

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on September 17, 2020, via teleconference. The Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:09 p.m.

Staff Present

Candace G. Robinson, Executive Director
Bethan Haaga, AAG Board Counsel
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III
Monica Wright, Office Secretary III
Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator
Kim Link, Liaison to the Executive Directors

Visitors

Leslie Grant, SLP
Catherine Seibert, SLP, LL applicant

Present Members

Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, Vice-Chair
Mr. George Sheckells, HAD
Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP
Mr. John Rouse, CON
Dr. Barbara McLendon
Mr. Kim Keller, HAD
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD

Absent Members

Dr. Jennifer L. Mertes, Chair
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP

Agenda Review and Approval for September 17, 2020

Mr. George Sheckells made a motion to approve the agenda. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for August 20, 2020

Dr. Tinita Kearney made motion to approve the minutes. Mr. George Sheckells seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IHS score exam overview and cut-score rationale

Guest speaker Joy Wilkins, Director of Professional Development- IHS, gave a presentation to the Board on how the written examination for hearing aid dispenser (HAD) candidates is given and how it is scored.

Regulatory Review

A vote ensued on the final statute proposal regarding the language for appointing a consumer Board member who has been in receipt of AUD/SLP/HAD services.- Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to accept the revised statement with the word “nomination” taken out. Mr. John Rouse seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Candace Robinson – Gave a summary of the next draft proposal for the regulations based upon the comments from MSHA, MAA, The Hearing Society of MD, DE and DC, and, Board members. This draft will be disseminated to Board one week before the next Board meeting, so it can be voted on at the next Board meeting on October 15, 2020. Additionally, Dr. Robinson shared the

correspondence sent by the Hearing Society of MD, DC and DE, outlining their concerns about the previous draft proposal, particularly relating to defining asymmetries in air conduction between ears and subsequent requirements to refer to a physician for medical clearance prior to the fitting of hearing devices, if present. Further, Dr. Robinson thanked President, Jim Orban, for their feedback and confirmed via email that the first draft of such proposed definitions of asymmetries were not in the next draft. Further, the next draft would be shared with them for further comment.

Board Counsel Report

Bethan Haaga presented the option to allow Board staff the Administrative privilege to issue licenses in between Board meetings, to be ratified by the Board at the next Board meeting. Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve the Board staff to have administrative authority to issues licenses for applications deemed as complete, to be ratified by the Board and the next Board meeting. Mr. George Scheckells seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Dr. Robinson informed us that there will be a new HAD appointed to the Board. Dr. Robinson thanked Mr. George Scheckells for his service on the Board.

License “look-ups” and unofficial CEU transcripts - Dr. Robinson asked for a vote based upon last month’s consideration of using verification “look-ups” and unofficial CEU transcripts for applicants already licensed in another state(s). Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion, that staff can accept verification” look-ups” and unofficial CEU’S transcript for applicants, who already have a license in another state (s). Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

TOEFL- Dr. Robinson discussed the fact that our regulations indicate that the Board determines what the passing score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is and that it has to have been passed with two years of an application submission. Further, she provided a range of scores for each of the 4 subsections for the TOEFL and asked that the Board to determine at the next meeting, what we would accept as a passing score for such.

Clinical fellowship year (CFY) hours for SLPs – Dr. Robinson discussed that an inquiry was presented regarding applying for a limited license in SLP, with a minimum of 15 hours a week, split between two sites. Dr. Robinson interprets this as being ok to do so, as long as the appropriate supervision is in place (minimum of 4 hours per month) and that 80% of the hours at each place, are in the area of diagnostics, treatment and screening. Board members Dr. Tinita Kearney and Ms. Jill Silverman agreed that this was interpreted correctly.

Budget Report - Dr. Candace Robinson

Dr. Robinson reported as of the end of fiscal year 2020, there is a balance of \$300, 980.75. The reports for July and August 2020 for the current 2021 fiscal year have not yet been received and will be reported at the next Board meeting.

Chair Report- Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole

NONE

License Coordinator Update

Ms. Zoann Mouzone reported there are a total 5,238 total licensees. Ms. Mouzone also reported that there have been 2,085 renewals and 379 who have not yet renewed, for the May 31, 2020 expired licenses.

Review for Licensee Approvals

Mr. George Sheckells made a motion to approve all 105 licensees approved by Board staff. Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CEUs for approval

Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to approve the CEUs reviewed and approved by the CEU committee for September, 2020. George Sheckells seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Correspondence & F.Y.I

NONE

Next Board Meeting – October 15, 2020

Adjournment

Mr. George Shekells made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Samuels Cole, Au.D
Vice Chair