

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on November 19, 2020, via teleconference. The regular session Board meeting came to order at 4:09 p.m.

#### **Staff Present**

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

#### **Present Members**

Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Chair  
Dr. Stacey Samuel-Cole, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP  
Mr. John Rouse, CON  
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD  
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD  
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON  
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP  
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD  
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP  
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD  
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD

#### **Visitors**

NONE

#### **Absent Members**

Mr. Kim Keller, HAD

#### **Agenda Review and Approval for November 19, 2020**

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

#### **Minutes Review and Approval for October 15, 2020**

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

#### **Regulatory Review**

There are currently no updates to the Board's proposed changes to the statutes; however, Senator Lam and Delegate Kelly are sponsoring our Bill. With the current Secretary of Health retiring, we are not sure when our Bill will be reviewed by the Acting Secretary of Health who has not been named.

Dr. Robinson gave brief summary about the Music Therapists and the possibility of them looking to join our Board this legislative session; however, they may be looking at other Boards first.

ASHA is to release certification for SLP-A and AUD-A, in December, 2020 and adopting ASHA's certification will be on the list for consideration to be added to our statutes next legislative session.

The working group for the HAD profession regarding entry level led by HAD Kim Keller, also includes Board HADs Richard Brisbane and James Sciabarrasi. Kim Keller was not present today, though Mr. Brisbane and Mr. Sciabarrasi indicated that Kim Keller has corresponded with them to begin the process of collecting information to present to the Board, to support a proposal during the 2022 legislative session for entry level into the profession to revert back to a high school diploma.

## **Board Counsel Report**

**NONE**

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

A vote took place on renewal fees for HAD. Dr. Barbara McLendon made a motion to reduce fees from \$250 to \$200 for the renewal of HAD, plus the \$26 MHCC fee. Dr. Tinita Kearney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The Board stated that a letter and an email blast should be sent out about renewals for 2020 stating they have up to 30 days after the state of emergency has been lifted by Governor Hogan to renew their licenses.

TOEFL - Will be revisited at January's Board Meeting. The Board would like more information regarding what other entities, such as other Board and/or Universities use as acceptable scores. Dr. Robinson will explore this with NCSB and local Universities.

Dr. Robinson informed the Board that there will be a new board code 40 in the database for SLPA-LL.

As MDH is not having Board orientation for new members for 2020, Ms. Lillian Reese will provide a brief orientation in closed session regarding the legislative process. Deputy Attorney General, Deborah Donahue is happy to provide presentations on any topics desired, such as the Open Meetings Act, Antitrust, etc. Dr. Robinson emphasized that the 2018 and 2019 Board member orientation slides are on the Drive in the "Board Member Training Materials" 2018 and 2019 folders.

Accepting digital signatures vs. wet signatures on applications was discussed. Ms. Carolyn Stine made a motion to accept wet signatures that are signed by hard copy and scanned into the board. Dr. Tinita Kearney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

NCSB renewal- Dr. Robinson stated it was renewed. She will send the link to the site to all Board members so that they may browse through the resources it has to offer.

### **Deputy Director Report: Oluremi Dean**

Remi gave the Board an update on things that are being done in the office- Using the Smartsheet program, pages have been completed in which the entire application process can happen online and reviewing applications can be done offsite or onsite. Smartsheet is software that offers project management and tracks different tasks. Original application documents are to be submitted within 30 days of sending in the online application. The law exams have been reviewed and updated by Dr. Robinson and added to Google forms. DocuXplorer is software that is used for scanning and storing license files, which we plan to implement in 2021. With this software, when we receive paper documents they can be scanned directly into the electronic licensee file. We are also now tracking the # of limited licensees supervised by one supervisor. Zoann is entering those being supervised into the

supervisor's licensing record so that we can be much better at tracking and ensuring that a supervisor does not have too many limited licenses under them.

**Treasurer Report - Dr. Candace Robinson**

Dr. Robinson reported that as of end August our balance was 296, 152.21 and at the end of September it was 309, 943.18. The October balance is still not in yet and will be reported at the January, 2021 meeting, as well as November and possibly December.

**Chair Report- Dr. Jennifer Mertes**

Dr. Mertes thanked the Board staff for everything they have done and continue to do.

**License Coordinator Update**

Ms. Zoann Mouzone reported there are a total of 5,365 total active licensees. SLP Full-4337, SLP-LL 279, SLP-A 75, SLP-A, LL 10, AUD-527, AUD-LL 1, HAD Full 114, HAD-LL 22. Renewal for 2020, AUD 234, SLP 1823, SLPA 4. None Renewed AUD 30, SLP Full 313 and SLPA 23. There are a total of 60 applications to be approved by the Board today.

**Review and Approval for Licensee**

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve all license applications approved by Board staff. Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Review for Committee List of CEU'S for Board Approval**

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve all CEUs except for the Academy Health Conference. Ms. Carolyn Stine seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Correspondence & F.Y.I**

Dr. Jennifer Mertes notified the Board that Governor Hogan stated that Secretary Neill will be retiring. A replacement has not been named yet.

**Next Board Meeting – January 21, 2020**

**Adjournment**

Ms. Carolyn Stine made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Ms. Jill Silverman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mertes, AuD.  
Chair