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## **Meeting Minutes**

**November 03, 2023**

Labor & Industries, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Room S130, Tumwater, WA 98501

**Members Present:** Connie Furry, Fitter/Dispenser; Nichole Furness, Audiologist, Chairperson; Amberkiah Pomeroy, Audiologist; Taylor Adkins, Speech-Language Pathologist; Sonja Bradford, Speech-Language Pathologist, Vice-chairperson; Ray Parker, Public Member; Robert Richardson, Public Member; David Horn, Licensed Medical Physician; Cristy Pellegrini, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

**Members Absent:** Brenda Litke, Fitter/Dispenser; Paula Benson, Public Member

**Staff Present:** Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Marianne Richter, Policy Analyst; Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General; Madissen Schatz, Administrative Assistant

**Guests and Other Participants:** Athina Maganzini, Speech Language Pathologist, Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center; Chantal Hammers, Audiologist, Spokane Falls Community College; Michele Spencer, Speech Language Pathologist, Celebrate Speech and Language Therapy; Laura Varier, Audiologist; Mary Silva, Audiologist, Puget Sound Hearing Aid & Audiology; Alyssa Diersing, Audiologist; Jennalyn Burke, Speech Language Pathologist, Vancouver Public Schools; Christopher Stefanile, Audiologist, Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center; Angie; Sandra Hubbard, Hearing Aid Specialist, Miracle-Ear Hearing Aid Center

### **Open Session**

#### **1. Call to Order**

At 9 a.m. on November 03, 2023, Chairperson Furness officially commenced the meeting.

##### **1.1. Introduction of Board, Staff, and Guests**

Following the call to order, each board member introduced themselves, acknowledging the presence of staff and guests.

##### **1.2. Approval of Agenda**

The meeting commenced with Dr. Pomeroy motioning to approve the agenda, a proposal seconded by Ms. Furry, resulting in unanimous agreement.

### **1.3. Approval of Minutes – July 28, 2023, Business Meeting**

Chairperson Furness directed the board's attention to the minutes from the previous business meeting on July 28, 2023. A minor typo on page 6 was identified, specifically in item #5, where "serum" was corrected to "cerumen and removal." Ms. Furry motioned to approve the minutes with the suggested changes, seconded by Vice-chairperson Bradford, and unanimously approved.

### **Open Forum**

The board invited comments from the audience during the open forum segment. Despite the opportunity, no audience members chose to participate, leading to Chairperson Furness' acknowledgement and the subsequent conclusion of the open forum.

### **Board Business**

#### **2. Second Substitute House Bill 1724 Update**

The meeting delved into the implications of Second Substitute House Bill 1724, discussing key points such as defining endorsement licensure and allowing national certification for licensure. The board considered the program identifying statutes, setting up a special board meeting to vote on opening the WACs, and initiating the paperwork necessary to open the rules petition. A reevaluation is scheduled for the February meeting.

#### **3. Second Substitute House Bill 1009**

Members were briefed on the details of Second Substitute House Bill 1009, focusing on the bill's requirement of military spouse competency training for all board members and staff. Pertinent details, such as the training deadline, verification process, and eligibility for reimbursement, were discussed.

#### **4. Update on Exception Application Matrix Due to Blake Decision**

The board addressed modifications to the exception application matrix due to the Blake Decision, with concerns raised about the terminology "drug convictions." Ms. Shadduck suggested postponing further discussion until more information could be gathered. A motion by Dr. Pomeroy to table the discussion was seconded by Dr. Horn and unanimously approved.

#### **5. Program Reports**

A comprehensive discussion unfolded, covering various aspects of program reports:

##### **5.1. Credentialing Statistic Report**

Detailed statistical reports were presented for various credentials, offering a snapshot of the program's current status.

- AUD: 549 credentials (+19)
- HIFD: 335 credentials (+5)
- SLP: 3951 credentials (+131)
- SLPI: 151 credentials (+7)
- SLPA: 297 credentials (+7)

### **5.2. Current Budget Report**

Ms. Santiago presented financial information. Key points included:

- Future Meeting Format: Ms. Santiago proposed a consistent Tumwater location for hybrid meetings to reduce venue-related costs.
- Financial Outlook: Anticipate a revenue decline over the next six years due to reduced licensure fees.

### **5.3. Program and Legislative Update**

The program and legislative update covered a range of topics, providing insights into recent developments:

- Recruitment: Physician recruitment initiated by Ms. Shadduck. Board members urged to suggest candidates.
- Office Reorganization: Credentialing staff integrated for improved processes and timelines.
- Response to 1724 Bill: Adjustments highlighted due to governor's scrutiny.
- Budget and Legislative Updates: Reminder of hearing aid specialist exam cost increase.
- Volunteer for Calls: Board members invited to volunteer for Wednesday 8:30 a.m. meet-me calls.
- Board Rules and Standards: Members encouraged to review the rules for WAC 246-760 for audiology standards at the schools.

## **6. Public Relations Subcommittee**

The board reviewed recommendations from the Public Relations Subcommittee regarding a request for lists/labels from Puget Sound Home Health & Hospice. After consideration, a motion by Dr. Horn to deny the application due to the organization not meeting professional or education criteria was seconded by Ms. Furry and unanimously approved.

### **Rules Hearing**

Chairperson Furness called a rule hearing to order at 10:23 a.m., initiating a discussion on proposed rule changes.

#### **7. WSR #23-19-030 CR-102 Rules Hearing on Continuing Education**

Ms. Furry motioned to accept the proposed health equity rules, a motion that was seconded by Chairperson Furness and unanimously approved.

#### **8. WSR #23-19-102 CR-102 Rules Hearing on WAC 246-828-100**

Vice-chairperson Bradford motioned to adopt proposed revisions to WAC 246-828-100, specifically focusing on changes for over the counter (OTC) hearing aids. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adkins, resulting in unanimous approval.

Chairperson Furness adjourned the rules hearing at 10:43 a.m., signaling completion of this segment.

#### **9. Education/Examination Subcommittee**

The board engaged in a comprehensive discussion on establishing a task force to review the hearing aid specialist's new practical exam and considering the feasibility of introducing an interim permit licensure. Ms. Hubbard and Ms. Hammers shared insights on challenges in their respective areas. A motion by Ms. Adkins to create a task force to review exams for hearing instrument specialists, discuss opportunities for interim permits, and bring recommendations back to the board was seconded by Ms. Furry and unanimously approved.

The board took a break at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

#### **10. Business Plan 2023 – 2025**

The board diligently reviewed the business plan for the years 2023 through 2025. A motion by Dr. Pomeroy to approve the business plan was seconded by Ms. Adkins and unanimously approved.

#### **11. NCSB Annual 2023 and ASLP-IC Conferences**

Vice-chairperson Bradford shared insights from the NCSB and ASLP-IC conferences, focusing on billing and supervision challenges. Chairperson Furness reported on the progress of the compact, including participation numbers and future expectations.

#### **12. Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA) Core Courses**

The board delved into a detailed discussion on the current approved list of SLPA schools, considering core courses and addressing variations in post-bachelor programs. Challenges in certification and coursework clarity were highlighted, and the board expressed considerations for creating a task force to address these challenges. The Education Committee was tasked with gathering information on these matters.

### **13. Agenda Building**

The board engaged in agenda building for the upcoming meeting on February 2, 2024. Future discussion topics were outlined, including the new IHS practical examination, decisions on the exception application matrix, and a proposal for a rules workshop on compact fees in February.

### **Adjournment of Open Session**

The meeting concluded with Chairperson Furness adjourning proceedings at 12:03 p.m.

### **Washington State Board of Hearing and Speech**

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Nichole Furness, Chairperson

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Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager

### **Contact Information:**

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