

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on February 18, 2016 in Room 110 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Ronald Kaplan called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. Present for the quorum were Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan, Mr. George Sheckells, Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, Mr. Kirk Payne, Ms. Ellen Stein, Ms. Joan Dawson, and Dr. Charlotte Godfrey.

Staff Present

Anthony DaFranco, AAG, Board Counsel
Christopher Kelter, Executive Director
Danielle Vallone, Board Investigator
Yolanda Campbell, Office Secretary III

Absent Members

Mr. John Sloan

Agenda Approval

Dr. Godfrey made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. O'Donovan seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for November 19, 2015

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for January 21, 2016

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Regulatory Review

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

Mr. Kelter reported that the Board received seven official comments to the proposed regulations. Mr. Kelter reported that he would draft a response to the official comments so that the regulatory revision process could move forward.

Mr. John Rouse arrived

2016 Legislative Session

SB 109 – Health Occupation Boards/ Criminal History Record Checks – Required

Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee – Hearing 1/27/2016

Mr. Kelter reported that SB 109 was heard by the Senate Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee on January 27, 2016. Mr. Kelter reported the bill had technical amendments and that the bill was voted favorably by the Committee. Mr. Kelter reported that the full Senate voted in favor of the amended bill. Mr. Kelter reported that the bill was introduced in the House, but had not yet been assigned to a committee.

Executive Director’s Report

2016 AUD, SLP, and SLP-A Renewal – Update

Mr. Kelter reported that everything was prepared for a late March 2016 opening of the online renewal system for audiologists, speech-language pathologists and speech-language pathology assistants whose licenses expire on May 31, 2016.

SLP Continuing Education Audit – a) Random b) Voluntary

Mr. Kelter reported that the overall response to the audit notices was positive. Mr. Kelter noted that a number of individuals randomly audited were already subject to informal discipline due to failure to complete the continuing education requirements in a timely manner. Mr. Kelter noted that a significant number of individuals under the Voluntary Audit once again needed an extension of time to complete the continuing education requirements and that meetings with these individuals would be scheduled as soon as possible.

DHMH – Department-Wide Website Redesign

Mr. Kelter reported that the Department-wide website redesign had launched. Mr. Kelter reported that aside from a few dead links that all technical matters had been resolved.

Office of Legislative Audits – Review

Mr. Kelter reported that the Information Technology portion of the audit had been completed and that there were no findings for this Board. Mr. Kelter reported that the financial portion of the audit was ongoing. Mr. Kelter reported that he complied with all requests for information.

Presentations to New Graduates – Towson 2/9 and 2/11/2016, Loyola 2/22/2016

Mr. Kelter reported that presentations to students at Towson University were conducted in the prior week and that presentations to students at Loyola University would be conducted in the following week. Mr. Kelter reported that he was pleased by the questions asked by the students as they prepare for professional life after concluding their Master's programs.

Mid-Atlantic Expo – March 17-18, 2016

Mr. Kelter reported that he would attend the Mid-Atlantic Expo on Friday, March 18, 2016 to speak to the State association about board membership.

MSHA Annual Conference – May 6, 2016

Mr. Kelter reported that it was confirmed that the MSHA Annual Conference would be held in Annapolis on Friday, May 6, 2016. Mr. Kelter reported that he had scheduled the event in his calendar and was looking forward to interacting with attendees.

2015 Financial Disclosure Filings – State Ethics Commission

Mr. Kelter reported information on the requirement to complete the Financial Disclosure to the State Ethics Commission would be forthcoming. Mr. Kelter asked Board members to print out evidence of completing the required disclosures to the

Board Membership Update

Mr. Kelter reported that there were no updates concerning the E.N.T. vacancy on the Board. Mr. Kelter advised that he would contact Ms. Kim Bennardi to obtain an update prior to the next Board meeting.

Telehealth/Telepractice Subcommittee – Update

Mr. Kelter reported that he was continuing to compile materials for the sub-committee's review and that a meeting would be scheduled in the near future.

Treasurer's Report- John Sloan

Mr. Kelter reported for Mr. Sloan that for the month of January the Board has available funds in the amount of \$174,729.00.

Statistical Report Ending January 31, 2016

The Board reviewed the Statistical Report in the Board packet.

Required PQRS Measures for Audiology

Mr. Kelter reported that Dr. Spoor graciously met with him and Board Counsel Anthony DeFranco prior to the Board meeting for additional review. The Board discussed the matter with additional

details. Dr. Spoor was invited to speak and she provided additional information. It was agreed that a draft statement would be reviewed at the March 2016 Board meeting.

Petition to Amend Statute from Montgomery Co. P.S

Ms. Robyn Miller submitted a petition to the Board to change current legislation for §2-314.1 Hearing Aid Dispensers and Audiologists – Medical Examination. The Board reviewed the petition and discussed the proposed statutory changes. The Board determined that physicians were the appropriate medical personnel to perform the medical examination. The Board discussed various means for individuals without financial means for the medical examination to obtain the medical examination with reduced costs or no costs. The Board voted to not consider the proposed statutory change. Mr. Kelter noted that a letter would be issued to Ms. Miller highlighting the alternative means to obtain the required medical examination.

Mr. Payne made a motion not to change the current statute. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Dr. Scott London arrived

Reinstatement Requirements

Mr. Kelter reported that he had been considering all matters related to reinstatement. Mr. Kelter advised that he would be preparing items for consideration in a future Board meeting.

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 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Kaplan, Au.D.
Chair