

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on May 21, 2020, via teleconference. The regular session Board meeting came to order at 4:06 p.m.

Staff Present

Candace G. Robinson, Executive Director
Bethan Haaga, AAG Board Counsel
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III
Monica Wright, Office Secretary III
David Bruce, Investigator
Troy Hale, Investigator

Present Quorum Board Members

Mr. John Cummins, HAD
Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP
Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Chair, AUD
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD, ENT
Mr. John Rouse, CON
Mr. George Sheckells, HAD
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP
Mr. Kim Keller, HAD
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD
Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, Vice Chair, AUD

Visitors

Dr. Leslie Grant, SLP
Kimberly Link, Executive Director Board liaison
Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator

Absent Board Members

Ms. Ellen Stein, CON
Ms. Jillian DeLuca, SLP
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD, ENT

Agenda Review and Approval for May, 2020

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

Minutes Review and Approval for April 16, 2020

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

Minutes Review and Approval for April 30, 2020

Mr. John Rouse made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Barbara McLendon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Board Counsel Report

NONE

Regulatory Review

A review of the pre-proposal concept paper for the 2021 legislative session took place by Dr. Mertes and Dr. Robinson. All items were approved by the Board, with the exception of the proposal to remove one hearing aid dispenser seat from the Board and replace it with a seat for a speech-language pathology assistant (SLP-A) seat. It was determined that removing a hearing aid dispenser seat from the Board would not be beneficial, as it could put too much pressure on the two remaining hearing aid dispenser members to be able to handle the practical examinations between themselves and to be

certain they could attend all meetings for the sake of having a quorum. Additionally there were concerns regarding only having one SLP-A in the event they could not make it to a meeting. There were also concerns regarding if in the event the SLP-A could not make it to make to a Board meeting, how their discipline would be represented for the quorum. Further, the Board agreed that it would require a change to statues for forming a quorum and decided to table this part of the proposal until the next legislative session. Finally, it was discussed that looking into how other Boards utilize assistant licensees, such as PT and OT, would be explored.

Executive Director's report - - Dr. Candace G. Robinson

Dr. Robinson stated that she has been revamping the entire website, with all forms and information reflecting the proper name of the Maryland Department of Health and current statues and regulations. She also discussed that the merit position has not yet been approved to be able to continue with the interview process. Dr. Robinson also verified with the Board that as audiology applicants already have their Au.D. degree with the clinical requirements completed, that there was no need for audiology license applicants to provide a place of employment, in order to issue the license. This would also make the need for an AS3 null and void because the clinical requirements were already completed as part of the degree, in the event that an audiologist needs a limited license in order to pass the national Praxis exam. Dr. Mertes stated that as it is not written in our regulations, it is not a requirement. Dr. Robinson stated that she will remove that from the audiologist application requirements.

Treasurer's Report - Dr. Candace Robinson

Dr. Robinson reported that as of the end April our balance is 143,296.23.

Chair Report- Dr. Jennifer Mertes

Please see the regulatory review above with the reviewed information from the pre-proposal concept paper for the 2021 legislative session.

Review for Licensees ready for approval

Mr. John Cummins made a motion to approve all licensees approved by Board staff. Mr. John Rouse seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Correspondence & F.Y.I

NONE

Next Board Meeting – June 18, 2020

Adjournment

Mr. George Sheckells made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Mr. John Cummins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jennifer Mertes, Au.D.
Chair