

Call to Order

The March 8, 2022, Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology meeting was called to order at 10:02 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., CCA-A, Chair

Board Members Present

Erin G. Piker, Au.D., Ph.D., CCC-A, Vice-Chair

Corliss V. Booker, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC

Bradley W. Kesser, M.D.

Alison Ruth King, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Angela W. Moss, M.A., CCC-SLP

Board Members Not Present

Kyttra Burge, Citizen Member

Staff Present

Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director

Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director

David E. Brown, D.C., Agency Director

Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst DHP

Erin Barrett, Senior Policy Analyst DHP

Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel

Laura Jackson, Board Administrator

Laura Paasch, Licensing & Operations Administrative Specialist

Establishment of Quorum

With six out of seven board members present, a quorum was established.

Mission Statement

Dr. McNichol read the Department of Health Professions' mission statement.

Ordering of Agenda

Dr. McNichol opened the floor to any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment

There were no requests to provide public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. McNichol opened the floor to any additions or corrections regarding the draft minutes of the October 19, 2021, full Board meeting and the January 20, 2022, Regulatory Advisory Panel meeting. Dr. Kesser and Ms. Moss each identified a correction. The Board agreed to the corrections and the minutes were approved as a block as presented and amended.

Agency Director's Report

Dr. Brown advised the Board that Dr. Allison-Bryan retired on March 1st. He spoke about the decline in COVID-19 numbers; therefore, the agency will start its "new normal" on April 4, 2022. He indicated that conference center and additional security upgrades will be occurring in the near future.

Dr. Brown recognized Ms. Moss for her eight years of service to the Board and the Commonwealth.

Ms. Knachel recognized Ms. Yeatts' pending retirement and her service to DHP and the Commonwealth. Ms. Erin Barrett will replace Ms. Yeatts as of April 1, 2022.

Legislative/Regulatory Report

Ms. Yeatts provided updates on the status of the Periodic Review and reported on the 2022 General Assembly session.

Ms. Knachel provided information on the recommendations from the Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) on Speech-Language Pathology Assistants. The RAP's recommendation was to clarify current regulations with a guidance document rather than initiate a regulatory action. Ms. Knachel reviewed draft Guidance Document 30-4 Guidance for the Use and Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants.

Dr. King made a motion to adopt Guidance Document 30-4, Guidance for the Use and Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants, which was seconded by Dr. Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Yeatts presented information on the Delbridge Petition for Rulemaking.

Ms. Moss made a motion to take no action because the Board adopted a guidance document on supervision of assistants that is intended to assist licensees in the utilization of unlicensed persons in their practice. Dr. Booker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Counsel's Report

Ms. Mitchell had no information to report to the Board.

Chair's Report

Dr. McNichol had no information to report to the Board.

Board of Health Professions' Report

Dr. King had no information to report to the Board.

New Business

There was no new business to report to the Board.

Staff Reports

Ms. Knachel provided information on board statistics and outreach activities, which included a presentation to the SLP graduate students at the University of Virginia. The discussion related to whether a CE audit will be discussed at the next Board meeting. The Board asked Ms. Knachel to research whether a question could be added to the workforce survey deployed at renewal to capture the number of SLPAs being utilized in Virginia.

Ms. Moss provided an update on open and closed discipline cases.

Next Meeting

The next full board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2022.

Adjournment

With no objection, Dr. McNichol adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.