

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on February 18, 2021, via teleconference. The regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:08 p.m.

#### **Staff Present**

Candace G. Robinson, Executive Director  
Oluremi Dean, Discipline & Compliance Office, Deputy  
Bethan Haaga, AAG Board Counsel  
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III  
Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator

#### **Staff Absent**

Monica Wright, Office Secretary III

#### **Visitors**

NONE

#### **Present Members**

Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Chair  
Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Kim Keller  
Mr. John Rouse, CON  
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD  
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD  
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON  
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD  
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP  
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD  
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD  
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP  
Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP

#### **Agenda Review and Approval for February 18, 2021**

Ms. Carolyn Stine made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments to remove HB 976 from the agenda. Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

#### **Minutes Review and Approval for January 21, 2021, February 1, 2021 and February 8, 2021**

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve minutes. Mr. James Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

#### **Regulatory Review**

1. **HB910-** Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to send a letter of support with amendments to have the cap the same as for minors (\$1400 per ear every 36 months). Dr. Barbara McLendon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous
2. **HB1006-** Mr. John Rouse made a motion to take no position. Ms. Carolyn Stine seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
3. **HB1041-** Dr. Barbara McLendon made a motion to send a letter of concern. Ms. Jill Silverman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
4. **HB/535/SB 431-** Mr. Rouse made a motion to take no position. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
5. **SB894-** Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole made a motion to take no position. Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

#### **Board Counsel Report**

NONE

#### **Executive Director's Report - - Dr. Candace G. Robinson**

**TOEFL** – As previously voted on by the Board, if English is a second language, the total combined score required will be 80 and the applications have been updated to reflect this.

**2020 Financial disclosure filing reminder** - Just a reminder again to the board members to complete the 2020 financial disclosure.

**Legislative Committee** - Dr. Candace Robinson recognized Dr. Barbara McLendon, Ms. Jill Silverman, Mr. James Sciabarrasi and Dr. Jennifer Mertes for being on the committee with Board Counsel, Bethan Haaga.

**Deputy Director Report: Oluremi Dean-**

The board is now online with the applications. The law exam, change request and reinstatements have been added as well. We still have to add limited license renewal applications and the transfer from limited license to a full license application.

**Budget Report - Dr. Candace Robinson**

Dr. Robinson reported as of December our balance was 219, 544.01. We do not have the January report has of yet.

**Chair Report- Dr. Jennifer Mertes**

NONE

**License Coordinator Update**

**Ms. Zoann Mouzone** – Reported that there are a total of 36 applications for February. The total active licensee is 5409 that includes SLP’S, SLP’S LL and AUD LL. The total renewal for 2020 is 2,119 that included AUD, SLP and SLPA Assistants. The total non- renewed for May, 2020 is 334. The total HAD renewal is 93.

**Review and Approval for Licensee**

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve all 36 applications. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Review for Committee List of CEU’S for Board Approval**

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve or deny the CEU courses as indicated on the reviewed list. Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Correspondence & F.Y.I**

The Board agreed not to do a survey regarding the effects on COVID-19. Dr. Candace Robinson stated she and Board Counsel Bethan Haaga will work on a response.

**Next Board Meeting – March 18, 2020**

**Adjournment**

Regular Session Minutes  
February 18, 2021  
Page 3

Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Ms. Carolyn Stine seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mertes, AuD.  
Chair