

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

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**January 19, 2019**

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Members Present: Tami Brancamp, Nighat Abdulla, Thomas Rainford, , Andrea Menicucci,  
Michael Hodes, Jane McEvoy

Members Absent: Bonnie Lamping

Staff Present: Loretta Ponton, Executive Director  
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General

Public Present: None

**Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum** - Tami Brancamp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

**Public Comment** - There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes** - Tami Brancamp asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2018. Hearing no comments, called for a motion.

Mike Hodes made a motion to approve the minutes of October 19, 2018. Nighat Abdulla seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Appeal of Denial & Request for Approval of CE Course** - Members reviewed and discussed NAC 637B.400 and NAC 637B.420 with consensus that a CPR course is not specific to the profession.

Tami Brancamp called for a motion to approve or deny the request made by Amy Stoel to grant credit of 4 hours for the continuing education course ProCPR.

Tom Rainford made the motion, seconded by Jane McEvoy to deny the ProCPR course for continuing education credit.

Tami Brancamp called for a motion regarding waiver or extension of time to complete the 4 hours previously denied.

Tom Rainford made the motion to add the 4 hours of continuing education to the requirement for renewal of Ms. Stoel's license for 2020 for a total of 19 hours. Nighat Abdulla seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Disciplinary Matters - Unlicensed Practice** - Ms. Ponton explained Mr. Peter Tromboli's circumstances that resulted in a period of unlicensed practice between August 14, 2018 and October 7, 2018.

Members reviewed documentation and discussed NRS 637B.290 regarding practice without a license and penalties.

Tami Brancamp called for a motion.

Tom Rainford made the motion to issue a citation for unlicensed practice, impose a fine of \$250.00, and stay the fine unless there is a second offense. Mike Hodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with Andrea Menicucci voting No.

**Advisory Committee for the Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Aids** - Michael Hodes reported on the Advisory Committee meeting of January 11, 2019.

Mr. Hodes stated the Advisory Committee recommends the Board officially support the passage of the "Audiology Patient Choice Act" which is federal legislation to improve access to hearing health care services for senior and people with disabilities.

Mr. Hodes stated the support would be in the form of a formal letter from the Board.

Tami Brancamp asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, called for a motion.

Mike Hodes made the motion, seconded by Tom Rainford to direct the Executive Director to submit a letter on behalf of the Board in support of the passage of the "Audiology Patient Choice Act. The motion passed.

Mike Hodes reported that the Advisory Committee would like to hold a practical exam training session in Reno for the exam proctors. The training would require travel from Las Vegas for two Advisory Committee members who are not members of the Board and requested Board approval for the travel expenses.

Tami Brancamp asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, called for a motion.

Tom Rainford made the motion, seconded by Mike Hodes to approve travel expenses of Advisory Committee members to participate in a practical exam training in Reno. The motion passed.

**Draft Interstate Compact** - Tami Brancamp lead the discussion on the proposed Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Interstate Compact. There was consensus to continue the conversation on the Compact and include stakeholders. A presentation by the National Center for Interstate Compacts will be requested for a future date.

**Board Planning** - Tami Brancamp asked Loretta to facilitate. Ms. Ponton reaffirmed that she will not be seeking renewal of her contract for Executive Director Services. Ms. Ponton recommended the Board appoint a personnel subcommittee to work with her in reviewing

existing and future staffing needs, including but not limited to determining the direction for staffing the Executive Director position.

Tami Brancamp agreed with the recommendation and asked for volunteers interested in working on the Board's staffing reviews.

Tom Rainford made the motion, seconded by Mike Hodes to establish a personnel subcommittee and appoint Tami Brancamp and Andrea Menicucci as members of the subcommittee. The motion passed.

Ms. Ponton reported the Board of Occupational Therapy administrative office lease expires July 31, 2019 and they are looking at options for renewal or relocation of the administrative office. Ms. Ponton stated the co-location agreement with the OT would remain in effect unless the Board wished to terminate the agreement.

Tami Brancamp asked if there were any questions or comments. There was Board member consensus that co-location and cost-sharing agreement is beneficial to the Board and they wished to continue the agreement and that with the addition of a new Executive Director Position, the Board would request the OT Board consider adding a private office.

Tami Brancamp called for a motion.

Tom Rainford made the motion, seconded by Andrea Menicucci to continue with the co-location and cost sharing agreement and to request a private office for the Executive Director position. The motion passed.

The Board recessed at 11:32 a.m. and reconvened at 12:12 p.m.

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

Loretta Ponton reported on current licensure statistics, summarized the FY 19 2nd Quarter Financial Reports, and discussed pending legislative bill draft requests.

Ms. Ponton reported on the Governor's Executive Audit Committee status report on the Boards Audit; provided an update on the status of the "Boards 2" audit. Ms. Ponton reported on the Office of Attorney General Opinion No. 2018-07, which clarified, that employees of fee-funded Boards are governed by the salary limitations set forth in NRS 281.123, which establishes a salary limitation of not more than 95% of the salary of the Governor.

Ms. Ponton reported that one verbal quote has been received to facilitate a Strategic Planning Session. The estimated cost would range between \$5,000 for a one-day facilitation to \$16,000 for full development. The Board previously approved tentative dates of May 17 & 18, which conflict with UNR Graduation.

There was discussion on the strategic planning logistics and dates with a consensus that the strategic planning session be canceled and be rescheduled in the future.

Ms. Ponton concluded with a report on the status of pending complaints and recommended the Board consider requesting a training from the Attorney General's Office on the Administrative Hearing Process.

**Contract Performance Review, Lorylynn Ltd., Executive Director Services** - Tami Brancamp led the discussion and performance review of the Executive Director services provided during 2018. There was consensus that performance continued to be outstanding.

Tami Brancamp called for a motion on the award of a performance bonus for services rendered in 2018.

Mike Hodes made the motion to award a full performance bonus of 20%, seconded by Jane McEvoy. The motion passed.

Ms. Ponton addressed the Board regarding consideration of revising the base compensation rate for her final year (2019) under the contract and eliminate the end of year performance bonus.

Tami Brancamp asked if there were any comments or discussion, hearing none called for a motion.

Mike Hodes made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to increase the 2019 base compensation rate by \$1,000 per month and eliminate the 2019 performance bonus. The motion passed.

**Report from Board Chair and Board Members** – Tami Brancamp confirmed the 2019 meeting schedule, stating the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting is the target date for selection of the new Executive Director.

Loretta Ponton reported that Bonnie Lamping and Jane McEvoy's terms are expiring and that Bonnie has indicated she will not be requesting reappointment.

Tami Brancamp stated future agenda items would include strategic planning topics; regulation revisions to clarify NRS 637B.080 and citation structure, personnel subcommittee updates, legislative updates and training on the administrative hearing process. The presentation on the Compact may be scheduled at a separate work session.

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

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

**Adjournment** – Tami Brancamp adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.