

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

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

July 29, 2016

Members Present:	Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Tami Brancamp, Bonnie Lamping, Jane McEvoy, Thomas Rainford
Members Absent:	Nighat Abdulla, Richard Johnson; Elizabeth Lynner Mark Butler, Advisory Member, Michael Hodes, Advisory Member
Staff Present:	Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General
Public Present:	Paula Berkley

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment – No comments were heard.

Approval of Minutes - Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of April 30, 2016; hearing none called for a motion.

Bonnie Lamping made the motion, seconded by Jane McEvoy to approve the minutes of April 30, 2016. The motion passed.

Legislation - Consideration of Proposed Legislation - Loretta Ponton and Paula Berkley presented.

NRS 622 - The proposed language would have minimal effect on the Board, as it is general in nature. The language is intended to document current processes in the oversight by the State of its professional boards; and add an appeal or review process related to cease and desist orders.

Discussion was heard regarding potential revisions that could be made leading up to and during the legislative session and that the Board should be made aware of any revisions in a timely manner. There was consensus that the concept outlined in the proposed language was acceptable but that the Board reserves the right to support or oppose any bill introduced as a result of this proposed draft bill.

Tom Rainford made the motion, seconded by Bonnie Lamping to direct the Executive Director to send a letter expressing the Board’s position to support the concepts outlined in the proposed bill draft to revise NRS 622 regarding legislative oversight. The motion passed.

NRS 637B.201 - Loretta Ponton explained that subsequent to the development of the proposed language to include a provisional license for audiologists, it was determined current law does not require “certification” for initial licensure for audiologists and therefore the proposed revisions to add a provisional license for audiology are not necessary.

The proposed revisions also add an additional eligibility criteria for a hearing aid specialist who holds a HIS diploma and changes the term “training” to “dispensing experience”. This proposed change would align with the NBC-HIS eligibility criteria for certification.

Ms. Ponton also stated that a new paragraph was added which would not allow a provisional licensee to practice by means of telepractice. This would apply only to speech-language pathologists who are by law are authorized to use telepractice.

After discussion, it was determined there was a need for more in-depth review and discussions on the use of telepractice with a consensus to establish a Telepractice Workgroup.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres, after consideration by the Board, tabled the proposed revisions to NRS 637B.201 provisional licensing and referred the hearing aid specialist criteria language to the Dispensing Workgroup for consideration.

Legislative Report - Paula Berkley reported that bill draft requests have started to be pre-filed; she will be attending legislative committee meetings and tracking pre-filed bill drafts and will work with the Executive Director to evaluate any impacts to the Board on proposed topics and bills.

Hearing Aid Dispensing Passing Scores - Loretta Ponton explained that the Board should formally adopt the passing scores for the dispensing examinations. This Board carried over the current passing score of 75% established by the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists. The International Hearing Society recommends a score of 71% as passing on their newly updated written exam.

Tom Rainford stated he feels the Board should retain the previously approved 75% passing score and not reduce it with a consensus from the Board members.

Ms. Ponton also stated that it has been the practice that a passing score was required on each section of the practical exam.

Rebecca-Bailey Torres called for a motion.

Tom Rainford made the motion, seconded by Tami Brancamp to adopt a passing score of 75% for the written ILE examination and a passing score of 75% for each section on the ILE Practical Exam. The motion passed.

Policies - Loretta Ponton stated that three (3) policies are proposed for adoption to formalize the Board’s actions by establishing a uniform policy manual on Board directives.

Policy 01 - Board Compensation - the Board compensation rates were approved on January 23, 2016. There were no questions on Policy 01.

Policy 02 - Advisory Members - the Board appointed advisory members on November 21, 2016. This policy establishes the process for requesting and approving advisory members and establishes the terms of those members. After discussion, there was consensus that the limitation on the number of terms an advisory member may serve is not necessary and should be removed.

Policy 03 - Dispensing Examination and Scores - the Board approved the State examinations on June 27, 2015 and today formally established the passing scores. This policy also establishes the timeline for requesting and taking examinations. Ms. Ponton stated that an audiology graduate student who is nearing completion of their externship should also be able to submit an application and take the examinations in advance; and with the Board approval, a paragraph will be added to this policy to that fact. There were no objections.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked if this requires separate motions; Henna Rasul stated it is up to the Board. Ms. Bailey-Torres called for a motion to approve Policy 01, Policy 02 and Policy 03.

Tami Brancamp made the motion, seconded by Tom Rainford to approve Policy 01, Board Compensation as presented, Policy 02, Advisory Board Members as revised and Policy 03, Dispensing Examinations and Scores with revision as discussed. The motion passed.

Co-Location and Cost Allocation Agreement - Loretta Ponton stated the previous Board entered into a cost allocation and co-location agreement for the Board's administrative office in February 2012 with the Board of Occupational Therapy. An updated agreement is presented for Board consideration and approval to continue the co-location of the staff and administrative office.

Rebecca Bailey-Torres call for a motion.

Bonnie Lamping made the motion, seconded by Jane McEvoy to approve the Board Administrative Office Co-location and Cost Allocation Agreement with the Board of Occupational Therapy. The motion passed.

Contract Amendment - This item was tabled.

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget - Loretta Ponton presented the FY 2017 Budget for Board consideration and approval. Ms. Ponton stated the budget was prepared based upon current and projected licensee numbers and historical expense data. Operating expenses include increases in contract services for the executive director which now includes funding for a bonus; and legislative services in the amount of \$22,300 which funds an amendment to the contract with Paula Berkley in the amount of \$21,000, extending the end date to November 30, 2017 to provide services through the 2017 Legislative Session. The budget also contains authority to fund a new licensing system and includes an increase in personnel and payroll due to expanded work hours.

Rebecca-Bailey-Torres called for a motion.

Tom Rainford made the motion, seconded by Jane McEvoy to approve the FY 2017 Budget including the proposed contract amendment for Legislative Services as presented. The motion passed.

Disciplinary Matters - This item was tabled.

Executive Director's Report – Rebecca Bailey-Torres called on Loretta Ponton.

Ms. Ponton provided a report on annual licensure statistics for FY 2016, and 4th Quarter statistics.

Ms. Ponton reported that Governor Sandoval has re-appointed Bonnie Lamping and Jane McEvoy to the Board through 2019.

Negotiations and analysis for a move of the licensing data system remains on going. InLumon developed the HAS and Apprentice on-line renewal system; however, there has been issues with the system that may affect the ability to convert all data to the new system, GL Solutions has taken notice and is being more responsive to requests and issues.

Report from Board Chair – Rebecca Bailey-Torres stated the next meeting is scheduled in Las Vegas on November 5th; Tami Brancamp will Chair the meeting as she is not available on that date. The meeting schedule for calendar year 2017 will be set at the November meeting. Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked for discussion for future agenda items.

Tom Rainford requested that the remote programming of hearing aids be discussed as technology has improved and would like to know if this would be considered “telepractice”. There was consensus to delegate this topic to the Dispensing Workgroup prior to the next meeting.

There was also consensus to establish a “Telepractice Workgroup” to review current and future use of telepractice in Nevada.

Report from Legal Counsel – No report.

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Adjournment – Rebecca Bailey-Torres called for a motion to adjourn. Bonnie Lamping made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jane McEvoy. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.