

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on October 15, 2020, via teleconference. The Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:05 p.m.

Staff Present

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

Present Members

Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Au.D., Chair
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD
Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP
Mr. John Rouse, CON
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD
Mr. Kim Keller, HAD
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD

Visitors

None

Absent Members

Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, Vice-Chair

Agenda Review and Approval for October 15, 2020

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

Minutes Review and Approval for September 17, 2020

Dr. Tinita Kearney made motion to approve the minutes as amended (with the correction to the word “accept”). Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Regulatory Review

Dr. Mertes reviewed the proposed regulatory changes, not including the telehealth section. Dr. Robinson reported that MSHA and MAA approved all of the proposed changes. The Hearing Society of MD, DC and DE did not provide a response. A vote ensued on the final regulatory proposal for the items other than the telehealth chapter, with one change to the CEU section 10.41.03.06 (E)(4), that the word “a copy” should be removed and replaced with “an official” certificate or transcript. Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to accept the final regulatory proposal with the one revision. Mr. Richard Brisbane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Mertes, Dr. Robinson and legislative coordinator Ms. Lillian Reese, reviewed the final proposed changes to the Telehealth regulation chapter 10.41.06. Ms. Carolyn Stine made a motion to approve

the telehealth regulations as proposed. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Entry Level Requirements for Hearing Aid Dispensers

Kim Keller expressed concerns regarding being able to obtain good hires due to the requirement to hold an Associate's degree as entry level. He also expressed the decline in Hearing Aid Dispensers in the state of Maryland, which he contributes to the education requirement. Finally, he felt that most states, particularly bordering states VA, DE, DC, PA, WV do not require an Associate's degree and we also don't allow reciprocity for allowing the standards that were in place prior to the change made by the Board in 2013, for a HAD with a license in another state, not holding an Associate's degree. Kim Link, MDH liaison to the Boards suggested that our Board form a working group to gather information regarding the concerns discussed and disseminate it to stakeholders to gain input from them regarding any proposals for change to the degree requirements moving forward.

Board Counsel Report – Bethan Haaga, AAG

Reciprocity of educational requirements for HADs and AUDs from out of state applicants

For HADs the current standard applies. Therefore, if a HAD has a high school degree and has been practicing in another state since before 2013 or any time, they cannot gain a license in MD because the current standard of an Associate's degree is required. For AUDs the standard of the Master's Degree or higher is acceptable if the AUD was already licensed with such in another state either before or after 2007, as our statutes allow for such.

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

Dr. Robinson welcomed Mrs. Oluremi Dean, Discipline and Compliance Officer, Deputy and Hearing Aid Dispenser, Mr. James Sciabarrasi.

Dr. Robinson thanked Mr. Kim Keller for providing the practical examination for the hearing aid dispensers for this month.

Budget Report - Dr. Candace G. Robinson

Dr. Robinson reported as of the end of July 2020, there is a balance of \$296, 431.59 and as of the end of August, 2020, there is a balance of \$284, 652.46. The reports for September and October 2020 for the current 2021 fiscal year have not yet been received and will be reported at the next Board meeting.

Chair Report- Dr. Jennifer Mertes

Dr. Mertes thanked the Board staff for all of their hard work.

License Coordinator Update

Ms. Zoann Mouzone reported there are a total 5,333 total licensees. Ms. Mouzone also reported that there have been 2,085 renewals and 369 who have not yet renewed, for the May 31, 2020 expired licenses.

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Review for Licensee Approvals

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to ratify 34 out 38 licensees approved by Board staff. There are 4 that were not yet approved by Board staff require further review in closed session to ensure the applications are complete. Dr. Tam Nguyen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CEUs for approval

Ms. Carolyn Stine made a motion to approve the CEUs reviewed and the decisions made by the CEU committee for October, 2020. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Correspondence & F.Y.I

No Board meeting in December, 2020

Next Board Meeting – November 19, 2020

Adjournment to move to Closed Session

Ms. Ellen Stein 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 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mertes, Au.D
Board Chair