

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on February 16, 2017, in Room 110 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. John Sloan called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Present for the quorum were Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, Ms. Jillian DeLuca, Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan, Dr. Candace Robinson, Mr. John Sloan, Ms. Ellen Stein and Dr. Heather Weinreich.

Staff Present

Anthony DeFranco, AAG, Nursing Board Counsel
Christopher Kelter, Executive Director
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III
Danielle Vallone, Board Investigator

Absent Members

Mr. John Cummins
Mr. George Sheckells

Agenda Approval

Dr. Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions made by Mr. Kelter. Ms. O'Donovan seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for February 2017

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the minutes will be available at April 2017 Board meeting.

2017 Legislative Session

Mr. Kelter gave a brief summary of the following bills:

HB 628/SB 517 – “The NC Dental Bill”

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that one bill had good amendments to it and that each bill has been passed out of the Committee. The hearings in the opposite houses have not been scheduled.

HB 1474 – Office of Health Occupations

This is the Secretary's bill from 2016

HB 1471 – Business Occupations and Professions and Health Occupations – Regulation of Occupational Boards

Mr. Kelter advised the Board that there is no progress with this bill.

SB 38: DHMH – Updating Advisory Boards and Councils

Mr. Kelter advised the Board that there was a minor amendment to this bill and it was passed out of the House.

HB 668 – Health Occupations Boards (HOB) – Regulations and Policy Interpretations – Notice and Public Meeting Requirements

This bill has been heard with no action. It is assumed that the bill may be referred for Summer Study.

SB 503 – Boards – Racial and Ethnic Disparities – Information Campaigns – Reporting

This bill has been amended and in the opposite House. Hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2017.

HB 63: Health Care Practitioners – Cost Estimate Notice Required

The professional associations are handling this bill.

Regulatory Review

None

Incomplete Applications – Administrative Closure

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that if an application for licensure is incomplete for one year, that it should be placed in the Maryland Register on February 17, 2017. Effective date of this bill will be February 27, 2017. Mr. Kelter informed the Board that there is approximately 25-30 licensure application. Mr. Kelter and Mr. DeFranco will draft a letter that will be sent to each applicant with an incomplete licensure application.

Executive Director’s Report

2017 Hearing Aid Dispenser Renewal – Final Update

Mr. Kelter reported that there are a few hearing aid dispensers that have completed the online renewal process but have not completed the criminal history records check. Mr. Kelter will work with IT to remove the remaining individuals in the queue before the audiology and speech-language pathology renewal starts.

Criminal History Records Check Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he sent out an e-mail reminder on February 28, 2017 to all licensees that will be renewing their license this year of the criminal history records check that needs to be completed before renewing their license. He also informed the Board that a total of 660

licensees have completed the criminal history records check with approximately 1,400 that need to complete the process.

Towson University (02/21 and 02/23) and Loyola University (02/27) Presentations

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the students were very receptive at Towson and Loyola University.

2017 AUD and SLP Renewal – CE Audit for SLPs

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that a fair amount of people are complying with the CEU Audit and that the compliance is not as high as last year. Mr. Kelter also informed the Board that the Tax Delinquent Report has been received from the Comptroller's Office; he will mail out the tax delinquent notices to the individuals on the list the following week along with the random audit letters.

Board Membership Update

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that John Rouse's appointment was sent to the Senate last week and there is no news on the speech-language pathologist vacancy.

Standing Committee

Mr. Kelter explained to the Board that members of the Board would assist Board staff on issues that may arise. He suggested a possible continuing education credit committee that would handle difficult matter involving continuing education, a legislative committee that would handle matters dealing with legislation and a licensure committee to handle difficult applications. Chris will come up with a plan to present to the Board next month. Mr. Kelter also informed the Board that 95-99% of all applications submitted to the Board have no questions on qualification but 1-5% of the applications submitted to the Board are difficult for the Board staff to address properly. Also, he stated that an Adhoc Committee would still be able to be created by the Board.

Renewal Fee

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the Board has worked hard to lower the fund balance. The fund balance has been down to approximately \$140; Mr. Kelter will bring the final fee back to the Board. Mr. Kelter also stated that the importance of maintaining the renewal fee is because of the 2017 law change for licensure that the 2009 Medicare billing rules change. The Board has always had too much money and that the Board cannot afford to go lower on the renewal fees.

Five Year Budget Plan

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he must come up with a plan on how the Board is going to raise fee.

July, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that his family's vacation has to be rescheduled to the week of the

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Board meeting in July due to his daughter's soccer schedule.

Treasurer's Report- John Sloan

Mr. Sloan reported for the month of February the Board has available funds in the amount of \$141,514.00.

Adjournment

Ms. O'Donovan made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting. Dr. Robinson seconded the motion. 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 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sloan, SLP
Chair