

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2021**

- CALL TO ORDER:** The October 19, 2021, Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (Board) meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 4, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- PRESIDING OFFICER:** Melissa A. McNichol, Au.D.,CCC-A, Chair
- BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Corliss V. Booker, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC
Bradley W. Kesser, M.D.
Alison Ruth King, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Angela W. Moss, MA, CCC-SLP
Erin G. Piker, Au.D., Ph.D., CCC-A
- MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Kyttra Burge, Citizen Member
- QUORUM:** With six members of the Board present, a quorum was established.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director
Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director
Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
David E. Brown, D.C., Agency Director
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst
Yetty Shobo, Healthcare Data Workforce Center
Heather Pote, Sr. Disciplinary Case Specialist
Laura Paasch, Administrative Assistant
Sylvia Robinson, Administrative Assistant
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** Marie Ireland, Department of Education
- EMERGENCY EGRESS:** Ms. Knachel read the emergency egress procedures.
- INTRODUCTIONS:** Ms. Knachel introduced Ms. Robinson and Ms. Moore, new staff members, to the Board.
- MISSION STATEMENT:** Dr. McNichol read the Department of Health Professions' Mission Statement.
- ORDERING OF AGENDA:** Ms. Knachel requested that "Consideration of Settlement for Case No. 189062" be added to the Discussion Items.
- Dr. Booker moved to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. A. Moss. The motion carried unanimously.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Dr. McNichol opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the draft minutes for the Full Board Meeting on February 9, 2021 and the Regulatory Committee Meeting on April 19, 2021. With no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Dr. Brown provided updates on DHP's return to the office in January 2022. He reported on Virginia's vaccination rates. Dr. Brown commented that Boards are not conducting continuing education audits this year do the pandemic.

LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE:

Ms. Yeatts stated that the Delbridge Petition for Rulemaking to allow supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants via telepractice is open for public comment until 11/10/2021.

Periodic Review

Ms. Yeatts provided information regarding the Regulatory Committee Meeting recommendations on amending several regulations as part of the Periodic Review of Regulations. Ms. Yeatts recommended considering the supervision of unlicensed SLPAs outside of the regular Periodic Review process. Ms. Knachel and Ms. Yeatts suggested a Regulatory Advisory Panel could meet to make recommendations to the full Board. Dr. King and Ms. A. Moss volunteered to serve on the RAP.

Ms. A. Moss made a motion to adopt the amendments to the regulations with a fast-track action. The motion was seconded by Dr. Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Electronic Meeting Policy

Ms. Yeatts presented information regarding the Electronic Meeting Policy for the Board.

Ms. A. Moss made a motion to accept the policy as presented. Dr. Kesser seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**Healthcare Workforce Data Reports**

Dr. Shobo reviewed the 2021 survey information for Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists.

Continuing Education Audit for Previous License Year

Ms. Knachel asked the Board to consider not conducting education audit for the time period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, due to the pandemic.

Dr. King moved that a continuing education audit for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, not be conducted. The motion was seconded by Ms. A. Moss. The motion was carried unanimously.

Update on Licensure Compact

Ms. Knachel provided an update on the Licensure Compact. There are 15 states that have joined the Compact. She reported that funding information have not been provided. Details regarding the financial impact to Virginia licensees are not clear at this time.

Update on ASHA's Assistants Certification

Ms. Knachel reported SLPAs are starting to obtain ASHA certification.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT:

Ms. Mitchell had nothing to report.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. McNichol had nothing to report.

**BOARD OF HEALTH
PROFESSIONS’ REPORT:**

Dr. King reported that members of the Board of Health Professions were notified by Dr. Brown that Ms. Knachel will serve as the Executive Director for the Board of Health Professions.

STAFF REPORTS:

Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Knachel provided the following information:

- Licensure and budget statistics;
- Outreach activities
- Board calendar for 2022

Discipline Report

Ms. Moss provided an overview of the caseload statistics.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections

Dr. McNichol reviewed the information in the bylaws regarding elections to be held at the first board meeting of the organizational year with an effective date of January 1.

Dr. Kesser moved to nominate Dr. McNichol as Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. A. Moss. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. A. Moss moved to nominate herself as vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Booker.

Dr. McNichol moved to nominate Dr. Piker for Vice-Chair. Dr. Kesser seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. Having received four out of six votes, Dr. Piker will be the Vice-Chair of the Board starting January 1, 2022.

Consideration of Case Settlement for 189062

Dr. Piker made a motion that the Board convene a closed meeting to reach a decision in the matter of Abdul Mukati, SLP. Dr. Piker further motioned that Dr. McNichol, Ms. A. Moss, Dr. Kesser and herself remain in the room, and that Ms. Knachel and Ms. Mitchell attend the closed session. Dr. Booker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Piker moved to certify that the Board heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. Dr. Kesser seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Piker moved that the Board dismiss the case regarding Abdul Mukati, SLP. Ms. A. Moss seconded the motion. The motion was voted on by Dr. McNichol, Ms. A. Moss, Dr. Kesser and Dr. Piker and carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

The next full Board meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Melissa A. McNichol, Au.D., CCC-A
Chair

Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H
Executive Director

Date

Date