

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

July 17, 2024

Members Present: Timothy Hunsaker; Lynee Anderson; Jennifer Joy-Cornejo; Melissa Maestas

Members Absent: Nanci Campbell

Staff Present: Jennifer Pierce, Executive Director
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General

Public Present: Katie Allen (NSHA); Tricia Ashby-Scabis (ASHA)

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Timothy Hunsaker called the meeting to order at 4:31pm. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present. Nanci Campbell and Stacey Whittaker were noted as excused absent.

Public Comment

Timothy Hunsaker introduced this agenda item and read the following statement pursuant to AB219 (2023): "I will now review the instructions for providing public comment during this meeting: Any person wishing to make public comment may attend this meeting and provide public comment in one of the following ways: 1. Attend the meeting and provide public comment in-person at the physical location; OR 2. Attend the meeting and provide public comment virtually through the Zoom teleconference video link listed on the agenda; OR 3. Attend the meeting and provide public comment telephonically through the Zoom telephone number listed at the end of the meeting agenda with additional public comment instructions. Public comment is welcomed by the Board. Public comment will be limited to five minutes per person and comments based on viewpoint will not be restricted. A public comment time will be available prior to action items on the agenda and on any matter not specifically included on the agenda as the last item on the agenda. At the discretion of the Board Chair, additional public comment may be heard when that item is reached. The Board Chair may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and in their sole discretion. Prior to the commencement and conclusion of a contested case or a quasi-judicial proceeding that may affect the due process rights of an individual, the Board may refuse to consider public comment."

Dr. Hunsaker then called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes: Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids of April 10, 2024

Timothy Hunsaker introduced this item and asked if there were any proposed corrections or additions. Hearing none, Dr. Hunsaker called for a motion. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Melissa Maestas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Review and Recommendation to the Board on Revisions to Hearing Aid Definitions and NRS 637B.055

“Practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids” defined to Permit Cerumen Management and Tinnitus Care
Definitions: Ms. Pierce explained that the matter was brought before the Committee for a final review and recommendation to the Board on definitions. There were no revisions suggested and Timothy Hunsaker called for a motion. Melissa Maestas made a motion to recommend the Board include the definitions as written in the 2025 BDR. Lynee Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cerumen Management & Definition: Ms. Pierce explained that the matter was brought before the Committee for a final review and recommendation to the Board on proposed inclusion and language, with a draft sample of possible future NAC language, pulled from a very extensive example of Tennessee’s regulations, to complement the addition of cerumen management to the NRS. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo stated for the record that she is more comfortable approving the NRS revision with the idea that a follow-up revision to NAC will clearly prescribe guidelines for practice as outlined in the Tennessee example. Timothy Hunsaker called for a motion. Melissa Maestas made a motion to recommend the Board include cerumen management in the revised section of NRS 637B.055 in the 2025 BDR. Lynee Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tinnitus Care & Definition: Ms. Pierce explained that the matter was brought before the Committee for a final review and recommendation to the Board on proposed inclusion and language. No revisions were suggested. Timothy Hunsaker called for a motion. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo made a motion to recommend the Board include tinnitus care with a requirement for a practitioner to have completed “a Board-approved certification or course in tinnitus care” in the revised section of NRS 637B.055 in the 2025 BDR. Melissa Maestas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Recommendation to the Board on Possible Revisions to NRS 637B.050 “Practice of Audiology” defined.” to Clarify/Update Scope of Practice

It was brought to the attention of Board Staff that in May 2024, Maryland passed two bills intended to align its audiology practice act with the education, training, and qualifications of audiologists practicing in the State. As the Board is pursuing a BDR in 2025, NRS 637B.050 “Practice of audiology” defined” was brought back to the Committee for a final review to determine if similar or other revisions should be considered by the Board. The Committee did not see similar revisions needed but did note references regarding cochlear implants that could be broadened, and the restriction of completing a diagnosis on a doctor’s request. Timothy Hunsaker made a motion to recommend the Board include the revisions in the 2025 BDR to change the language in #3 from “cochlear implants” to “implantable hearing devices” and remove the entirety of #7 stating “At the request of a physician, participating in the diagnosis of a person.” Melissa Maestas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Recommendation to the Board on Guidance Regarding Manual and Automated Audiometry Compliance with NRS 637B and NAC 637B

Ms. Pierce explained that the Board office received a request for guidance regarding audiometry and specifically whether audiometry outside a separate sound-treated room (i.e. boothless audiometry”) is allowable under NAC 637B.0446(1)(b), which states: *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist shall take the pertinent case history of, and perform personally the following minimum procedures bilaterally on, each prospective candidate for a hearing aid: Live voice audiometry, only if a separate sound-treated room is available, or recorded voice audiometry, including speech-reception threshold testing, most comfortable and uncomfortable level testing, and speech discrimination testing presented through a speech audiometer.* The Committee discussed the practice of audiometry and the interpretation of the regulation language, with consensus that audiometry outside a separate sound-treated room is allowable but only when using recorded voice. It was also agreed that it is best practice when a separate sound-treated room is not used to clearly document this and indicate why. Timothy Hunsaker called for a motion. Melissa Maestas made a motion to recommend the Board issue formal guidance on the interpretation of NAC 637B to state that

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audiometry outside a separate sound-treated room is allowable under NAC 637B but only when using recorded voice, and with the recommendation that the practitioner clearly document that a separate sound-treated room was not used and why. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports from Committee Chair and Members

There were no reports. The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 4:30pm.

Public Comment

Timothy Hunsaker called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Timothy Hunsaker adjourned the meeting at 6:04pm.