposition. Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- **Revised Regulation Proposal-Music Therapists Scope of Practice** – Revisions are being made to the Music therapy regulations to best define the scope of practice for

Music Therapists. Ms. Stine discussed the proposed revisions. The legislative committee will continue with making the necessary amendments.

- **HB1130-Prohibits expiration of license, certificates, permits and registrations-** Mrs. Dean gave a summary of HB1130 which will allow licensees to continue practicing on an expired license due to the cyberattack that happened with MDH. The decision will be in effect until the department of information technology is able to restore their systems and servers. The Board is not experiencing licensing delays and are able to process renewals licenses at our normal capacity. Therefore, an expiration date extension is not warranted. However, the Board does support assistance being provided to Boards in need of an extension. Mr. Keller made the motion to send a letter of concern. Mr. Sciacchitano seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Board Chair Report- Ms. Carolyn Stine stated that she really appreciates the work that has been done during this legislative session by the committee members.

Board Counsel report- None

Executive Director Report – Ms. Oluremi Dean

- **Deputy Director Position-** The position was posted. The announcement has closed. She has received a couple of applications. Mrs. Dean stated she will be reviewing those applications and scheduling interviews.
- **Implicit Bias Training** -An email blast was sent to all licensees that are expiring in 2022 notifying them of the implicit bias training requirement set by the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities for all healthcare practitioners. Practitioners are required to take a one-time approved implicit bias training course prior to renewing their license.
- **Audiology Assistant Application Go Live-** Anticipated Go-Live date set at March 1, 2022. Audiologists Assistants are being added to the licensing system by our IT staff.
- **Renewal Application Fee-** The renewal fee was reduced from \$250 to \$200 at the beginning of the pandemic. Dr. Barbara McLendon made a motion to return the renewal fees back to \$250 dollars. Mr. Richard Brisbane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- **Roster Fee for Music Therapist-** Mrs. Dean also stated that our board does not have a roster fee for our music therapist. Mrs. Dean recommended that we make the roster fee for our MT \$55 dollars to remain consistent with other professions' roster fees. Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to make the roster fee \$55. Dr. Tinita Kearny seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Report – Mrs. Oluremi Dean

As of the end of January, the Board's current balance is \$281,618.79.

Licensee Update - Ms. Andria Keller

As of February 2022, there are a total of 5,455 active licenses. AUD-523, AUD-LL-0, HAD-108, HAD-LL-28, SLP-4,288, SLP-LL-3323, SLPA-57, SLPA-LL-37 and MT-91. The total number of reactivations is 2 SLP Full. The total number of reinstatements is 2 SLP-Full. The total number of Inactive Status requests is 1 SLP-Full. The total number of Limited License Renewal is 1 SLP-LL. The total number of CFY Delegation Changes is 2 SLP-LL. The total number for board approval applications is 97. AUD-Full 2, SLP-Full 26, SLP-LL 7, SLPA-Full 3 and SLPA-LL 3.

License applications for Board Approval

Dr. Kearney made a motion to approve all applications for licensure. Mr. Sciacbarrasi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Review for Committee List of CEU'S for Board Approval

Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to approve all CEU courses listed as recommended by the CEU committee. Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Correspondence & F.Y.I

Mrs. Dean stated that the interstate compact website has been posted on our web page for easy access by our licensees.

Closing Statement - Ms. Carolyn Stine, Chair

Next Board Meeting- March 17, 2022 (In-Person)

Adjournment

Mr. Keller made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Ms. Barksdale seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 5:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Carolyn Stine, Chair
Board Chair