



MARYLAND

Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutheford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

The appointment term for Dr. Tinita Kearney serving as a licensed speech-language pathologist on the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists will expire on June 30, 2019.

The Department of Health is requesting that the Maryland Speech-Language Hearing Association (MSHA) submit a list of nominees by February 28, 2018. Dr. Kearney is eligible for reappointment consideration if she is a nominee. Pursuant to §2-202, (4) of the Health Occupations Annotated Code of Maryland, the Governor shall appoint the speech-language pathologist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted by the MSHA. **The number of names on the list must be at least three times the number of vacancies.**

For your reference, enclosed a copy of the statute that addresses all the membership requirements and information on the Board's meeting schedule and other member responsibilities. Please note that the statute requires Board members to be actively practicing.

The Department is committed to creating geographic, gender and ethnic diverse representation on each Board. This helps to ensure that decisions reached more adequately reflect the viewpoints of all populations being served and profoundly continue to advance the groups' mission. We request your assistance in this effort and ask that you address this concern when identifying the most talented individuals to submit as nominees.

Each nominee must submit an online application via the Governor's Appointments Office website, <https://govapps.md.gov/appointments/apply/> by February 28, 2019. Applicants will be required to upload a resume during the application process.

The State Ethics Commission has rendered an advisory opinion #87-1, which addresses the issue of whether members of health regulatory boards may serve as elected officials or directors of professional associations whose members are under the Board's authority. This opinion would be presumed to be a restriction against appointment unless it was clear that their activities would not, in any way, be a conflict of interest. You should be aware that this

opinion could be a restriction on the nature of an individual's activities with the association after they are appointed to a regulatory board. Any officer or Board member of a professional association who accepts nomination for appointment to a regulatory board shall give consideration to resigning from the position with the association prior to accepting the appointment. If the nominee does not wish to resign, his position with the association must be clearly stated with the submission of the nominee's name, to the Secretary of Health and subsequently on the Appointee Exemption Disclosure Forms filed as part of the online application. A determination of eligibility will then be made by the appointment authority.

Thank you for assisting the Department in the appointment process. We look forward to hearing from MSHA on or before February 28, 2019. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 410-767-4049 or Kim.Bennardi@Maryland.gov.

INFORMATION FORM FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION:

Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists

MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION: TOTAL NUMBER: 13

PROFESSIONAL: 11

(please detail)

3 licensed audiologists

3 licensed hearing aid dispensers

3 licensed speech-language pathologists

2 licensed Ear-Nose-Throat specialists (not licensed by the Board)

CONSUMER: 2

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS:

DAY: Thursday- third Thursday of the month (exceptions below)

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 420 I Patterson Avenue, Room 110, Baltimore, MD 21215

FREQUENCY: every month except August and December

COMMITTEE MEETINGS including frequency:

Disciplinary Case Review Committee -once a month, 4 volunteer Board members approximately 12 month commitment

Standing committees include Laws & Regulations, Continuing Education and Credentialing. From time to time ad hoc committees are created to deal with issue-specific matters usually lasting 3 to 4 months.

DETAIL OF MONTHLY TIME COMMITMENT:

Approximately 2.5 hours for the Board meeting, 30 minutes to one hour each month fore-mails and phone conversations

FUNCTION OF BOARD/COMMISSION: <Brief Description>

The mission of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech Language Pathologists is to protect the citizens of Maryland and promote quality health care in the fields of audiology, hearing aid dispensing and speech-language pathology by:

- 1) Licensing qualified audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and speech-language pathologists;
 - 2) Receiving and resolving complaints from the public, courts, employers, insurance companies, and other licensees regarding audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, and speech-language pathologists who may have violated the Board's law;
- and

3) Setting standards for the practice of audiology, hearing aid dispensing, and speech-language pathology that reflect new and emergent developments in the practice of these three health professions through regulations and

OTHER DUTIES OF MEMBERS: (Types of Committees, Exams, etc.)

Hearing Aid Dispenser member administer "Practical Examination" of the required State Examination in Hearing Aid Dispensing

BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION: (Stipend/Travel/Other)

\$50.00 stipend and travel reimbursement

For additional information on the Board, please visit our website at:

<https://health.maryland.gov/boardsahs>

Additional Relevant information

Number of licensees has doubled in the last eight years due to changes in 2007 Board law as well as changes to Medicaid billing rules in CY 2009 which forced exempt licensees to obtain a license as a condition of employment to remain employed in the public school system

Date: Friday, June 6, 2014