



State of Nevada

Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Advisory Committee on Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids

April 12, 2023

Members Present: Michael Hodes; Lynee Anderson; Nanci Campbell; Jennifer Joy-Cornejo; Melissa Maestas

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jennifer Pierce, Executive Director
Stacey Whittaker, Licensing Coordinator
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General

Public Present: Laura Fink

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Executive Director Pierce began the meeting as Chair Michael Hodes was in another meeting and planned to join late. Ms. Pierce called the meeting to order at 4:38pm. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Pierce asked for corrections or a motion to approve the January 18, 2023 minutes as written. Melissa Maestas made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Review and Feedback on Regulation Review and Proposal for Revision/Modification and Draft Report for Executive Order 2023-003

Ms. Pierce presented the draft report for the Governor's Office pursuant to Executive Order 2023-003, which required a comprehensive review of regulations in NAC 637B with suggestions for regulations to revise or remove. The draft report will also be reviewed at the Board's April 26, 2023 meeting, at which time a public hearing will be conducted to solicit stakeholder input on the proposed changes. Discussion resulted in consensus that the report was sufficient and thorough as written, and no revisions were suggested. Ms. Pierce called for a motion. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to recommend no changes to the report. Melissa Maestas seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Review and Recommendation to the Board on Revisions to NRS 637B.050 "Practice of audiology" defined to Include Reference to Required Endorsement for Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids

Ms. Pierce recalled that at its January 18, 2023 meeting, the Committee recommended a revision to NRS 637B.050 that clarifies/cites the dispensing endorsement requirement in NRS 637B.205. As such, drafted language was presented in this meeting for review and recommendation to the Board. No changes were suggested, and Ms. Pierce called for a motion. Melissa Maestas made a motion to approve the drafted language and recommend the revision to the Board for a future BDR. Nanci Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Review and Recommendations on Investigations of Complaints Related to Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids Pursuant to NAC 637B.034

Ms. Pierce explained that NAC 637B.034 establishes the Advisory Committee on Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids with a provision that the Committee “shall make recommendations to the Board on all matters relating to the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids, including, without limitation: (d) Investigations of complaints relating to the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids.” Per NRS 637B.288 complaint investigation records (with some exceptions) remain confidential. As such, three cases were presented verbally during the meeting without any identifying names or case numbers, and a request that the committee recommend either: 1) dismissal due to insufficient evidence to establish a violation of chapter 637b of the Nevada revised statutes or the Nevada administrative code; 2) filing a formal complaint to proceed with a public hearing where the board may make a finding of fact and impose disciplinary action as deemed appropriate; or 3) further investigation with recommendations for specific information, documents, or witnesses to be considered.

- Case #1: Discussion resulted in consensus to recommend filing a formal complaint. Ms. Pierce called for a motion. Nanci Campbell made a motion to recommend filing a formal complaint. Lynee Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Case #2: Discussion resulted in consensus to recommend filing a formal complaint. Ms. Pierce called for a motion. Nanci Campbell made a motion to recommend filing a formal complaint. Lynee Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Case #3: Discussion resulted in consensus to recommend filing a formal complaint. Ms. Pierce called for a motion. Melissa Maestas made a motion to recommend filing a formal complaint. Nanci Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Update on IHS Practical Exam Revisions and Fees

Ms. Pierce summarized a meeting held between Board staff and the International Hearing Society (IHS) the prior day regarding revisions to the practical examination that IHS expects to release in the next few months. Ms. Pierce shared an overview of the exam changes and confirmed that IHS plans to increase the fee per exam to \$200.00. The Board currently pays \$50.00 per exam, so this increase will be significant, but IHS is willing to work with the Board on a graduated increase. The current agreement with IHS expires in October 2023 so Ms. Pierce will bring the matter to the Board to approve renewing the contract with a new negotiated rate. This item was informational only and no action was taken.

Reports from Committee Chair and Members

Ms. Pierce asked the Committee to join her in acknowledging Michael Hodes’ service to the Board and as Chair of this Committee as his term draws to an end this July. Committee members and staff thanked Dr. Hodes for his work and wished him well. Ms. Pierce reported that the Committee will likely meet again in August or September 2023, after new appointments have been made to the Board, and a new Board member will be appointed to Dr. Hodes’ seat on the Committee. At that meeting, the Committee will also be tasked with nominating and electing a new Committee Chair from the appointed Board members.

Michael Hodes shared that the University of Nevada Reno does not have funding to hire another audiologist since the prior faculty left the program, and as a result he expects the Board may see a decrease in audiology/hearing aid dispensing applicants coming out of the program.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Ms. Pierce adjourned the meeting at 5:55pm.