

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

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
Advisory Committee on Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids**

October 19, 2018

Members Present: Thomas Rainford, Melissa Maestas, Jennifer Joy-Cornejo,
Nanci Campbell

Members Absent: Michael Hodes

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

Public Present: Sonia Crockett, HAS Apprentice

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - Loretta Ponton called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment - There were no public comments.

Introductions and Orientation to the Board - Each member provided a brief background of their qualifications and experience. Loretta Ponton provided a summary orientation to the Board, explaining the requirements for open meetings, board and staff structure, administrative requirements and the role and responsibilities of advisory members.

Election of Chair – Loretta Ponton explained the Chair position is appointed by the Committee and must be a member of the Board.

Tom Rainford made a motion to appoint Mike Hodes as Chair, seconded by Jennifer Joy-Cornejo. The motion passed.

Review of Pertinent Laws, Regulations and Policies – Loretta Ponton summarized the NRS and NAC sections of Chapter 637B pertinent to the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids; explaining the NAC are regulations created by the Board. The Committee will be charged with making recommendations to the Board for any revisions or additions to the regulations. Also identified were the Board policies pertinent to the Advisory Committee.

Consideration of Sanctions; Sonia Crockett, License #HAS-0568 Apprentice - Loretta Ponton provided background information on the circumstances relating to the reinstatement of Ms. Crockett's apprentice license. Ms. Crockett let her license lapse in March, 2018 but continued to work under the direction of her sponsor until notified to cease and desist. Her

license was reinstated September 19, 2018. The Committee is requested to make a determination on whether sanctions should be recommended to the Board for unlicensed practice during the period her license was expired; and whether Ms. Crockett should be credited for the time during which her license was expired toward the 2-year in-service training requirement.

Sonia Crockett explained the circumstances surrounding her letting her license lapse, stating that she believed her license was for two (2) years as it was a two-year training period. She acknowledged that she did receive notice of license renewal; however, did not follow through. Ms. Crockett stated she would not intentionally do anything to jeopardize her license, it was an oversight, she takes her practice seriously.

Tom Rainford asked whether she continued to practice under her sponsor, Ms. Crockett answered affirmatively, that she did perform apprentice duties. Mr. Rainford questioned whether the sponsor was aware the license was expired; stating it is a responsibility of the sponsor to ensure the apprentice is in compliance with the law.

Melissa Maestas agreed with Mr. Rainford on the responsibility of the sponsor also, stating the sponsor should be held accountable as well. Ms. Ponton directed the discussion back to the matter under consideration, stating the sponsor responsibilities would be researched for a future meeting agenda item.

After discussion, members were in consensus that sanctions are warranted, and that credit for in-service training would not be appropriate.

Ms. Ponton reviewed the options for sanctions, stating the Committee could recommend a citation for unlicensed practice, with or without a fine.

Tom Rainford made the motion to issue a citation for unlicensed practice, with no fine and no credit towards the in-service training requirement during the period of unlicensed practice. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Ponton asked Tom Rainford to present the recommendation at the Board meeting, as Mike Hodes was not present.

Future agenda items – Loretta Ponton made recommendations for future agenda topics and asked the members for additional topics and priority for consideration.

After discussion the following topics were added to the recommendations: Self-Fitting Hearing Aids; Audiology Assistants and On-Line Sales such as Hear Store. Nancy Campbell and Jennifer Joy-Cornejo expressed interest in becoming proctors for the state Practical Exam.

Meeting Schedule – Members discussed meeting prior to regularly scheduled meetings, and at additional times as needed. The next regular Board meeting will be held January 19, 2019.

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Adjournment –The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.