



Board of Examiners
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Meeting Minutes May 3, 2024 Meeting held in-person & via Zoom

PRESENT: Clarence Williams, Chair,
Public Member
Amy Costanza-Smith, CCC-SLP
Kristy Cousineau, SLPA
Ilia Fong, Au.D.
Christopher Hargunani, M.D.,
Amy Martin, CCC-SLP
Jazzmen Vega-Heath, Public Member
Carrie Slough, Au.D.

Erin Haag, Executive Director
David Linn, Administrative
Assistant
Catriona McCracken, Sr. AAG

EXCUSED:

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chair Williams and a roll call quorum was established. The meeting was held in-person & via Zoom.

AGENDA: Martin moved to approve the Agenda for this May 3, 2024 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Vega-Heath and passed unanimously.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Hargunani moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Fong and passed unanimously.

BUDGET REPORT:

Haag reported that revenue and expenses are on target. The 2025-27 biennium budget process has begun. Director Haag is working with other state office building tenants to reduce rental expenses. The proposed budget is only going up for typical inflationary costs.

Director Haag has worked with AAG McCracken to propose a legislative concept for next year's legislative session that would give the Board authority for emergency suspensions. Agency legislative concepts are submitted to the Governor's office.

The agency is reviewing its Key Performance Measures (KPM's) that are required by the legislature. In particular the SLPA audit measure may be revised because it currently mentions

“school districts” passing the SLPA audit and the Board only licenses SLPAs individually and staff believes we should measure both. There are concerns about telepractice and 3rd party supervision of SLPAs. Staff will continue to do outreach with school districts across Oregon, including some in-person meetings.

The Board will be reviewing its administrative rules as part of a periodic 6-year review. Staff will be forming workgroups based on the area of the rules. There is a specific interest in reviewing the SLPA rules which were last revised in 2019. The SLP conditional licensee clinical fellowship rules are also a priority, since ASHA has recently changed its standards.

There were discussions about reciprocal licensing rules by revising the existing temporary license rule that could eliminate the transcript requirement for licensure if a person is licensed in another state with a similar educational requirement. Haag said that she would work on this concept and approach Washington and Idaho since we share border towns. There are still plans to look at requiring a “Jurisprudence Exam” based on the Licensing rules.

Director Haag presented the Board with the Strategic Plan. She discussed the Board’s “Best Practices,” including board training and executive director review. Succession and Continuity of Operations plans have been submitted to DAS. There will be a new employee search to replace the Board’s investigator, and staff will be accepting applications soon. Staff is looking for ways to reduce office space and digitize records. Director Haag is committed to continued outreach to stakeholder groups to educate them about the Board and its rules.

Hargunani moved to accept the Strategic Plan, Martin seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Director Haag and AAG McCracken presented an updated chart of the Board’s Delegation of Authority plan. Martin moved to adopt the Delegation of Authority plan, Constanza-Smith seconded, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bryan Greenaway, Audiologist, faculty at Pacific University, had a comment regarding reviewing the rules regarding online hearing aid sales. He also requested the minutes be updated more frequently on the website. In meeting with OAA and OSHA there is interest in the Interstate Compact and how to lessen licensing barriers across state lines.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Williams called the Executive Session to order at 9:46 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 12:45 p.m. and the Board returned to public session.

MOTIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Case No. 2021-42: Moved by Martin that the Board ratify the Consent Order as presented.
Second: Vega-Heath. Passed unanimously.

Case No. 2024-03: Moved by Hargunani that the Board vote to issue a Notice of Discipline pursuant to ORS 681.350(1)(b) and (d) and ORS 681.250(2) for the following reasons:

1 violation of for practicing without a license for five months with a civil penalty of \$375; and

The Board's Costs for this proceeding assessed as an additional civil penalty per ORS 81.350(4).

Second: Constanza-Smith, Passed Unanimously.

Case No. 2024-06: Moved by Constanza-Smith that the Board: Issue license.
Second: Martin, passed unanimously.

Case No. 2024-08: Moved by Williams that the Board: Issue license.
Second: Fong, passed unanimously.

Case No. 2024-12: Moved by Martin that the Board: Issue license.
Second: Hargunani, passed unanimously.

Case No. 2024-13: Moved by Fong that the Board vote to issue a Notice of Discipline pursuant to ORS 681.350(1)(b) and (d) and ORS 681.250(2) for the following reasons:

1 violation of for practicing without a license for four months with a civil penalty of \$300; and

The Board's Costs for this proceeding assessed as an additional civil penalty per ORS 81.350(4).

Second: Cousineau, passed unanimously.

Case No. 2024-14: Moved by Cousineau that the Board vote to issue a Notice of Discipline pursuant to ORS 681.350(1)(b) and (d) and ORS 681.250(2) for the following reasons:

1 violation of for practicing without a license for four months with a civil penalty of \$300; and

The Board's Costs for this proceeding assessed as an additional civil penalty per ORS 81.350(4).

Second: Fong, passed unanimously.

New Licenses:

Constanza Smith Moved to ratify the licenses issued in February, March, and April 2024.

Second: Martin, passed unanimously.

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

SLPA Graduation Requirement Rule:

Linn explained the office has received comments about the educational requirements for speech-language pathology assistants. The Board currently accepts an associate degree, bachelor's degree, or an SLPA Certificate. There are programs that offer a “minor” in SLP and have asked if it applies and currently it does not. The Board wanted to see more comparisons between the credits and coursework.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn made by Williams, seconded by Hargunani, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 P.M.