



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., 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 February 16, 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
Ms. Monica Wright, Office Secretary III
Mr. Troy Pumphrey- Board Investigator
Ms. Bernadette Henderson, Deputy Director
Ms. Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator
Ms. Sarah Wickless, License Coordinator

Present Members

Dr. Arifa Qureshi- AUD Board Chair
Dr. Tinita Kearny, SLP Vice Chair
Dr. Alicia Barksdale, MT
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP
Ms. Valerie Hooper, CON
Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole, AUD
Dr. Carrie Neiman MD
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD
Dr. Alicia Barksdale, MT
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD
Ms. Niki Runge, MT
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD

Visitors

Ms. Tatyana Martin
Ms. Sydney Westwick
Ms. Zakiyyah Holmes
Ms. Kathy Hall
Ms. Mary Casper
Ms. Larissa McKay
Ms. Haylee Jayne
Ms. Christy Shiloh
Ms. Natasha Montgomery

Absent Members

Ms. Fatima Salem-SLP
Ms. Mariya Hutto, HAD

Review and Approval of the Agenda-

Dr. Tinita Kearny made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments. Mr. James Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Review and Approval of Minutes- January 19, 2023

Ms. Jill Silverman made a motion to approve the Open Session minutes. Dr. Alicia Barksdale seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Board Chair Report- Dr. Arifa Qureshi-None

Board Counsel Report- None

Legislative Chair Report – Ms. Niki Runge

- **SB 187 Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations – Immigrants**
For the purpose of prohibiting a health occupations board from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets all educational, training, or professional requirements for licensure, certification, or registration; and requiring each health occupations board to require each applicant for a license to disclose the Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number of the applicant and record the number on the application.

The hearing date is set for 2/7/23. The Acupuncture Board wrote a letter of support with amendments to clarify the Boards continued authority to deny a license. The committee voted to join the letter of support with amendments.

The bill sponsors also proposed additional amendments stating the Board may not require a social security number or a Tax ID number. The Board will also continue to monitor the proposed minutes.

Dr. Tinita Kearny made amotion to join the letter of support. Ms. Jill Silverman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- **HB 401 – Health Occupations – Practice Audiology – Definition**
For the purpose of altering the definition of “Practice Audiology” for the purpose of certain provisions of law governing the licensure of audiologists; and generally relating to the practice of audiology.

The committee voted to take a position to support with amendments. The committee proposed an amendment to differentiate osseointegrated devices from cochlear implants.

The committee also discussed concerns received by a HAD consumer and the Maryland Society of Otolaryngologist. The committee will continue to work on suggested amendments to clarify the definition of ‘practice audiology’. The hearing is scheduled for 2/8/23.

Dr. Barbara McLendon made a motion to support with amendments. Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole seconded the motion. Dr. Tam Nguyen Abstained. The motion passed.

- **Telehealth Regs**

The AAGs were able to revise the Board telehealth regs in response to the public comments received. ALER has also placed a hold on all telehealth regs until further notice.

The committee voted to adopt the revised amendments written by the AAGs office.

The AAGs also assisted with developing a response letter to comments received.

Dr. Barbara McLendon made a motion to approve the telehealth response letter and to adopt the revised amendments. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- **SB 397 – Health Insurance – Hearing Aids for Adults – Coverage**

For the purpose of requiring insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations that provide certain health insurance benefits under certain insurance policies or contracts to provide certain coverage for certain hearing aids for adults covered under the policies or contracts, authorizing an insured or enrollee to choose a certain hearing aid and pay a certain amount for the hearing aid, without financial or contractual penalty to the provider of the hearing aid; and generally relating to health insurance and coverage for hearing aids.

The bill sponsor incorporated the Board's proposed amendments from 2021's legislative session which increased the minimum insurance coverage from \$750 to \$1400.

The Board took no position.

Executive Director Report -Mrs. Oluremi Dean-None

Deputy Director Report -Ms. Bernadette Henderson

- **HAD Renewal Reminder** - All 12 renewal applicants selected for audit have turned in their documents. A total of 110 renewal applications were received and processed out of a total of 118 licensees eligible for renewal. Hearing Aid Dispensers have until the end of the month to renew. A \$100 late fee will apply from 2/1/23 – 3/2/23.

Budget Report – Mrs. Dean, Executive Director

The current balance at the end of December is \$418,880.13

Licensing Coordinator Report- Ms. Sarah Wickless

There are a total of 5657 Active Licensees

AUD-530, AUDA-11

HAD-117, HAD-LL 17

SLP-4,526, SLP-LL-215, SLPA-56, SLPA-LL-37

MT-148

Total Reactivation (s):

AUD-0

HAD- 0

SLP-1

SLPA-0

MT-0

Total Reinstatement (s):

AUD-0

HAD-0

SLP-1

SLPA-0

MT-0

Inactive Status Request:

AUD-0

HAD-0

SLP-0

SLPA-0

MT-0

Limited License Renewal (s):

HAD-LL-0

SLP-LL-1

SLPA-LL-0

CFY Delegation Changes:

HAD-0

SLP-LL-2

SLPA-LL-0

SLP-A-0

License Applications for Board Approval-

AUD-Full 2, AUDA-Full 1

HAD-Full 0, HAD-Limited 0,

SLP-Full 28, SLP-Limited 5, SLPA-Full 0, SLPA-Limited 2

MT-Full 1.

Dr. Tinita Kearny made a motion to approve all applications pending Board approval. Ms. Niki Runge seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Review of Committee List of CEU's for Board Approval

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Dr. Tinita Kearny made a motion to approve 75 CEU applications listed and deny 2 CEU applications listed. Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Correspondence & F.Y.I- None

Closing Statement- Dr. Arifa Qureshi

Next Board Meeting March 16, 2023

Adjourn

Ms. Niki Runge made a motion to adjourn the closed session meeting. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.