

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2021**

TIME AND PLACE: A virtual meeting via WebEx of the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (Board) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Melissa A. McNichol, Au.D.,CCC-A, Chair (Virtual Participation)

MEMBERS PRESENT (VIRTUALLY): Kyttra Burge, Citizen Member
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: Corliss V. Booker, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC

QUORUM: With six members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

STAFF PRESENT (VIRTUALLY): Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director
Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director
Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
David E. Brown, D.C. – Agency Director
Barbara Allison-Bryan, M.D. – Agency Chief Deputy Director
Elaine Yeatts - Senior Policy Analyst
Yetty Shobo – Healthcare Data Workforce Center
Celia Wilson, Disciplinary Case Specialist
Heather Pote, Disciplinary Case Specialist
Tamara Farmer, Administrative Assistant
Amy Davis, Administrative Assistant

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Knachel introduced Ms. Pote to the Board.

ORDERING OF AGENDA: Ms. Knachel requested that “Audiology National Examination” be added to the Discussion Items. Ms. Burge moved to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moss. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dr. Kesser moved to approve the meeting minutes for the February 25, 2020 – Full Board Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Burge. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Dr. Brown provided an overview of the General Assembly session.

Dr. Allison-Bryan provided an overview of the COVID-19 vaccine administration in Virginia.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: The Legislative/Regulatory report was delayed based on a request from Ms. Yeatts.

Audiology National Examination

Ms. Knachel provided information on the new audiology national examination. The current audiology exam 5342 will be only available until August 2021 and requires a passing score of 170. The new audiology examination 5343 is now available and has a recommended passing score of 162. In addition, the current speech-language examination 5331 has a passing score requirement of 162. The examinations are owned and administered by Education Testing Service (ETS). Ms. Knachel stated that Virginia needs to adopt the passing scores for these three examinations.

Ms. Moss moved to adopt the following passing scores for the PRAXIS examinations:

- 170 for Audiology 5342
- 162 for Audiology 5343
- 162 for Speech-Language Pathology 5331

The motion was seconded by Ms. King. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion passed unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE:

2021 Legislative Session Overview

Ms. Yeatts provided an update on legislation of interest to the Board.

Periodic Review

Ms. Yeatts provided information regarding the Periodic Review of Regulations. Ms. Yeatts and Ms. Knachel suggested a regulatory committee be appointed to conduct review the regulations and make recommendations to the full Board. Dr. King, Dr. Piker and Ms. Burge volunteered to serve on the committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Healthcare Workforce Data Reports

Dr. Shobo reviewed the information regarding trends with Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists from 2012 to 2020.

Continuing Education Audit for Previous License Year

Ms. Knachel stated in accordance with Dr. Brown's recommendation that a continuing education audit for the time period of January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, not be conducted.

Ms. Moss moved that continuing education audit for January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 not be conducted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Burge. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion passed unanimously.

Guidance Document Review

Ms. Knachel reported on the guidance documents that were due for review.

Ms. Burge moved to reaffirm Guidance Document 30-6, Board Guidance on Definition of Active Practice. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kesser. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Burge moved to adopt Guidance Document 30-8, Board Guidance on Requirements to Hold Licensure in Virginia to Practice Speech-Language Pathology as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moss. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Burge moved to reaffirm Guidance Document 30-11, Guidelines for Processing Applications for Licensure. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kesser. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Licensure Compact

Ms. Knachel stated that six states have joined the compact with pending legislation in additional states. Ten states are required to activate the compact. Ms. Knachel commented that questions about the funding plan for the compact still have not been answered. Since the compact requires member states to fully fund the Compact Commission in the absence of other funding, it is recommended that the Board take no action at this time and continue monitoring the situation. She indicated that several steps have been taken to expedite endorsement licensing applications in Virginia including board staff obtaining licensure verifications from other states' online verification systems.

Update on ASHA Assistants Certification

Ms. Knachel reviewed information regarding American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's new Assistants Certification program. She commented that the Board has regulations regarding qualifications and supervision of assistants. However, there is no authority at this time for the Board to license, register, or certify assistants. After discussion, the Board took no action regarding a legislative proposal to license, register, or certify assistants or to change regulations. Ms. Knachel will continue to monitor the situation and update the Board as needed.

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 the last Board of Health Professions meeting was held on January 25, 2021. Elections were held for Chair, 1st Vice Chair and 2nd Vice Chair.

STAFF REPORTS:

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Knachel provided the following information:

- Licensure and budget statistics;
- Outreach email regarding extended time due to the pandemic to obtain continuing education for the renewal that took place in June 2020

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.

Ms. Moss moved to nominate Dr. McNichol as chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kesser. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moss moved to nominate herself as vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kesser. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Knachel. The motion passed unanimously.

Letter from SHAV

Ms. Knachel reviewed a letter received from the Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV) regarding tracheal suctioning which asked for the Board to take a position that this skill is in a Virginia speech-language pathologist's (SLP) scope of practice. Ms. Knachel reported on her conversations with Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Yeatts and the President of SHAV. Ms. Knachel stated that board staff would need additional time to review the matter. However, the scope of practice is defined by the legislature. If the legislature adds this specific skill to the SLP scope of practice, a committee comprised of board members and stakeholders would be convened to develop regulations. After discussion, the Board asked Ms. Knachel to contact SHAV stating legislation is required to further define the change scope of practice for a speech-language pathologist. No further action was taken by the Board at this time.

NEXT MEETING:

Ms. Knachel stated the Regulatory Committee will need to meet which will determine the timing of the next full board meeting. Possible dates for future meetings and a formal hearing will be circulated in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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

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

Date

Date