

Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
General Board Meeting
November 10, 2005

UNAPPROVED

BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2005 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Michael Ridenhour, Chair, called the quarterly meeting of the Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology to order at 9:32 a.m., on Thursday, November 10, 2005, in Board Room #3, at 6603 West Broad Street, 5th Floor, Richmond, Virginia.

PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robin R. Holley Duke, Citizen Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Elizabeth Young, Executive Director
Annie B. Artis, Operations Manager

COUNSEL PRESENT

Jack E. Kotvas, Assistant Attorney General

GUESTS PRESENT:

Bonnie Atwood, David Bailey and Associates, Inc.
Bill Ferguson, Executive Director, Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with amendments.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Ferguson, Executive Director of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists introduced himself to the board and asked to speak to the board later in the meeting to address some issues of concern raised by this board related to hearing aid specialists.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Ms. Moss made a motion to accept the minutes with amendments. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Klein. The vote carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Spencer introduced himself to the Board and briefly shared his background. The Board and staff introduced themselves to Mr. Spencer.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations were opened for the office of Chair of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Sally Jones-McNamara nominated Michael Ridenhour as Chair. The nomination was seconded by Susan Chadwick. The vote was taken and was unanimous. Dr. Ridenhour was nominated and voted in as Chair of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Andrew Klein nominated Angela Moss as Vice-Chair of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. The nomination was seconded by Susan Chadwick. The vote was taken and was unanimous. Ms. Moss was nominated and voted in as Vice-Chair of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology for a second term.

BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS – MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

Dr. Ridenhour gave a report regarding the Board of Health Professions meetings held on September 8, 2005. Dr. Ridenhour stated he was voted Vice-Chair of the Board of Health Professions. Also, he stated there was a discussion regarding the legislation of Dialysis Patient Care Technicians who would have to complete two years of training. Dr. Ridenhour stated that the licensure of naturopaths was discussed; however, a vote was taken and licensure of that profession was denied. Dr. Ridenhour also stated that there was discussion regarding reorganization of some of the boards within the department, as well as adding an additional board executive. The plan agreed to by the Board of Health Professions creates an additional board executive who would administer the program for the Boards of Long Term Care Administration, Physical Therapy and Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Ms. Young would continue as the executive director of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers and add the Board of Veterinary Medicine under her purview.

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Young stated she will ensure an efficient transition and believes that the change will take effective by July 1, 2006. Some of the board members expressed an interest in writing letters to Mr. Nebiker requesting that Ms. Young remain as the Executive Director of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

BREAK

The Board convened for a brief break at 10:44 a.m. The meeting re-convened at 10:55 a.m.

BOARD OF HEARING AID SPECIALISTS

Mr. Ferguson, Executive Director of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists informed the Board that the law requires that one board member on the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists be a user of hearing aid services. Mr. Ferguson stated that board member, Matthew J. Myrick is hearing impaired and is employed by Virginia Relay. Mr. Ferguson informed the Board that Mr. Myrick gave a very informative presentation to the Board regarding services provided by Virginia Relay for the hearing impaired. Mr. Ferguson also stated Dr. Richard Linde, an otolarngologist and a member of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists, gave a presentation as well. Mr. Ferguson further discussed 18VAC80-20-230 – Fitting and sale of hearing aids for children. Dr. Chadwick reviewed this section of the regulations and was of the opinion that it should have never been changed to allow any type of physician to provide a subsequent evaluation for hearing aids for children. Dr. Chadwick stated that she felt that the responsibility of the medical evaluation and initial filing should be signed by an ENT and that any subsequent evaluations should be signed by a physician, because hearing impaired children need medical management and should be seen by specialists who have been properly trained. Ms. Young asked Mr. Ferguson if the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists had information that would indicate when and why this change was made. Mr. Ferguson was unsure of the date of the amendment. Dr. Chadwick made a motion to request that Ms. Young draft a letter to the board of Hearing Aid Specialists on behalf of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology stating their position that all children with hearing difficulties should be seen by an otolarngologist. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Jones-McNamara. The vote carried unanimously.

Dr. Chadwick asked Mr. Ferguson if a parent sought an ear mold impression for his child, would a new impression be required. Mr. Ferguson replied he was not certain; he would need to verify with a hearing aid specialist. Ms. Young stated that she would ask Ms. Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst, if the board could submit a petition for rule making regarding this issue.

Ms. Young inquired as to whether or not temporary permits were issued for hearing aid specialists. Mr. Ferguson stated that the current sponsors were not providing the support that was needed and the board is examining increasing the supervision requirements. Mr. Ferguson stated that the hearing aid specialist examination was given three times a year at the Department of Professional Occupational Regulation.

Mr. Kotvas advised that the Board of Assistive Technology administered a loan program to issue loans to individuals needing assistive technology devices.

The Board inquired about the calendar of upcoming meetings for the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists. Mr. Ferguson stated the calendar was just recently approved; however, he did not have a copy of the calendar on hand.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND HEARING ASSOCIATION (ASHA)

The request for public comment from Amy B. Wohlert, Ph.D., Chair, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology regarding the review of revised accreditation standards was discussed extensively. Ms. Moss made a motion to support the survey and asked that Ms. Young send a letter to Dr. Wohlert expressing the board's support. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Jones-McNamara. The vote carried unanimously.

ACADEMY OF DISPENSING AUDIOLOGISTS (ADA)

The Board reviewed the Academy of Dispensing Audiologists (ADA) newsletter.

PROPOSED DOE REGULATIONS FOR LICENSURE OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS

The Board reviewed the proposed DOE regulations to license speech-language assistants for public schools. Ms. Jones-McNamara stated that in West Virginia, speech-language pathology assistants are assigned caseloads. Ms. Jones-McNamara disagreed that there is a shortage of speech-language pathologists. She stated that she wrote a very strong letter to DOE opposing the licensure of bachelor level individuals as speech-language assistants. Dr. Ridenhour stated that his fear was that if SLPAs were licensed, SLPs would not be competent to handle the caseloads within the public school and the students and parents would suffer. Dr. Klein asked what the solution to this problem would be and Ms. Jones-McNamara stated that higher pay and better working conditions for the

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speech-language pathologists may be the solution. Ms. Jones-McNamara further stated that she felt there was no coordination among DOE and this Board. Ms. Atwood, Lobbyist for SHAV stated that the regulations had not yet been published.

REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION

INTRA-OPERATIVE MONITORING

The Board reviewed and discussed the request for interpretation from Jeffrey Owen, Ph.D., regarding intra-operative monitoring. The Board determined that this practice should not be performed outside the practice of a licensed audiologist. The Board recommended that we refer Dr. Owen to AAA or ASHA.

FIBEROPTIC ENDOSCOPIC EVALUATION OF SWALLOWING (FEES)

The Board reviewed and discussed the request for interpretation from Johanita Lourens, OTR/L regarding the practice of fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing (FEES). The Board determined that if the individual has received training in this area, had demonstrated true competency, provided evidence of training, and has an otolaryngologist on-site when performing FEES, this is acceptable. The Board instructed Ms. Young to respond to Ms. Lourens and include a copy of the regulations.

CERUMEN MANAGEMENT

The Board reviewed and discussed the request for interpretation from Judith A. Ostrowski, MA, Audiologist, regarding cerumen removal. The Board determined that cerumen (wax) removal is within the scope of practice. Ms. Young also thought it would be helpful to cite the section of the regulations referencing the standard of practice and the prohibition of an inability to practice with skill and safety. The Board asked that a copy of the regulations be included with the response.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

Ms. Jones-McNamara gave a brief report on the National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. She attended the 18th annual conference in Cincinnati, Ohio from October 20-22, 2005. She provided handouts from the conference to the board members for their perusal. Ms. Jones-McNamara stated that representatives from Ohio led discussions regarding on-line CEUs, assistive technology, regulations of telepractice and the Mayo Clinic for speech-language pathologists. Ms. Jones-McNamara stated the members of the conference drafted a sanctions worksheet to be utilized by various states. Ms. Jones-McNamara stated the next conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on October 13-15, 2006.

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LICENSURE OF HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS

Ms. Young provided general information to the Board regarding the state's policy on licensure of hurricane Katrina victims.

PRAXIS ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Young provided the Praxis State/Agency Annual Reports 2004-2005 for general information.

OLD BUSINESS

BY-LAWS REVISION

The Board members reviewed the current by-laws. Ms. Young requested that any suggested changes be forwarded to her prior to the February 2006 Board meeting.

LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY COMMITTEE – PERIODIC REVIEW

Ms. Young recommended that the Legislative/Regulatory Committee will meet one hour prior to the next general board meeting to discuss the periodic review. The next board meeting was changed from February 16, 2006 to February 23, 2006. The next Legislative/Regulatory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2005 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LICENSEE STATISTICS

Ms. Young informed the Board that the renewals for audiologists and speech-language pathologists had been mailed. She stated that the fees have increased and that evidence of the 30 hours of continuing competency is required during the December, 2006 renewal.

CASE STATISTICS

Ms. Young stated that the disciplinary case load has increased to 10 due to the licensees failing to respond to the continuing competency audit.

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CALENDAR

Ms. Young included a calendar for the upcoming meetings in 2006. The February 16, 2005 Board meeting has been changed to February 23, 2005. The Legislative/Regulatory Committee meeting will be held also on February 23, 2005 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and the general board meeting will follow immediately.

BUDGET

Ms. Young stated that the deficit in the budget was decreasing.

Ms. Young stated she will have a guest speaker for the February meeting and she may also have a guest speaker from Virginia Relay as well.

SENTIMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Young extended her heartfelt appreciation to each board member for their thoughts and prayers during her mother's illness.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Ms. Moss made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Chadwick. The vote carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Michael Ridenhour, Au.D., Chair

Elizabeth Young, Executive Director

Date

Date