



**Washington State  
Board of Hearing and Speech  
Meeting Minutes**

**August 4, 2017**

**Board Members Present**

Hal Hunsaker, Chair; Lisa Illich; Roberta Jackson; Trice Konschuh, Public Member; Henry Ou, MD; Ann Plotnick; Kelly Siebecke; Alison Vega, AuD

**Board Members Absent**

Courtenay Hendricks and Rick Giles

**Staff Present**

Janette Benham, Program Manager; Sandie Pearson, Program Representative; Trina Crawford, Executive Director; Joyce Roper, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

**Others Present**

Cameron Cowper, Registrar and CEO, College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC  
Melissa Butterfield, Spokane Falls Community College  
Chantal Hammers, Spokane Falls Community College

On August 4, 2017, the Board of Hearing and Speech met in Bellingham at the Hotel Bellwether, Admiral Room, One Bellwether Way, Bellingham, WA 98225. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting agenda was emailed to the Hearing and Speech listserv and posted on the Hearing and Speech website.

**OPEN SESSION – 9:00 a.m.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER – Hal Hunsaker, Chair** **9:14 a.m.**  
Mr. Hunsaker called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.
  - 1.1 Introductions**  
Board members and staff introduced themselves.
  - 1.2 Approval of the amended agenda**  
A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Board members voted in favor of the motion.
  - 1.3 Approval of the May 5, 2017 meeting minutes**  
A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 5, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. The board voted in favor of the motion.

## 2. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT – Janette Benham, Program Manager

### 2.1 Licensing statistics

An updated licensing statistics handout was provided. The handout included licensing statistics for August 2016, May 2017, and August 2017. Statistics for August 2017 are as follows:

	Hearing Aid Specialist	Audiologist	SLP	SLPA (Certification)
Active Licenses	311	425	2553	216
Inactive License	31	38	23	0
Expired License	968	264	1308	120
Revoked License	22	0	1	0
Suspended License	16	2	0	0

**2.2 New board member orientation dates** – Ms. Benham welcomed Kelly Siebecke. Ms. Siebecke is a Speech Language Pathology Assistant and is new to the board. Ms. Benham shared the date of the upcoming new member orientation meeting and encouraged Ms. Siebecke and any other interested board member to attend. The next new member orientation date is October 20, 2017 in Tumwater.

**2.3 Board member terms and vacancies** – Ms. Benham updated the board on member terms. She shared that she is still recruiting for the vacant public member position.

**2.4 November meeting date and location discussion** – Ms. Benham shared that the board discussed holding the November meeting in Tumwater. Board members confirmed they would still like to meet in Tumwater on November 3, 2017. Staff members will work to find a meeting room in Tumwater for November 3, 2017 and will update board members. Meeting information will also be posted on the Hearing and Speech webpage.

**2.5 Hearing aid specialist practical examination update** – Ms. Benham provided an update on the June 30, 2017 practical exam. She reported that there were a total of two candidates taking the full exam and one candidate retaking one section of the exam. The candidate that was retaking one section of the exam passed. Out of the two candidates taking the full exam only one passed. The other candidate will need to retake three sections of the exam. The candidate is scheduled to retake the necessary sections on September 22, 2017.

Ms. Benham shared that as of today no additional candidates had signed up for the September 22, 2017 practical exam.

Dr. Ou asked how many times a candidate is able to take the practical exam. The board discussed this as well as how many sections of the exam a candidate can fail without having to retake the entire exam. The board did not make a determination at this time and may include this as an agenda item in the future.

Ms. Benham also shared that she will be recruiting pro-tem members to act as exam proctors for future exams.

3. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT** – Trina Crawford, Executive Director, provided information to the board.

- 3.1 **Current Budget Report** – Ms. Crawford provided information on the program’s operating budget through June 2017. June 30, 2017 was the last day of the biennium. The program’s budget was in good shape at the end of the biennium. The new biennium began on July 1, 2017. Program revenue continues to exceed expenditures and there are no issues at this time. An updated budget report will be provided at the next meeting.

4. **BOARD AND COMMISSION LEADERSHIP MEETING** – Hal Hunsaker provided an update on the Health Systems Quality Assurance Leadership Meeting he attended in Tumwater on July 17, 2017. He reported that the opioid epidemic was the topic of the main presentation during the meeting. The department has assembled members from various health professions to discuss alternatives to opioid use.

Representatives from other boards and commissions presented updates regarding their programs as well. In addition, a representative from the Governor’s office, Mr. McGill, presented information regarding the best ways to make policy changes.

5. **DELEGATION OF SIGNATURE AUTHORITY** – The board reviewed, discussed, and voted to approve the Signature Delegation forms to give signature authority for some credentialing and disciplinary functions to Department of Health staff members. This is routine delegation used by boards and commissions and is updated biennially.

6. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO SUPERVISE INTERIM PERMIT HOLDERS** – The board reviewed and considered requests for approval to supervise interim permit holders per WAC 246-828-045 (1) (b).

- 6.1 The board reviewed, discussed, and voted to approve a request for Dr. Lauren Swineford to supervise interim permit holders per WAC 246-828-045 (1) (b). Roberta Jackson recused herself from the vote.
  - 6.2 The board reviewed, discussed, and voted to approve a request for Lorana Schnaible to supervise interim permit holders per WAC 246-828-045 (1) (b).
  - 6.3 The board reviewed, discussed, and voted to approve a request for Alison Dawn Penrod to supervise interim permit holders per WAC 246-828-045 (1) (b).
  - 6.4 The board reviewed, discussed, and voted to deny a request for Julie Krivolapova to supervise interim permit holders per WAC 246-828-045 (1) (b). Ms. Krivolapova has not been licensed as a speech-language pathologist for a minimum of two years.
  - 6.5 The board reviewed, discussed, and voted to approve a request for Caitlin Schauer to supervise interim permit holders per WAC 246-828-045 (1) (b).

7. **PRESENTATION** – Cameron Cowper, Registrar and CEO of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC, presented information on the regulation of professions in Canada.

Mr. Cowper presented information regarding the regulatory framework of speech and hearing health professionals nationally in Canada, and provincially in British Columbia (BC). British Columbia's College (board) regulates registration, quality assurance, inquiry, and discipline.

Audiology and speech language pathology is regulated in eight provincial jurisdictions, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Labrador.

Hearing instrument dispensing is regulated in only three provincial jurisdictions, including Alberta, British Columbia (regulated as its own profession), and Ontario (regulated within audiology).

He shared information about the Hearing Instrument Practitioner (HIP) registration process that includes a written exam as well as a practical exam. The written exam that is used is the IHS exam, however, they have developed their own practical exam. The practical exam is given twice a year. Ms. Crawford shared that our board has just started administering the practical exam and asked about board members observing the BC practical exam. Mr. Cowper welcomed the opportunity to have members observe a future exam.

Mr. Cowper and board members discussed the similarities and differences in the regulation of professions. Mr. Cowper invited members to BC to attend a meeting of the College as well as to observe a future exam. Staff and members will work to coordinate traveling to BC to observe the exam.

## **8. COMMITTEE WORK**

### **8.1 Rules Committee**

Members: Trice Kenschuh, Public Member; Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist; Rick Giles, Hearing Aid Specialist; Dr. Alison Vega, Audiologist; Roberta Jackson, SLP

**8.1.1** There were no additional agenda items referred for committee review.

**8.1.2** Committee members reviewed and conducted a rules workshop to review the following rules:

#### **WAC 246-828-020**

- To consider allowing hearing aid specialist applicants to be approved to take the written examination prior to completion of the applicant's educational program.

#### **WAC 246-828-025**

- To consider adding language that allows the board to approve the equivalent out-of-country educational programs for SLPAs.
- To consider clarifying postgraduate professional work experience by adding language listing the total number of hours required

#### **WAC 246-828-040**

- To consider updating or repealing this section as there is no provision in the current examination contract that allows for appeal and review of hearing aid specialist examinations.

#### **WAC 246-828-045, 04503, 04505**

- To consider amending or clarifying language regarding the number of hours of postgraduate supervision required.

- To consider adding language that allows hours to be completed under an educational staff associate (ESA).

**WAC 246-828-112**

- To consider adding language to allow SLPA's to be supervised by teletherapy for certain tasks and procedures.

**WAC 246-828-600**

- To consider amending language to amend the number of math credits needed as a prerequisite for entry into hearing aid specialist nine-month certificate programs.

**8.2 Education/Exam Committee**

Members: Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member; Hal Hunsaker, SLP; Dr. Alison Vega, Audiologist; Henry Ou, M.D; Roberta Jackson, SLP

**8.2.1** There were no additional agenda items referred for committee review.

**8.3 Disciplinary Committee**

Members: Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist; Hal Hunsaker, SLP; Trice Kenschuh, Public Member; Lisa Illich, Audiologist

**8.4 Public Relations Committee**

Members: Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member; Hal Hunsaker, SLP; Henry Ou, M.D.

**8.4.1** There were no additional agenda items referred for committee review.

**8.4.2** The committee reviewed a request for lists and labels from Genesis Rehab Services.

**8.4.3** The committee reviewed a request for lists and labels from Kindred at Home.

**8.4.4** Committee members discussed messages to be included in the social media pilot project.

**8.5 Site-Review Committee for Hearing Aid Specialist Programs**

Members: Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist; Alison Vega, Audiologist; Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member; Rick Giles, Hearing Aid Specialist

**8.5.1** Committee member discussed and reviewed recommendations to the board regarding the Spokane Falls Community College site review conducted on May 31, 2017.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Committee members reported their discussions and presented committee recommendations for board action.

**Rules Committee**

- The committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended the board vote in favor of the proposed changes to the following rules:
  - WAC 246-828-020
  - WAC 246-828-025
  - WAC 246-828-040
  - WAC 246-828-045, 04503, 04505
  - WAC 246-828-600

The committee and the board discussed WAC 246-828-112 regarding allowing SLPAs to be supervised by teletherapy (remotely) for certain tasks and procedures. The board felt that more information and research was needed.

A motion was made that the board move forward with the proposed changes to WAC 246-828-020, 025, 040, 045, 04503, 04505, and 600 and that staff members move forward with the CR 102 to set a hearing date. The motion included the recommendation that the board not consider rulemaking at this time that would allow SLPAs to be supervised by teletherapy (remotely). The board discussed revisiting this topic at a future board meeting. The board voted in favor of the motion.

#### **Education/Exam Committee**

- The committee did not provide a report as they did not meet.

#### **Disciplinary Committee**

- The committee did not provide a report.

#### **Public Relations Committee**

- The committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended the board approve a lists and labels request from Genesis Rehab Services. The board voted to approve the lists and labels request from Genesis Rehab Services.
- The committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended the board deny a lists and labels request from Kindred at Home. The board voted to deny the lists and labels request from Kindred at Home.
- The committee discussed messages to include in the social media pilot project. The committee discussed developing messages and working with Ms. Benham regarding posts.

#### **Site-Review Committee for Hearing Aid Specialist Programs**

- The committee presented information and recommendations regarding the site review of Spokane Falls Community College's program. Committee members shared that they were extremely impressed with the program and noted it was the only distance learning program in the country that offers a degree for hearing aid specialists. The committee recommended and the board voted in favor of continuing to accept the Spokane Falls Community College's Hearing Aid Specialist program as a board-approved program. Ms. Benham will provide a copy of the site review recommendations to representatives from Spokane Falls Community College.

### **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

**10.1** There was no correspondence received by program staff for board discussion at this time.

### **11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS – The board discussed adding the following items to future meeting agendas:**

- Exam retake discussion
- Teletherapy (remote) supervision of SLPAs (interpretive statement/policy)
- Disciplinary matrix for non-routine applications
- Practical exam update

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chantal Hammers, Spokane Falls Community College, thanked the board. She shared her appreciation of the board holding meetings in various locations around the state. She also suggested the board post draft meeting minutes to the webpage. Program staff will work to post draft meeting minutes to the webpage prior to the next meeting.

**13. ADDITIONAL ITEMS** – There were no additional items discussed at this time.

**14. CONSENT AGENDA**

**14.1** An informational article regarding over-the-counter hearing devices was provided in board member packets for review.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

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Prepared By: Janette Benham, Program Manager

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Date

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Approved By: Hal Hunsaker, Chair

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Date

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