



Board of Examiners
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Meeting Minutes February 4, 2022 Via Zoom Meeting

PRESENT: Amy Martin, CCC-SLP, Vice Chair
Carrie Slough, Au.D.
Victoria Edwards, CCC-SLP
Clarence Williams, Public Member
Christopher Hargunani, M.D. (arrived at 9:45 a.m.)
Erin Haag, Executive Director
David Linn, Administrative Assistant
Leslea Smith, Investigator
Catriona McCracken, Sr. AAG

EXCUSED: Dustin Ooley, Au.D. (Williams was excused from afternoon public session due to illness)

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Vice Chair Martin after a roll call quorum was established. The meeting was held via Zoom.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Edwards moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Williams and passed unanimously.

BUDGET REPORT:

Haag reported that a record number of individuals renewed their licenses, and with the fee increase, revenue is strong. She also said that BSPA and its 5 sister "Health Related Licensing Boards" (Veterinary Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Naturopathic Medicine, Mortuary/Cemetery and Medical Imaging) submitted a joint report to the legislature that will be heard by the Ways and Means Committee and Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means. The six executive directors worked closely over several months to prepare this report, which recommends that the Boards remain independent as per existing statute.

Linn reported that the vast majority of licensees were able to renew with no problems. However, we still have the problem of certain email providers such as Comcast sending our emails to the junk file and licensees don't think to check there. The issue generates unnecessary emails and calls to the office. Staff is working with our vendor on this and other issues. Linn suggests opening the renewal process much earlier, such as September 1st, to allow folks more time to renew. Staff also believes the Board should review the delinquent fee system described in the

rules and consider reducing the fee for each violation. According to the rules, some fees “shall” be charged, while others “may” be charged. Director Haag said the Board only charged for the “shall” fees during the last three renewal periods.

REQUEST FROM EAGLEPOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Joni Parsons, Director of Special Education at Eagle Point described the struggle her district is having recruiting and retaining SLPs. Recently they contracted with a new agency and hired some speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs), one of which has a Provisional certificate with the Board and still needs to obtain the 100 hours of supervised fieldwork. Parsons noted that the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) is allowing individuals to teach during student teaching through a conditional license, and asked if the Board would make an exception and allow Provisional SLPAs to work as full SLPAs. She said the district is really in a bind as they are required to do compensatory services. She noted that telepractice services cost \$150 per hour and while this is appreciated, the district needs SLPs who live and work in the area and will stick around.

Ashley Northam, CCC-SLP provided public comment on the topic. She has served as director of the SLPA program at Chemeketa for 17 years. She said she can appreciate Parson’s position. The Chemeketa program admits students in cohorts and the next one will be completed in March and will be eligible for licensing. Many districts have a “grow your own” program where they find people who do not want to move from their communities to attend Chemeketa’s online program and then when they’ve become licensed they work in their community. Northam said it is a well thought out training program and the supervised experience is an important part of learning to be a SLPA, so she does not support a relaxation of the rules.

Board member Edwards said she could really feel for Parson’s dilemma, to hang in there, and thanked Parsons her work and attendance at the meeting. Martin works in a rural area in the trenches and knows how tough it is but we need the SLPAs to be trained correctly and complete their coursework and field placement with fidelity to best practices. Williams is concerned about oversight and program quality.

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

Haag reported that the Board is recruiting a committee to look at the rules for the clinical fellowship experience in light of ASHA updating its requirements.

This portion of the public session ended at 9:45 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chair Martin called the Executive Session to order at 10:00 a.m. to consider information obtained as part of investigations of licensee or applicant conduct as provided in ORS 192.660(2)(L), consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection as provided in ORS 192.660(2)(f), and to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed as provided in ORS 192.660(2)(h).

The executive session ended at 11:24 a.m. and the Board returned to public session at 11:32 a.m. The Board reported that it is not contemplating any SLPA rules changes at this time.

MOTIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

2021-33: Slough moved to close the case with action for unlicensed practice and a civil penalty of \$100. The motion was seconded by Edwards and passed unanimously.

2021-36: Martin moved to close the case with no action. Martin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2021-37: Hargunani moved to close the case with action for one count of working without a certificate, civil penalty of \$225. Martin seconded and the motion carried.

2021-38: Edwards moved to close with no action. The motion was seconded by Slough and passed unanimously.

2021-39: Edwards moved to close with no action, Martin seconded and motion carried unanimously.

2021-40: Edwards moved to close the case with action for one count of doing SLPA fieldwork without a provisional SLPA certificate for a civil penalty of \$250. Hargunani seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2021-43 Hargunani moved to close with no action. Edwards seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2019-67: Edwards moved to close the case with action. Slough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2022-01: Slough moved to close the case with action in the form of a reprimand for one count of failure to report sanction by ASHA. Martin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2022-03: Hargunani moved to ratify the license. Slough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2022-04: Slough moved to ratify the license. Hargunani seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2021-33: Edwards moved to close the case with action for one count of practicing without a license for \$150. Slough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Edwards moved to extend the time to investigate open cases. The motion was seconded by Slough and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT The Board meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.