

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on January 21, 2016 in Room 110 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Kirk Payne called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. Present for the quorum were Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan, Mr. John Sloan, Mr. George Sheckells, Dr. Victor Da Costa, Mr. John Rouse, and Ms. Ellen Stein.

Staff Present

Anthony DeFranco, AAG, Board Counsel
Christopher J. Kelter, Executive Director
Yolanda Campbell, Office Secretary III

Absent Members

Ms. Lisa Melody
Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole

Agenda Approval

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Sloan seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for November 19, 2015

The minutes will be reviewed at February 18, 2016 Board meeting.

Regulatory Review

Official Transcript and Name/Address/E-mail Change Notification Requirements

Mr. Kelter reported that the proposed regulatory change appeared in the January 8, 2016 edition of the Maryland Register and that official comments would be accepted through February 8, 2016. Mr. Kelter reported that e-mail notice of the proposed regulatory changes was issued on January 13, 2016. Mr. Kelter reported that a small number of licensees expressed opposition to the proposed regulatory change. Mr. Kelter reported that he would respond to official comments after the February 8, 2016.

2016 Legislative Session

SB 109 – Criminal History Records Check Authority

Mr. Kelter reported the hearing for the bill seeking authority for criminal history records check was scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2016 in the Senate's Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee. Mr. Kelter reported that he, Kristen Neville and the Executive Directors affected by the bill would be present at the hearing to provide testimony and to be available to answer any questions the committee may have. Mr. Kelter reported that he did not anticipate many questions from the committee as a number of health occupation boards have sought and have gained similar authority over the past few years.

Executive Director's Report

2016 AUD, SLP and SLP-A Renewal – Update

Mr. Kelter reported he had begun reviewing all documents and information for the upcoming renewal for audiologists, speech-language pathologists and speech-language pathology assistants to ensure a smooth renewal process for all eligible licensees with a license expiring on May 31, 2016. Mr. Kelter reported that at the appropriate time he would engage the boards' information technology staff to ensure the online renewal process would be ready by late March 2016.

Dr. Ronald Kaplan resumed Chair

SLP Continuing Education Audit – a) Random b) Voluntary

Mr. Kelter reported that audit notices for speech-language pathologists eligible for renewal were issued on January 4, 2016 for both the required random audit and the licensees that agreed to the voluntary audit. Mr. Kelter reported that documentation was being received daily. Mr. Kelter reported that a few licensees had already indicated the need for an extension of time to complete the continuing education requirements.

Investigation Vacancy – Update

Mr. Kelter reported that interviews were held the week of December 28, 2015 and that a candidate had been selected. Mr. Kelter reported that the required paperwork for hiring the candidate had been submitted to DHMH Personnel. Mr. Kelter reported that it is anticipated that the new investigator will begin on Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

DHMH – Department wide Website Redesign

Mr. Kelter reported that initial reorganization of Board content to fit the Governor's new website template had been completed.

Office of Legislative Audits – Review

Mr. Kelter reported that the information technology portion of the audit had been completed. Mr. Kelter reported that the Board was not asked any specific questions for the audit, but that findings and issues would be discussed at the auditor's exit meeting.

Presentations to New Graduates – Loyola February 22, 2016

Mr. Kelter reported that Loyola University had set the date of February 22, 2016 to speak to their prospective graduates. Mr. Kelter reported that Towson University had set the dates of February 9, 2016 and February 11, 2016, to speak to their prospective graduates.

Mid-Atlantic Expo – March 17-18, 2016

Mr. Kelter reported that he will attend the Mid-Atlantic Expo on Friday, March 18, 2016.

MSHA Annual Conference – May 6, 2016

Mr. Kelter reported that he will attend the Maryland Speech-Language Hearing Association's annual conference on Friday, May 6, 2016.

Board Membership Update

Mr. Kelter reported that the Governor's Office was insistent on each professional association making nominations to fill a vacancy on a board or commission submit no less than the minimum number of nominees as required by law. Mr. Kelter reported that this was slowing the nomination process to fill the vacancy created by Dr. Da Costa's departure.

Board Member Per Diem and Mileage Reimbursement – Direct Deposit

Mr. Kelter reported that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) was encouraging use of direct deposit for per diems and mileage reimbursement. Mr. Kelter indicated he would forward the document required by DBM to initiate direct deposit.

Treasurer's Report- John Sloan

Mr. Sloan reported for the month of December the Board has available funds in the amount of \$184,603.00.

Statistical Report ending December 31, 2015

The Board will review the Statistical Report in January 2016 Board meeting.

Required PQRS Measures for Audiology

Dr. Charlotte Godfrey arrived

The Board discussed a petition submitted by Dr. Alicia Spoor concerning Medicaid's Physician Quality Reporting System and the scope of practice for a licensed audiologist. The Board agreed to discuss the matter further at the February 2016 meeting.

Dr. Spoor's petition also included questions concerning the International Hearing Society's newly announced apprenticeship program. Mr. Kelter indicated that he could answer those questions directly to Dr. Spoor as the issue had already been discussed by the Board.

Telehealth/Telepractice – Subcommittee

Mr. Kelter requested volunteers for a sub-committee to review the Board's current laws and regulations governing telehealth/telepractice with respect to advances in technology, expanded use of telehealth services, and emerging trends in telepractice. Dr. Kaplan, Mr. Slaon and Ms. Stein volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

Adjournment

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular session meeting pursuant to Maryland State Government Article, 10-508(a) Annotated Code of Maryland. The regular session meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Kaplan, Au.D.
Chair