

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on May 19, 2016 in Room 110 of the DHMH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Ronald Kaplan called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m. Present for the quorum were Ms. Lisa Melody, Mr. John Rouse, Dr. Joan Dawson, Ms. Billie Jo O'Donovan, Mr. Kirk Payne, Ms. Ellen Stein, Mr. John Sloan, and Dr. Charlotte Godfrey.

Staff Present

Anthony DeFranco, AAG, Board Counsel
Christopher Kelter, Executive Director
Danielle Vallone, Board Investigator
Kristen Neville, DHMH
Yolanda Campbell, Office Secretary III

Absent Members

Mr. George Sheckells

Agenda Approval

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

Minutes Review and Approval for March 17, 2016

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

Minutes Review and Approval for April 21, 2016

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

Regulatory Review

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

Mr. Kelter reported that the Secretary would not sign off on the proposed regulatory change due to the imposition of new fines. Ms. Neville indicated that Governor's Office amended their previous advice concerning the prohibition on the imposition of new fees to include a prohibition on the imposition of new fines. Board Counsel Anthony recommended taking out the fine language and add "may result in disciplinary action" language. The Board agreed to the recommendation to alter the proposed regulatory proposal. Mr. DeFranco advise the Board he did not believe this was a substantive change that would require another public comment period.

Mr. John Rouse arrived

Correction of Penalty Language

Mr. Kelter reported it was likely the proposal would be rejected based on what was learned during the process for the notification requirements. Board Counsel recommended striking the "\$1,000" maximum fine entirely as an alternative to bring the rest of the Board's laws and regulations in line with the existing authority to fine up to \$5,000. The Board agreed to the recommendation.

Executive Director's Report

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

Mr. Kelter reported the online renewal process is going smoothly. Mr. Kelter provided information regarding individuals making a second or greater request for an extension of time to complete the continuing education requirements. Mr. Kelter advised the Board that the number of requests was more than double compared to the same time during the 2015 renewal. Mr. Kelter indicated that the 30 outstanding requests of individuals who had not yet submitted continuing education documentation would keep him quite busy through the beginning of June. Mr. Kelter indicated that final e-mail reminders would be issued in late May.

SLP Continuing Education Audit – a) Random b) Voluntary

Mr. Kelter reported that there was generally high compliance with the random and voluntary audits.

Dr. Scott London arrived

Office of Legislative Audits – Review

Mr. Kelter reported that the fiscal audit was still ongoing. Mr. Kelter reported that the Board was selected for a test of the renewal license issuing process. Mr. Kelter reported that the IT staff assisted the process by allowing for issuance of a "dummy" license for the purpose of confirming the steps taken to issue a renewal license. Mr. Kelter reported that he did not expect the audit to have any findings regarding the Board.

MSHA Convention – May 6, 2016

Mr. Kelter reported that he attended the Maryland Speech-Language Hearing Association's 2016 annual convention held in Annapolis. Mr. Kelter reported that he had numerous discussions with prospective applicants, licensees and employers.

Board Membership Update

Mr. Kelter reported that there was no update regarding the appointment of an E.N.T. physician to the current vacancy and that there was no update regarding the appointments of upcoming vacancy for the audiologist and hearing aid dispenser positions on the Board. Mr. Kelter reported that there were no updates regarding reappointment of current Board members. Mr. Kelter reported that the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Delaware submitted three nominees for the upcoming hearing aid dispenser vacancy. Mr. Kelter reported that Kim Bennardi was gracious in extending the deadline for the Society to obtain the three nominees. Mr. Kelter reported that the Society's President, James Orban, kept him informed throughout the entire process.

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Mr. Kelter reported the Department's Chief of Staff, Lisa Ellis, e-mailed all Department of Health and Mental Hygiene employees with information about "May Is Better Hearing and Speech Month."

WorkDay – Personnel Management System

Mr. Kelter reported that the WorkDay program was to be implemented shortly. Mr. Kelter explained that the WorkDay program ties together timekeeping, leave requests and personnel training in one cohesive program. Mr. Kelter expressed concerns that the program was intrusive and damped flexibility in managing employees.

2017 Legislative Session

Mr. Kelter reported that there might be a limit to the number of approved legislative proposals by the Department. Mr. Kelter reported that the Board did not have any substantive proposals under consideration. Ms. Neville advised she would keep track of developments in this area.

Treasurer's Report – John Sloan

Mr. Sloan reported that for the month of April the Board has available funds in the amount of \$85,080.00.

Statistical Report Ending April 30, 2016

The Board reviewed the Statistical Report in the Board packet.

Corrective Language for 2017 Legislative Session

Mr. Kelter indicated that this subject was discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Kelter reported that the Board should seek at least one corrective change where State law had not yet been amended to display the Board as one single entity rather than three separate boards. Mr. Kelter indicated that he would work with Ms. Neville to request corrective language to be included with the Annual Corrective Bill that encompasses statutory corrections throughout all State law.

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 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Kaplan, Au.D.
Chair