

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

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**November 17, 2017**

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Members Present: Tami Brancamp, Jane McEvoy, Thomas Rainford, Michael Hodes, Nighat Abdulla, Bonnie Lamping, Mark Butler - Advisory Member  
Members Absent: Rebecca Bailey-Torres  
Staff Present: Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director  
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General  
Public Present: Connie Christenson, Kohn & Associates LLP

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**Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum** -Tami Brancamp, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.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 September 9, 2017. Hearing no comments, Ms. Brancamp called for a motion.

Mike Hodes made a motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2017, seconded by Jane McEvoy.

The motion passed.

**Biennial Audit Report** - Loretta Ponton introduced Connie Christenson of Kohn & Associates.

Ms. Christenson presented the biennial audit for the fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Ms. Christenson reported the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of the activities and fund information of the Board in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. There were no issues or deficiencies in internal controls identified, nor were there instances of non-compliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. The audit was a very clean audit.

Tami Brancamp asked if there were any questions from members. Hearing none, called for a motion.

Nighat Abdulla made the motion, seconded by Mike Hodes to approve the biennial audit of the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board for Fiscal Years 2016 / 2017 as presented. The motion passed.

**Dispensing Workgroup Report and Recommendations** - Michael Hodes presented the Dispensing Workgroup report and recommendations for proposed regulations and addition to Policy 03. The Workgroup reviewed and revised proposed regulations to address the following:

Temporary License - Hearing Aid Specialists, establishes written examination timeline, sets criteria for eligibility to renew for additional 6 months; and sets one-time limit on obtaining a temporary license.

Provisional License - Hearing Aid Specialist, requires active license status, clarifies and defines training required for certification, limits to those not eligible for NBC-HIS certification, and clarifies requirement for exam status for renewal.

In-service Training - completion of two-year degree program meets the in-service training program requirements. This regulation is consistent with NBC-HIS eligibility to exam requirements.

License Reinstatement - Policy 03 Dispensing Examinations & Scores, establishing 5-year period for re-examination requirement when reinstating a dispensing license.

The proposed language addition reads, “Reinstatement of License - A dispensing audiologist or hearing aid specialist is not required to re-take the written and practical examinations if they passed the examinations within the previous 5 years.”

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Board approve the proposed language for regulations to clarify temporary and provisional license requirements and acceptance of in-service training program for two-year degree programs.
2. The Board approve the proposed revision to Policy 03 Dispensing Examinations & Scores to add Reinstatement of a License clarification.

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

Mike Hodes made the motion, seconded by Jane McEvoy to approve the recommendations of the Dispensing Workgroup for proposed regulatory language as presented and proposed revision to Policy 03 Dispensing Examinations & Scores as presented. The motion passed.

**Executive Director’s Report** – Tami Brancamp called on Loretta Ponton.

Licensure Statistics - Ms. Ponton reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter licensure statistics reporting 1101 licensees as of September 30, 2017, 61 new licenses were issued with 34 licenses expiring during the period.

Ms. Ponton reported the new licensing data system has been implemented with minimal issues; on-line renewals are being processed through the new system. Notice has been given to GL Solutions that the Board will not be renewing their subscription upon expiration.

Financial Statements - Ms. Ponton summarized the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, Fiscal Year 2018 financial reports. Revenue is at \$37,463, 26% of budget, expenses are \$45,692, 25% of budget. Cash assets total \$168,722 with deferred revenue at \$42,639.

*Audit of Boards and Commissions* - Ms. Ponton reported the Executive Branch Audit Committee directed the Governor's Finance Office, Division of Internal Audits to audit all Boards and Commissions. Boards were notified October 10<sup>th</sup> of the audit and documentation was to be provided by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Board submitted all requested information and documentation on November 1, 2017. This audit is different from the biennial financial audit requirement and includes an evaluation of performance and administrative systems, including personnel and compensation, contracting and use of outside legal counsel.

Ms. Ponton reported the audit might be utilized to develop legislation for the 2019 Legislative Session to address "state oversight" of professional licensing boards.

Ms. Ponton concluded her report stating there are no complaints pending.

**Report from Legal Counsel** – Henna Rasul stated she had no report.

**Report from Board Chair** – Tami Brancamp stated she attended the ASHA Conference, 14,000 individuals attended. Ms. Brancamp reported the Nevada State College SLP master's level program is moving forward with accreditation efforts and the college is recruiting for a medical-based director for their program.

Loretta Ponton asked to review the revised proposed 2018 board meeting schedule prior to consideration of future agenda items. The members confirmed the revised meeting schedule was good, with the next meeting to be held February 10, 2018 in Las Vegas.

Future agenda items were identified as a public workshop on dispensing regulations; the public hearing on LCB File No. R016-17; consideration of contracting for legislative services for the 2019 session and contracting for out-side legal counsel for prosecuting cases; and the annual performance review of the executive director contract services.

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

**Adjournment** – Tami Brancamp called for a motion to adjourn.

Mike Hodes made the motion, seconded by Jane McEvoy to adjourn.

The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.