

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

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

October 9, 2015

Members Present: Rebecca Bailey-Torres, Richard Johnson, Nighat Abdulla, Michael Hodes representing the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists
Members Absent: Anthony Zamboni, Bonnie Lamping
Staff Present: Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director
Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Public Present: Tom Rainford

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum - The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Rebecca Bailey-Torres, President. It was confirmed with legal counsel that the current members of the Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology and Michael Hodes, representing the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists were acting as carry-over appointments from the previous Boards as new appointments to the Board had not been confirmed. A quorum of active members was confirmed as present.

Public Comment – No comments were heard.

Approval of Minutes – Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked if there were any corrections, revisions or deletions to the minutes of June 27, 2015. Clerical corrections were made on page 2, last sentence and page 4, disciplinary actions first sentence.

Nighat Abdulla made the motion, to approve the minutes of June 27, 2015 as corrected; Richard Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Disciplinary Actions – Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked Loretta to present.

Loretta Ponton stated that Case AS 15-04 and AS 15-05 are related and pertain to the Speech-Pathology profession. Loretta stated the two cases are being recommended for formal dismissal as it was determined through informal investigation sufficient evidence does not exist to support a violation of NRS 637B or NAC 637B.

Richard Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mike Hodes to dismiss Cases AS 15-04 and AS 15-05. The motion passed.

Loretta stated that Case AS 15-06 related to the Audiology profession was recommended for formal dismissal as it was determined sufficient evidence does not exist to warrant filing a formal Complaint for violation of NRS 637B or NAC 637B.

Richard Johnson made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to dismiss Case AS 15-06. The motion passed.

Dispensing Work Group Update – Rebecca Bailey-Torres asked Loretta Ponton to present.

Loretta Ponton provided a brief update on the activities of the Dispensing Work Group and outlined the draft regulations for examinations, sponsor responsibilities, delegation of duties to unlicensed persons and the new apprenticeship program being developed by the Work Group.

Ms. Ponton reported a final review meeting would be held on October 23rd with Work Group regulation recommendations to be made to the full Board at their next meeting.

Continuing Education Regulation Draft – Loretta Ponton summarized the regulatory changes to continuing education requirements, stating the regulations revise current sections and also add new sections. New section on general requirements identifies that active and provisional licenses require CE for renewal, exempts new graduates from CE for the first renewal and delineates that documentation must be provided at renewal.

The draft incorporates the 12 hour CE requirement for hearing aid specialists and apprentices; subject matter is revised to specify that it must pertain to the profession in which licensed, and added reference to courses approved by the national associations and the Nevada Department of Education.

Discussion was heard regarding automatically accepting and NDE courses as they may not be related to the professions but more toward “teaching” credentials. There was a consensus the NDE reference needed to be clarified.

Loretta continued summarizing the remaining revisions stating there is a provision to approve credit for activities not specifically referenced and also a waiver or deferral of CE in certain instances. It was noted that any CE approved for waiver would be added to the next year’s requirement.

Discussion was heard regarding the CE requirements for a dispensing audiologist with a consensus that at least 5 hours of CE must be directly related to the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids.

Discussion continued regarding whether to require an ethics course as a CE course; with a consensus not to make ethics a required CE course.

Richard Johnson made the motion, seconded by Nighat Abdulla to approve the draft continuing education regulations as discussed and revised. The motion passed.

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

Loretta Ponton directed the members to the written report. Ms. Ponton summarized the licensing statistics stating the chart shows the hearing aid specialist and apprentice numbers carried in as of July 1, 2015 with 19 new HA licenses issued through September, 2015.

The year-end financial reports were summarized stating the loss of \$29,791 is reflective of the increased costs incurred during the Legislative Session related to the merger and passage of AB115.

Ms. Ponton reported the biennial audit for FY 14 / FY 15 is in process and as of this date, there are no questioned costs or issues.

Report from Board Chair – Rebecca Bailey-Torres reported she attended the annual retreat of the Board of Occupational Therapy at which the issue of Productivity and Ethical Conduct was discussed. The national PT, OT and ASHA associations have a consensus statement on this issue and the Board of Occupational Therapy would like the Board and the PT Board to consider a state consensus statement or guidelines to help our speech practitioners when faced with these types of issues.

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

Public Comment – There were no public comments...

Adjournment – Rebecca Bailey-Torres called for a motion to adjourn. Nighat Abdulla made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Richard Johnson. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.