

**BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2006
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Susan Chadwick, Chair, called the quarterly meeting of the Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 27, 2006 in Board Room #2, at 6603 West Broad Street, 5th Floor, Richmond, Virginia.

PRESENT:

Susan Chadwick, Au.D.
Angela W. Moss, M.A., CCC-SLP
Sally Jones-McNamara, M.C.S., CCC-SLP, CCP
Andrew M. Klein, M.D.
Ronald Spencer, R.N.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Robin R. Holley Duke, Esquire, Citizen Member

COUNSEL:

Jack E. Kotvas, Assistant Attorney General

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa R. Hahn, Executive Director
Elizabeth Young, Former Executive Director
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst
Sandra Whitley Ryals, Director, Department of Health Professions
Emily Wingfield, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Health Professions
Annie B. Artis, Operations Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Bill Ferguson, Board for Hearing Aid Specialists
David Bailey, David Bailey and Associates, SHAV Lobbyist
Tonya Horton
Dan C. Halling, James Madison University
Brenda Ryals, Ph.D. James Madison University

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2006 board meeting. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Moss. The vote carried unanimously.

Ms. Moss made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2006 board meeting. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Jones-McNamara. The vote carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Ryals, Director, Department of Health Professions, introduced herself to the board members and guests. She gave a history of her background prior to coming to the Department. Ms. Ryals informed the Board that Governor Kaine developed a Health Reform Commission which began in October, 2006. She further stated that the Governor has made health care one of his major initiatives. The first Commission meeting was held on October 11, 2006, information concerning the meeting can be found on the Governor's website.

Ms. Ryals stated that the Health Reform Commission has priority areas which include the following: Growing our health care workforce - dealing with shortages, with particular attention to nursing shortages; Improving the quality of health care; Improving access to care; Strengthening long-term care; and Encouraging healthier lifestyles. Ms. Ryals said that work group meetings were going to be held between now and May, 2007.

Ms. Ryals addressed the issue of the agency move. She stated that we were in the middle of a ten year lease here with Alcoa; however, Philip Morris is interested in occupying the entire building. She said that our sister agency, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), building has been deteriorating for quite some time with increasing concerns that the environment in the building is substandard. She further stated that the Department of Health Professions (DHP) has been selected as one of the agencies that will co-relocate with other state agencies. She stated that DHP would be one of the first state agencies in the Richmond metropolitan area to participate in a relocation of this type. Ms. Ryals stated there is currently nothing officially in writing and no lease has been signed. She stated that the agency is definitely headed for a move before this time next year; possibly by the Summer of 2007.

Ms. Ryals introduced the new Chief Deputy Director, Emily Wingfield. She stated that Ms. Wingfield was appointed by Governor Kaine on October 16, 2006.

Ms. Ryals thanked the former Executive Director of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Ms. Young, for her hard work, professionalism, and contributions to the Board. She stated her appreciation to Ms. Young for her assistance in making the transition very smooth and productive for the new executive director. Ms. Ryals also stated that Ms. Artis has moved with the Boards of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Long-Term Care Administrators, and Physical Therapy, which are under the direction of Ms. Hahn. Ms. Ryals introduced and welcomed Ms. Hahn back to the Department.

Ms. Hahn introduced herself to the board members and guests. Ms. Hahn stated that she previously served as the Executive Director for the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology as well as other health regulatory boards and is glad to be back with the Department and looking forward to working with the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Brenda Ryals, from James Madison University (JMU), addressed the Board regarding provisional licensure.

Ms. Young stated that the public comment period for to the proposed provisional licensure for audiologists regulations had ended.

Ms. Young informed the Board that she had asked Dr. Brenda Ryals to appear before the Board to make general comments in regard to the issue. Dr. Brenda Ryals stated that the current audiology program at JMU will continue until the year 2012. She further stated that after December 31, 2006, no new programs will be accredited; the accrediting body will only accredit doctoral programs.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative/Regulatory Committee

Proposed Regulations Governing Provisional Licensure for Audiologists

Dr. Chadwick stated that the next step is to adopt proposed regulations governing provisional licensure. Ms. Hahn asked if the intent for provisional licensure for audiologists with the Au.D. degree was to provide a pathway for those persons not receiving a master's degree. Dr. Chadwick offered clarification and stated that some professionals were being caught because there was no degree conferred; few programs have granted a master's degree in the middle of the Au.D. degree program.

Dr. Chadwick stated that the Board's intent was to address the audiology candidate who is unable to work and get a license because there has been no degree conferred. Ms. Hahn offered to make the necessary changes to the proposed regulations to reflect the Boards' intent, to allow applicants that are currently enrolled in the Au.D. program and who have successfully completed all the coursework required for the doctoral degree, a pathway to obtain a provisional license.

Ms. Jones-McNamara made a motion to approve the proposed regulations. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Moss. Mr. Spencer asked if there was a requirement by the accrediting body to receive the Au.D. degree and if so will the candidates be grandfathered?

Dr. Chadwick stated there were currently no programs in place with a master's degree in audiology; however, these programs are still being accepted until 2012; after such time, the Au.D. will be the only entry level degree.

Ms. Young stated that the provisional license will be issued for twelve months; once the audiology degree has been received, the full license will be issued. However, if the degree is not received within twelve months, the request for an extension of the provisional license must be reviewed by the Credentials Committee.

The vote carried unanimously.

Adoption of Proposed Public Participation (PPG) Guidelines

Ms. Hahn presented the Public Participation Guidelines to the board member. Ms. Hahn indicated that the amendments are to revise and clarify current practice and technology. She stated that the primary purpose of these regulations are to keep the public involved and abreast of board meetings and regulatory actions.

Ms. Moss made a motion to adopt the proposed changes to the Public Participation Guideline regulations. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Jones-McNamara.

The vote carried unanimously.

Board of Health Professions Meetings

Dr. Chadwick stated she was honored to be appointed to serve on the Board of Health Professions (BHP). Dr. Chadwick attended the BHP meetings held on September 18th and October 18th and provided copies of the minutes to the Board for informational purposes.

Dr. Chadwick stated that she attended the Citizens Advocacy Center October conference held in Williamsburg, Virginia. She stated it was the most fascinating meeting she has ever attended. Dr. Chadwick stated that the point that was really driven home to her was that the primary responsibility of this Board is to protect the general public. She stated that those who attended were really urged to keep the public informed and really let them know what the mission of the board is and what types of problems to report to the Board.

Mr. Spencer stated he also attended the Citizens Advocacy Center October conference in Williamsburg. Mr. Spencer stated that one of the issues that was stressed was the importance of accountability through transparency. He stated that the primary accountability was to protect the patients through competency and integrity. Mr. Spencer also stated that the Board should be transparent in making the public aware of what it is doing and by having factual information readily available to the public.

Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

Mr. Ferguson stated that the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists updated their brochure regarding what the Board does and what services are provided. He stated the last board meeting was held on November 15, 2006 and there was one disciplinary case. The minutes are available on Town Hall.

Professional News

New Name for ADA

Dr. Chadwick reported that the Academy of Dispensing Audiologists (ADA) has changed their name to the Academy of Doctors of Audiology. She stated the mission has basically remained the same. Dr. Chadwick stated that all new members must hold a doctoral degree in Audiology.

National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Ms. Jones-McNamara reported that ASHA has a new government structure. She stated their national office is moving and that ASHA is doing very well financially. Ms. Jones-McNamara attended the 19th annual National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology in Atlanta, GA, October 12-14, 2006. She stated that in regard to unlicensed activity, some states deduct \$5.00 from every renewal processed. She stated that some of the other topics that were discussed were tongue splitting, hearing aids being sold at flea markets, encroachments, some states licensing speech pathologist with bachelor degrees, ethics, vesicular rehabilitation, and suctioning of patients. Ms. Jones-McNamara stated that Florida offers numerous courses; this

information may be found on ASHA's website: www.asha.org listed under Ethics. The next conference will be held in Oklahoma City, OK, October 18-20, 2007.

SHAV

Ms. Young asked Mr. Bailey if there was any new information to report. Mr. Bailey stated that the Department of Education's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2006. He further stated that the public comment period ends early in February, 2007. Ms. Young stated that she had major concerns regarding the Virginia Department of Education regulations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Licensee Statistics

Ms. Hahn reported there are currently 3006 licensees.

Case Statistics

Ms. Hahn reported the Board currently has 13 cases.

Budget

Ms. Hahn reviewed the budget with the Board and stated that it appears that the Board will need to consider increasing fees. She stated that she will have a better and clearer picture of the budget after the renewal cycle ends December 31, 2006. She will provide additional information at the next Board meeting. Ms. Young stated that the fee increase should not be a surprise; it was discussed at the last Board meeting.

Calendar

Dr. Chadwick asked what is the procedure in the event there is inclement weather. Ms. Young stated in the past she has always canceled the board meeting the day before if inclement weather is anticipated. She added, in the case of unanticipated inclement weather she would notify board members from home if the board meeting would be canceled.

Ms. Hahn stated that she would follow the same procedures.

Dr. Chadwick and the board members applauded and said farewell to Ms. Young.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Susan Chadwick, Au.D., Chair

Lisa R. Hahn, Executive Director

Date

Date