

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
FORMAL HEARING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BOARD ROOM 3
HENRICO, VA
December 12, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (Board) was called to order at 10:10 a.m., on December 12, 2023, at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 3, Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Melissa McNichol, Au.D., CCC-A, Chairperson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bradley W. Kesser, M.D.
Bethany Rose, Au.D.
Laura Vencill, M.S., CCC-SLP
Lisa Wallace-Davis, O.D.
James Wells, R.Ph.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H., Executive Director
Heather Pote, Senior Discipline Case Specialist

BOARD COUNSEL: Laura Booberg, Assistant Attorney General

COURT REPORTER: Juan Ortega, Ortega International Reporting

PARTIES ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH: Anne Joseph, J.D., Adjudication Consultant, Administrative Proceedings Division

COMMONWEALTH WITNESSES: Rhonda Harvey
Tamie Bobe, R.N., B.S.N.

RESPONDENT WITNESSES: Marcie Clifton
Amy Gadell, MS, CCC-SLP

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Miller, Esq.
Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director, Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology

MATTER SCHEDULED:

Catherine Sprinkle, Speech-Language Pathologist

The Board met in accordance with a Notice of Formal Hearing dated August 29, 2023. Ms. Sprinkle appeared before the Board for the Formal Hearing and was represented by Nora Ciancio, Esq. The Board received evidence from the Commonwealth and from Ms. Sprinkle and her counsel regarding the allegations in the Notice.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Wallace-Davis moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(16) of the Code for the purpose of consideration and discussion of medical records of Patient A that are excluded from the Freedom of Information Act by § 2.2-3705.5 of the Code. Additionally, Dr. Wallace-Davis moved that Ms. Sprinkle, along with her attorney Ms. Ciancio, Ms. Joseph, Ms. Knachel, and Ms. Booberg attend the meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wells and carried unanimously.

RECONVENE:

Dr. Wallace-Davis moved that the Committee certify that it 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. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wells and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Wallace-Davis moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia (“Code”) for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **Catherine Sprinkle, Speech-Language Pathologist**. Additionally, she moved that Ms. Knachel, Ms. Booberg, and Ms. Pote attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vencill and carried unanimously.

RECONVENE:

Dr. Wallace-Davis moved that the Board certify that it 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. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wells and carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

DECISION:

Ms. Vencill moved to indefinitely suspend the license of Ms. Sprinkle for not less than six months, and that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order that will be sent to Ms. Sprinkle at her address of record. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rose and carried unanimously.

This decision shall be effective upon the entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusions and decision of this quorum of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Formal Hearing adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

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