

The open session emergency meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on February 8, 2021, teleconference. The meeting came to order at 4:04 p.m.

#### **Staff Present**

Dr. Candace G. Robinson, Executive Director  
Bethan Haaga, AAG Board Counsel  
Oluremi Dean, Discipline & Compliance Officer  
Lillian Reese, Legislative & Regulations Coordinator

#### **Absent Members**

Mr. Kim Keller, HAD  
Dr. Tam Nguyen, ENT  
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP  
Dr. Carrie Nieman, ENT

#### **Present Board Members**

Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP  
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD  
Dr. Jennifer Mertes, AUD, Chair  
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON  
Mr. John Rouse, CON  
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD  
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD  
Dr. Tinita, Kearney, SLP  
Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole, AUD, Vice Chair

#### **Absent Staff**

Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III  
Monica H. Wright, Office Secretary III

#### **Visitors**

-Susan Adams – Counsel with ASHA  
-Dr. Sofie Roller, AUD – President of MAA  
-Cathy Runnels, SLP  
-Lindsay Knoblauch, SLP

#### **Agenda Review and Approval for February 8, 2021**

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

#### **Regulatory Review**

SB 523/HB 600 – Amendments as proposed for our Board bill, based upon our submitted letter of support included the following:

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> amendments - Dr. Barbara McLendon made a motion to amend page 5 to remove lines 12-15 regarding conducting a balloting process and on page 5, to remove lines 26-28 regarding conducting a balloting process. Dr. Tinita Kearney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

3<sup>rd</sup> amendment - Dr. Barbara McLendon made a motion to remove the brackets indicating in statute 2-311 on page 8, lines 29-30 would be removed. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

4<sup>th</sup> amendment - Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to remove line 3, page 9, regarding making an electronic list of individuals licensed by the Board available on the Board's website. Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Executive Director Report** – Dr. Candace Robinson discussed that to help move meetings quicker, it would be very helpful if there was a legislative committee formed, to review bills during legislative session and be prepared to offer a recommendation to the Board at open Board meetings. Deliberation would still take place as needed, as well as a final vote. Board members would reach out to Dr. Robinson to advise if they are willing to commit to this committee. Our Chair, Dr. Jennifer Mertes volunteered to be on the committee. Board Counsel, Bethan Haaga has also volunteered to serve on the committee to help guide the members. Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to form a legislative committee that has representation from each of the disciplines the Board regulates. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed

**Correspondence & F.Y.I - None**

**Next Board Meeting – February 18, 2021**

**Adjournment**

Ms. Ellen Stein made a motion to adjourn the emergency regular session of the Board meeting. Mr. James Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed. The regular emergency session meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mertes, Au.D.  
Board Chair