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## **Hearing and Speech Draft Minutes**

**May 5, 2024**

**111 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501 Room 166**

### **Members Present:**

Connie Furry, Hearing Aid Specialist  
Nichole Kingham, Audiologist, Chairperson  
Amberkiah Pomeroy, Audiologist  
Taylor Adkins, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Sonja Braddford, Speech-Language Pathologist, Vice-Chairperson  
Robert Richardson, Public Member  
David Horn, Advising Medical Physician  
Cristy Pellegrini, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant  
Brenda Litke, Hearing Aid Specialist

### **Members Absent:**

Ray Parker, Public Member

### **Staff Present:**

Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager  
Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director  
Sierra McWilliams, Assistant Attorney General  
Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager  
Na'Taya Harris, Administrative Assistant  
Marianne Richter, Policy Analyst  
Dominique Crisp, Staff Attorney

### **Guests and Other Participants:**

Melissa Butterfield, Spokane Falls Community College Hearing Instrument Specialist Program  
Melissa Johnson, Washington Speech Language and Hearing Association Representative  
Athina Maganzini  
Chantal Hammers, Spokane Falls Community College Hearing Instrument Specialist Program  
Kristi Johnson, Spokane Falls Community College Hearing Instrument Specialist Program

## **9 a.m. Open Session**

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

Dr. Kingham, chairperson, called the public meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Dr. Kingham welcomed board members, staff, and guests, expressing gratitude for their dedication and preparation.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Approval of May 3, 2024 agenda.

**Motion/Second:** Dr. Pomeroy/Ms. Adkins. The motion was approved unanimously by the board.

## **1.3 Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2024 Business Meeting**

**Motion:** Approval of the minutes.

**Motion/Second:** Ms. Adkins/Dr. Pomeroy. The motion was approved unanimously by the board.

## **2. Open Forum**

Dr. Kingham opened the floor for an open forum, but no comments were received.

## **3. Program Reports**

Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; and Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager

### **3.1 Credentialing statistics report**

Ms. Shadduck provided the credential statistical report to the board. Six hearing aid specialists from the Washington State Hearing Society took and passed practical examination on March 30<sup>th</sup>. On May 1<sup>st</sup> the Office of Health Professions had reorganization of credentialing specialists integrated with programs. Ms. Santiago also added that the credentialing staff are now moving into new programs and are learning more about hearing and speech specifically.

### **3.2 Current budget report**

Ms. Shadduck provided the current budget report for the board. She stated that the budget is looking good, disciplinary expenses are very minimal.

### **3.3 Program and legislative update**

Ms. Shadduck shared the department of health is holding a board's, commission, and committees' leadership meeting on June 18, 2024, Sonja Bradford is attending. The National Council of State Boards of Examiners (NCSB) national conference is September 26<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> and will be held in San Antonio, Texas. Both Dr. Kingham and Ms. Adkins volunteered to attend. The board will vote on a decision at the next meeting. Ms. Santiago shared with the board that the SLP fee rule in the rule chapter is lacking a line item by HEAL WA. The \$16.00 fee has

been in effect, but the fee rule is not properly structured, Ms. Shadduck and Ms. Ritcher will be opening the fee rule again under the authority of the department to add that HEAL WA fee under the inactive status. This will ensure that it is listed as a requirement.

**4. Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1724 Update and Rules Workshop– Nichole Kingham, Chair**

**4.1 Consideration of subcommittee approval of states considered equivalent in updates matrix**

The Board received an update of how 2SHB 1724 has affected the Board's work with reciprocity/endorsement licensure from Ms. Shadduck and Ms. Santiago. The board reviewed the list of states and their hearing aid specialist credential requirements.

The Board reviewed and considered approval of the list of states considered to be of substantial equivalency in training and licensure requirements in an updated licensure matrix.

Dr. Kingham reviewed and recommended 4 states that were substantially equivalent to WA licensure. She asked the board to provide feedback and their input on what states they thought also meet the equivalency. The board agreed that Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, and Maryland were all equivalent in education and general requirements for hearing aid specialists. Ms. Williams, AAG provided a brief clarification regarding definition of substantially equivalent is not intended to be the same. The board further discussed Texas, Nevada, and Wisconsin. However, these states were not substantially equivalent to Washington in their education requirements. Dr. Kingham and the board agreed that although they had similar licensure laws, they lacked the educational requirements that Washington has deemed necessary for Hearing Aid Specialists

**Motion:** Dr. Kingham motioned for approval of the 4 states (Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Maryland)

**Motion/Second:** Dr. Pomeroy/Ms. Adkins; The motion was approved unanimously by the board.

**4.2 Board will hold a rules workshop to discuss implementation of 2SHB 1724 to WAC 246-828-020, 246-828-510, and 246-828-617**

The board intends to bring clarification to the requirements for speech and language pathologist assistants' certification. Ms. Bradford would like to see speech language pathologist assistants have courses that are specific to a speech pathology assistant certification or program. Content, clarification, and recommended rule language was discussed. The board discussed adding jurisprudence must be taken within the first 3 years of holding a license, to ensure proper knowledge of the law. Both Ms. Shadduck and Ms. Richter will present to the board at the July 26th meeting updated proposed rule language.

*Break from 9:46am – 10:00am*

**5. House Bill (HB) 1001 Audiologist Speech-Language Pathologist Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) Rules Hearing Update – Nichole Kingham, Chair**

On May 2, 2024, the Department of Health held a rule hearing to implement HB 1001 ASLP-IC practice privilege fees for applicants who want to apply for licensure through interstate compact. The board received a briefing of the comments from the rules hearing.

**6. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) 2024 Convention –Nichole Kingham, Chair**

Dr. Kingham nominated Ms. Bradford as a board representative for the ASHA conference, taking place December 5-7, 2024.

Dr. Kingham requested any members attending the conference to report to Ms. Bradford their synopsis of the event as a single report to the board. The board also suggested having DOH staff present as well to help represent the board with handouts/flyers.

**7. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Board will elect a chair and vice-chair to serve from June 30, 2024 to July 1 2025. Per RCW 18.35.150(4): *The chair shall rotate annually among the audiologists, hearing aid specialists, public members, and speech-language pathologists serving on the board.*

Dr. Kingham nominated Ms. Bradford for Chair and the board decided to move the Vice-chair rotation of Public Member first before the Hearing Aid Specialist, since both hearing aid specialists will be rotating off their 2<sup>nd</sup> term in June of 2025. Chairperson Kingham proposed that public member Mr. Richardson become the Vice-chair.

*Ms. Bradford and Mr. Richardson are to start their terms as chair and vice-chair starting July 2024*

**Motion:** Ms. Adkins motioned to approve the public member Mr. Richardson as the vice chair and Ms. Bradford as the chair starting July 30, 2024.

**Motion/Second:** Dr. Pomeroy/Ms. Furry seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously by the board.

**8. Recruitment Update - Nichole Kingham, Chair**

The board is recruiting an advising medical physician and a public member as Dr. Horn and Ms. Benson will complete their second term on the board on June 6, 2024. Doctor Kashiwazaki's application has been selected for recommendation to the governor's office for appointment. Ms. Shadduck is requesting board members to help to recruit a public member since no applications have been received. She informed the board that a second recruitment notice for two hearing aid specialists and two public members will be coming soon.

### **9. Exception Application Matrix– Nichole Kingham, Chair**

The Board discussed and reviewed the updated Exception Application Matrix from the Office of Customer Services. Ms. Santiago provided the proposed matrix. She asked the board for review, comments, questions, or concerns regarding the verbiage of the Blake decision. The final version will be reviewed by the board and if approved adopted by the board. The review will take place at the next meeting July 26, 2024.

### **10. Agenda Building - Nichole Kingham, Chair**

The Board reviewed its board business and discussed priority items for the July 26, 2024, meeting.

- Dr. Kingham and Ms. Adkins to potentially attend the national state board conference in San Antonio.
- Proctors for June 28, 2024 practical exams; Dr. Kingham and Ms. Furry to volunteer.
- HEAL WA: SLP Inactive Status rule fee to be opened and reviewed for updates by the board.
- Continuation of 2SHB 1724 rules workshop for draft rule language to WAC 246-828-020, new section 246-828- 035, 246-828-510 and 246-828-617.
- ASHA Infographic for conference to be created by Ms. Schatz.
- Dr. Kingham and Ms. Bradford to report from the ASLP-IC meeting on the compact budget.
- Recruitment update.
- Exception Application Matrix.
- Location of July 26, 2024 meeting to be moved to Tumwater.

### **Adjournment of Open Session**

Nichole (Kingham) Furness, chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 10:27 p.m.

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

On File

Nichole (Kingham) Furness, Chairperson

### **Contact Information:**

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