

**STATE OF NEVADA
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, AUDIOLOGY
AND HEARING AID DISPENSING BOARD**

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

July 27, 2019

Members Present: Tami Brancamp, Bonnie Lamping, Thomas Rainford, Andrea Menicucci, Michael Hodes, Jane McEvoy

Members Absent: Nighat Abdulla

Staff Present: Loretta Ponton, Executive Director
Stacey Whittaker, Executive Assistant/Licensing Specialist
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General
Paula Berkley, Board Lobbyist

Public Present: David Emme, Jennifer Pierce, Wendy Knorr

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - Tami Brancamp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment - There were no public comments.

Executive Director Recruitment, Interviews and Selection - Tami Brancamp summarized the final interview process, stating the Personnel Subcommittee interviewed four candidates, the top three being requested to interview before the Board. Ms. Brancamp stated it is the intent to select a candidate upon conclusion of the final interviews. Each candidate will have 10-15 minutes for a verbal presentation, followed by questions by the Board.

Michael Hodes recused himself from the discussions and voting.

Jennifer Pierce, Wendy Knorr and David Emme provided individual presentations to the Board regarding their qualifications and skill sets they would bring to the Board as the Executive Director.

Upon conclusion of the presentations, Tami Brancamp called a recess; the meeting reconvened at 10:15.

Tami Brancamp asked each member individually to rate the candidates with reasons for their selections. Andrea Menicucci selected Jennifer Pierce as her first choice and David Emme as second. Bonnie Lamping selected Jennifer Pierce as first choice with Wendy Knorr as second. Jane McEvoy selected Jennifer Pierce as first, with a tie for second. Tom Rainford stated David Emme on paper was best, but after the interviews, selected Jennifer Pierce as first choice with David Emme as second.

Jennifer Pierce's presentation skills, innovation and diverse experience in project management, organizational performance, health care compliance, education and public relations were discussed as her strengths. Jennifer's lack of direct legislative experience was identified as a weakness.

Wendy Knorr's experience in the health care fields and administration skills were discussed as strength's.

David Emme's strong administrative, legislative and regulatory experience were identified as strengths.

There was consensus that all three candidates were well qualified. Members discussed the future direction of the Board and which candidate would most meet the Board's goals.

Tami Brancamp called for a motion. Bonnie Lamping made the motion to offer the Executive Director position to Jennifer Pierce. The motion was seconded by Jane McEvoy. The motion passed with Mike Hodes recused.

Tom Rainford made the motion, seconded by Andrea Menicucci to provide the authority to Tami Brancamp and Loretta Ponton to negotiate the salary and terms of employment with Jennifer Pierce. The motion passed with Mike Hodes recused.

Tom Rainford made a motion, seconded by Jane McEvoy, to offer David Emme the position if the negotiations with Jennifer Pierce are not successful. The motion passed with Mike Hodes recused.

Jennifer Pierce was welcomed by the Members and joined the meeting for the balance of the agenda items.

Approval of Minutes - Tami Brancamp asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2019. A clerical correction was noted on page 3. Hearing no further comments, Ms. Brancamp called for a motion.

Mike Hodes made a motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2019, as corrected. Tom Rainford seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Disciplinary Matters - Recommendation for Dismissal - Tami Brancamp called on Loretta Ponton. Ms. Ponton reported that after investigation and review of all documentation received in the cases under consideration, it has been determined that there is insufficient evidence to file a formal complaint for hearing before the Board; and the facts set forth in the accusations are insufficient to establish a violation of Chapter 637B of the Nevada Revised Statutes or the Nevada Administrative Code.

Case No. A19-08 pertains to the practice of Audiology. The case alleged the licensee reported hearing loss in the incorrect ear.

Case No. S19-07 pertains to the practice of Speech-Language Pathology. The case alleged unprofessional conduct, failure to complete client records upon termination from employment.

Tami Brancamp called for a motion. Mike Hodes made the motion to approve dismissal of Case No. A19-08 and Case No. S19-07. Jane McEvoy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Legislative Report - Tami Brancamp called upon Paula Berkley, Board Lobbyist.

Paula Berkley directed the members to the written report of the 2019 Legislative Session, which contained detailed summary of actions on all bills tracked during the session. Ms. Berkley reported on specific outcomes and lessons learned from the legislative session, detailing bills of interest including efforts to increase Board fees, results of efforts to create new regulatory boards, scope of practice issues relating to oriental medicine and physical therapy, data collection initiatives and interim study of professional and occupational licensing boards.

Meeting was recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

Executive Director's Report - Tami Brancamp called on Loretta Ponton. Loretta directed the members to the written report.

Loretta Ponton reported on licensure statistics as of June 30, 2019, showing a net increase of 80 new licensees, 7% higher than FY18.

FY 2019 Financial Statements: Ms. Ponton summarized the financial statements as of June 30, 2019 reporting Revenue of \$156,605 at 100.52% of budget. Expenses totaled \$169,114 at 104.85% of budget. Ms. Ponton explained deviations to budget including an increase in legal fees due to complaints, early implementation of the data system and increase in merchant services payment site fees. The Board had also approved a change in base compensation for contract Executive Director services which is reflected in this fiscal year's expenses.

Balance sheet cash assets total \$167,712 with deferred revenue at \$68,429. The Board's overall financial position is strong at \$179,950 in assets.

Governor's Finance Office, Division of Internal Audits - Audit Report: Ms. Ponton reported on the Governor's Finance Office, Division of Internal Audits - Boards2 Audit Report that was presented to the Executive Audit Committee on June 25, 2019. The audit contains two (2) recommendations: to establish oversight of Boards under the Department of Business and Industry and establish standards for regulatory, financial and administrative operations through the Department of Business and Industry. If enacted, it would move all licensing Boards under an umbrella state agency, which will require substantial legislative action and may require general fund contributions. Ms. Ponton stated she would monitor and assess any action that may be undertaken to initiate legislation or create a new state oversight agency or division.

Correspondence - Official Transcripts: Ms. Ponton stated the Board has received a request to consider a change in policy to accept a "letter of completion" from an educational institution pending issuance of an official transcript, in instances when an "official transcript" is delayed

due to educational institution policy, thereby creating a hardship for new graduates seeking a license in order to begin employment.

It has been Board policy to accept only an official transcript that indicates a degree has been conferred. Ms. Ponton requested Board guidance on whether a letter of completion should be accepted pending receipt of an official transcript in order to process and issue a new license.

Board members discussed the policy of original transcripts and agreed that in some cases, the applicant is not able to obtain an official transcript in a timely manner due to circumstances not under their control.

Tami Brancamp called for a motion.

Mike Hodes made the motion, seconded by Tom Rainford to accept a letter of completion from an educational institution signed by either the registrar, Dean, or Department Chair in cases where the issuance of the official transcript is delayed due to institutional policy, with follow up to ensure the official transcript is received. The motion passed.

Report from Legal Counsel – Henna Rasul stated she has nothing further to report.

Report from Board Chair and Board Members – Tami Brancamp acknowledged and presented Jane McEvoy an award for her service on the Board from October 1, 2015 through July 1, 2019. Jane McEvoy stated she would continue service until a new appointment is made.

Tami Brancamp recognized Paula Berkley for her service as the Board's lobbyist for the past 10 years.

A change to the next meeting from in-person on October 19th to a teleconference on Friday, October 18, at 4:30 p.m. was agreed to.

Tami Brancamp stated future agenda items include new regulations to clarify NRS 637B.080 and citation structure, possible regulation workshops, board orientation for new members and staff, setting the 2020 meeting schedule and discussions on hiring a lobbyist for the future.

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Adjournment – Tami Brancamp adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.