*Minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to revision at the next meeting.*

State of Nevada
**Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board**

# MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Advisory Committee on Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids

**January 12, 2022**

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| **Members Present:** | Michael Hodes; Lynee Anderson; Nanci Campbell; Jennifer Joy-Cornejo; Melissa Maestas |
| **Members Absent:** | None |
| **Staff Present:** | Jennifer Pierce, Executive Director<br>Stacey Whittaker, Licensing Coordinator<br>Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General |
| **Public Present:** | Nancy Kuhles |

**Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum**

Jennifer Pierce agreed to facilitate the meeting on behalf of Michael Hodes due to his location. Ms. Pierce called the meeting to order at 4:40pm. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

**Public Comment**

Nancy Kuhles introduced herself as the ASHA COA Chair and COA Committee Ambassador for Nevada in Speech-Language Pathology. Her comments are regarding Agenda Item 5, and she stated she is looking forward to hearing and reading recommendations from the workgroup regarding Over the Counter hearing aids and awaiting the FDA ruling coming out as well. Ms. Kuhles also thanked the Committee members for all they do.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Ms. Pierce asked for corrections or a motion to approve the August 11, 2021 minutes as written. Melissa Maestas made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Michael Hodes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Consideration for Recommendation to Board for Revisions to NRS 637B Related to NBC-HIS Certification Requirement for HAS License**

Ms. Pierce summarized the Committee's discussion on this item during its August 11, 2021 meeting. The matter was originally brought to the Committee to consider a recommendation to the Board regarding a potential revision to NRS 637B that would remove the requirement for NBC-HIS national certification for Hearing Aid Specialist (HAS) licensure as required in NRS 637B.193(2). This requirement has presented a challenge for a handful of HAS Apprentices in transitioning to a Standard HAS license, and out-of-state HAS applicants have provided feedback that the requirement is not common in other states. The

Committee tabled the matter in the August meeting and asked for more information on the certification requirements elsewhere.

During this meeting, the Committee was provided with an update from NBC-HIS confirming that only two states, Nevada and Utah, require the certification for licensure. NBC-HIS reported that it does not support using this certification as an entry level requirement as it is intended to be "an optional pursuit for the advanced hearing aid dispensing professional". NBC-HIS has offered to collaborate with the Board on revising this standard to align with national standards.

Michael Hodes suggested consideration to remove the requirement and asked for feedback from members. There was discussion on the matter including historical context provided by Melissa Maestas, who explained that it was brought over from the prior Hearing Aid Dispensing Board and may have been intended to address problems with dispensers at that time, raise standards, and ensure competency. Ms. Maestas also shared that maintaining certification is costly and does not provide commensurate value to the practitioner.

Ms. Pierce asked for a motion. Michael Hodes made a motion to recommend the Board adopt revisions to NRS 637B related to NBC-HIS Certification Requirement for HAS Licensure as a future legislative priority. Jennifer-Joy Cornejo seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Update and Consideration of Recommendations on FDA Rulemaking for Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids**
This matter was originally heard during the August 2021 Committee meeting and a vote was taken to recommend the Board issue a position statement on Over the Counter hearing aids that agrees with and refers to the *ADA, AAA, AAOHNS, and ASHA Joint Statement*. The matter was on the agenda but tabled at the Board's October 2021 meeting. It is again on the January 19, 2022 Board Meeting agenda.

On October 20, 2021, the FDA released Proposed rules for Over the Counter Hearing Aids and Draft Guidance "*Regulatory Requirements for Hearing Aid Devices and Personal Sound Amplification Products",* with public comments due on each by January 18, 2022, 11:59pm ET.

The matter was brought back to the Committee during this meeting as an update and to consider any revisions to the earlier recommendation regarding the joint statement for consideration by the Board at the January 19, 2022 meeting. There was discussion around how these devices may impact consumers and several members indicated they are not overly concerned, as amplification devices have already been available for some time. The discussion reinforced the Committee's August 2021 vote to recommend adoption of the position statement. No action was taken.

**Reports from Committee Chair and Members**
There were no reports from the Committee Chair or Members. Ms. Pierce suggested that the next Committee meeting would be tentatively scheduled for August 2022 with the option to schedule a meeting sooner pending new matters in need of timely attention.

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

**Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 5:12pm.