



State of Nevada

Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

**Board Meeting
October 23, 2024**

Members Present:	Timothy Hunsaker, Lynee Anderson, Shawn Binn, Jennifer Joy-Cornejo, Branden Murphy, Adrienne Williams
Members Absent:	Vacant SLP
Staff Present:	Jennifer Pierce, Executive Director Stacey Whittaker, Licensing Coordinator Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General, Board Counsel Izack Tenorio, Board Lobbyist
Public Present:	Katie Allen, Brooke Bowen, Laura Fussell, Karin H. (last name not listed), Amy Noyes, Kim Reddig, Shawna Ross, Sabrina Schnur, Belz & Case "Note-Taking-Bot"

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

Vice Chair Hunsaker called the meeting to order at 4:31pm. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Vice Chair 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 above. Please see additional public comment instructions at the end of this agenda. 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."

Vice Chair Hunsaker then called for public comment, and there was none.

Approval of the Minutes: Board Meeting of July 31, 2024

Vice Chair Hunsaker asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of the meeting of July 31, 2024 and none were noted. Shawn Binn made a motion to approve the minutes of July 31, 2024 as written and Adrienne Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Update and Report Out from Strategies 360 and Board Staff on Legislative and Lobbying Activities and Other Initiatives Impacting the Board in the 2024 Interim and 2025 Legislative Session

Executive Director Pierce explained that this item was scheduled earlier on the meeting agenda to provide an update on legislative issues that may impact the Board and the appointment of new members. Ms. Pierce explained that the Office of Boards and Commissions in the Department of Business and Industry (B&I) held several meetings with Executive Directors from boards in August 2024 to share their plans for a Bill Draft Request, sponsored by the Governor's Office, to expand the authority granted by SB 431 in the 2023 legislative session and assume board operations and oversight to include consolidating small boards under larger "umbrella" boards. Ms. Pierce also shared that B&I has scheduled individual meetings with Board Executive Directors and lobbyists to discuss specific plans for each board. Ms. Pierce and Dr. Tenorio are scheduled to meet with B&I on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 and Ms. Pierce will send an informational update to the Board via email after the meeting. Ms. Pierce shared that the Board's current SLP vacancy and outstanding reappointment for Lynee Anderson could be related to these proposed changes, though this is not confirmed, and staff has requested but not received a response from the Governor's office on the status of appointments.

Izack Tenorio of Strategies 360 explained that during the B&I meeting, he and Ms. Pierce will listen and gather information to bring back to the Board at its next meeting along with B&I's drafted bill in order to inform any position the Board opts to take on the matter. Dr. Tenorio also explained that despite sponsorship from the Governor's Office, the B&I bill will still have to make its way through the legislative process as required for any other bill, so there is no guarantee it will pass, or pass as originally written. The November election and resulting composition of the Nevada Senate and Assembly will also likely impact most legislative efforts, so much is as yet unknown. Dr. Tenorio shared that he continues to receive positive feedback about this Board's proposed bill, and explained that the Board should identify subject matter experts in each practice area who will be able to attend committee hearings, answer questions, and explain why the bill should be passed. No action was taken.

New Board Member Welcome, Elections for Board Chair & Vice Chair, Appointments of Bank Signatories and Financial Reviewer, and Consideration to Authorize Board Chair and/or One or More Board Members to Appear on Behalf of the Board in Front of the Legislature Per NRS 241.015(1)

Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the discussion on the prior agenda item and explained that the Board may choose to elect a new Chair at this meeting with subsequent appointments, or wait until the legislative session ends to see what occurs with the B&I bill, continuing with Vice Chair Hunsaker serving as acting Chair. Consensus was to wait, and the following sections of this agenda item were skipped to be brought back as needed in 2025: Welcome New Board Member, Election of Board Chair & Vice Chair, and Appointment of Banking Signatories & Financial Reviewer.

In lieu of the Board's proposed bill and external legislative efforts, the Board proceeded with consideration to authorize the Chair and/or one or more Board or Subcommittee members to appear on behalf of the Board in front of the Legislature. Vice Chair Hunsaker called for volunteers and a motion. Shawn Binn made a motion to authorize Timothy Hunsaker (Dispensing Audiologist), Adrienne Williams (SLP), and Lynee Anderson (Hearing Aid Specialist) to appear on behalf of the Board in front of the Legislature. Timothy Hunsaker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Disciplinary and Administrative Matters

- Consent Decree Recommended for Approval: Case #H24-01, Brooke Bowen, License #HAS-3732 (Active) and HAS-3441 Temporary (Expired)
Ms. Pierce explained that this complaint alleged unprofessional conduct, obtaining licensure and/or employment in Nevada, Colorado, and Alabama through fraudulent means, providing false statements or omitting relevant information in connection with an application for a license or the renewal of a license, including prior criminal charges or convictions and failure to disclose child support obligations, and referring to oneself as an Audiologist to patients. After investigation and review of all documentation received in regard to the above referenced complaint, it was determined that there was sufficient evidence to file a formal complaint for hearing before the Board and the facts set forth in the accusations were sufficient to establish a violation of Chapter 637B of the Nevada Revised Statutes or the Nevada Administrative Code. The practitioner opted to settle the matter by entering into a Consent Decree which is presented to the Board for review and recommended for approval.

Ms. Bowen was present at this meeting via Zoom and Board Counsel Henna Rasul directed Ms. Pierce to send the proposed Consent Decree to the Board members under separate cover and asked the members to review it and ask questions as needed. All members acknowledged receipt and review of the document and no questions were asked. Vice Chair Hunsaker invited Ms. Bowen to speak, who offered that she misread the application questions, felt horrible about the oversight, and would complete all conditions of the Consent Decree. Vice Chair Hunsaker called for a motion. Adrienne Williams made a motion to accept the Consent Decree as presented, and Lynee Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Case #UP24-02: Administrative Unlicensed Practice Case and License Reinstatement Application: Amy Noyes, SLP, License #SP-2901, Expired July 2, 2024
Ms. Pierce introduced this item, and Adrienne Williams disclosed that she is a former employer of Ms. Noyes and recused herself and abstained from voting on the advice of Board Counsel Sr. DAG Henna Rasul. Ms. Pierce explained that the Board office received a Reinstatement Application from Ms. Noyes on August 15, 2024 for SLP license issued 12/28/2020 and expired 7/2/2024. The reinstatement application affirmed that she had continued to engage in SLP practice in her employment at Kid's Therapy Place during the license lapse, approximately 1 month 12 days. Given the 30 day late grace period, Ms. Noyes was eligible to renew with a late fee up to 8/1/2024. Ms. Noyes was sent license reminders directly from Board staff to the current email address in her profile on 5/30/2024, 7/1/2024, and 8/1/2024. A system-generated email reminder was also sent from the licensing database on 5/3/2024. A Cease & Desist letter and notice of this hearing was sent to Ms. Noyes via email and U.S. Postal Mail on 8/21/2024 per the notice requirement in the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Ms. Noyes was present at the meeting via Zoom and when asked by Lynee Anderson about the lapse, she stated that she mixed up the renewal date with her ASHA certification date. Vice Chair Hunsaker called for a motion and Shawn Binn made a motion to reinstate the license without conditions and assess an administrative fine of \$200.00. Jennifer Joy-Cornejo seconded the motion. Adrienne Williams abstained from voting, and the motion passed unanimously.

Review & Approval of Proposed Contract with Christiansen Accounting Network for FY24-FY25 Financial Audit Services Pursuant to NRS 218G.400

Per the Board's approval at the July 31, 2024 meeting to elect a biennial audit for FY24-FY25 to satisfy the audit requirement in NRS 218G.400, an engagement letter and proposed contract with the Certified Public Accounting firm Christiansen Accounting Network were presented for the Board's review and approval. No questions were posed and Vice Chair Hunsaker called for a motion. Branden Murphy made a motion to

approve the contract as presented and Adrienne Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Pierce directed the Board to the written Executive Director's Report and revised report/FY25 Q1 financial reports sent out earlier in the week due to the Board's bookkeeper being out of the office earlier in the month. FY25 Q1 ended with income slightly higher than budgeted at 26.92% and expenses slightly lower at 21.58%. Net income totaled \$3,779.09, and equity totaled \$123,074.73, an increase of approximately \$3,300 from the prior quarter and \$4,200 from FY24 Q1. There were no unexpected expenses or deviations from the budget in FY25 Q1. Ms. Pierce further reported that there was one open complaint case following the July 2024 meeting, with two new complaints received. One open case was satisfied earlier in this meeting through approval of a Consent Decree, leaving one open case. The Board received one report of unlicensed practice following the July 2024 meeting and that case was also satisfied earlier in this meeting through approval of the reinstatement application and assessment of an administrative fine.

Report from Legal Counsel

Henna Rasul, Board Counsel had no new information to report on legal matters.

Reports from Board Chair and Board Members

- a. There were no reports from the Board Chair or members.
- b. 2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule: The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 4:30pm. Ms. Pierce shared that this date would follow the scheduled meeting of the SLP Subcommittee on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at which time it is expected the Subcommittee will make its final recommendations for NAC changes and take action to disband the Subcommittee and delegate approval of its final meeting minutes to the Board.
- c. Future Agenda Items: The following matters were identified for the January 2025 meeting and future agendas:
 - 1) Update and Report Out from Strategies 360 on Board BDR and Legislative Activities for 2024 Interim and 2025 Legislative Session
 - 2) Consideration to Approve SLP Subcommittee Recommendations for Revisions to NAC 637B
 - 3) Consideration to Approve Final SLP Subcommittee Meeting Minutes and Disband Subcommittee
 - 4) Other Items As Proposed

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Timothy Hunsaker adjourned the meeting at 5:33 pm.