



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

July 30, 2021

A meeting of the Washington State Board of Hearing and Speech was called to order at 9:05 a.m. on Friday, July 30, 2021, by Chair Brenda Litke. The meeting was held by webinar. 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.

Board Members Present:

Brenda Litke, Chair; Ray Parker, Vice Chair; Lisa Illich, Paula Benson; Connie Fury; David Horn; Nichole Kingham; Kelly Siebecke; and Brian Shute

Board Members Absent:

Roberta Jackson

Staff Present:

Brad Burnham, Executive Director; Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager; Sandie Pearson, Health Services Consultant 1; Christopher Wright, Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst

Others Present:

Diana Thompson, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)
Melissa Johnson, Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association (WSLHA)
Chantal Hammers, Spokane Falls Community College
Rick Giles Hearing Aid Specialist
Alison Vega, Audiologist
Cherie Perrazoli, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

OPEN SESSION – 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Brenda Litke, Chair

Brenda Litke called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

1.1 Approval of the draft agenda

Brenda Litke, Chair, asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting agenda. No additions or corrections were made. The agenda was approved as presented.

1.2 Approval of the May 7, 2021, meeting minutes

Brenda Litke, chair, asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the May 7, 2021 board meeting. A typo in Item 7 was corrected. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Program Reports – Joyce Roper AAG, Brad Burnham, executive director; Tanya Mills, credentialing supervisor; and Kim-Boi Shadduck, program manager

2. Credentialing statistics

Kim-Boi Shadduck shared the following licensure statistics with the board:

- Hearing Aid Specialist – 333
- Audiologists – 496
- Speech Language Specialist – 3,395
- Speech Language Pathology Assistant – 254

3. Current Budget Report

Mr. Burnham provided a budget report through the end of May 2021. The 2021 – 2023 biennium budget begins on July 1, 2021. The report shows the currently revenue continues to exceed expenditures. Mr. Burnham provided information on the “other goods and services” line item. He shared that the contracted service for captioning is included in that line item. MS Teams captioning is being used for this meeting. Feedback on the use of MS Teams is encouraged.

4. Program and legislative update

Ms. Shadduck shared that board member recruitment will begin soon. She will be reaching out to those board members eligible for re-appointment to determine if they would like to be re-appointed to the board.

Mr. Burnham shared that the department will begin drafting rule language for cultural competency CE. The department will seek input from the board.

Legislation regarding the interstate compact is expected to be included in next years legislation.

5. Review Request for Audiology Services – The board reviewed and discussed a request letter from the Academy of Doctors of Audiology on updating audiology scope of practice.

The board reviewed and discussed a letter received from the Academy of Doctors of Audiology. Mr. Burnham provided a brief background regarding scope of practice being determined by the legislature. The legislature looks to the board to clarify nuances of the practice. Things that are outside the scope determined by the legislature needs to be addressed by the legislature. The letter received asks the board to provide input regarding audiologist’s scope of practice. Board members discussed items listed in the letter and provided their feedback.

6. Clarification on updating WAC 246-828 rules – Brenda Litke, Chair

- (a) The board discussed rulemaking to define the term “reasonable cause” in RCW 18.35.185(1)(a) in rule.
- (b) The board discussed whether to initiate rulemaking to amend WAC 246-828-025 and 615 as requested by the Hearing Loss Association of America.

Board members discussed rulemaking to clarify ‘reasonable cause’. Ms. Shadduck updated the board the WAC 246-828-100 Hearing instrument fitting and dispensing – minimum standards of practice is currently working its way through the rulemaking process and a rules hearing will be held at the next meeting.

Members also discussed whether to begin the rulemaking process to clarify WAC 246-828-615-Standards for hearing aid specialist programs. A motion was made and seconded to leave the rule as is and not to begin the rulemaking process regarding WAC 246-828-615. Members voted in favor of the motion.

7. Meeting and Exam Dates for 2022 – Brenda Litke, Chair

The board reviewed and approved the 2022 meeting dates and hearing aid specialist (HAS) practical exam. Meeting and exam dates for 2022 are as follows:

Board Meeting 2022		HAS Practical Exams 2022	
February 4, 2022	Tumwater	March 25, 2022	Tumwater
May 6, 2022	Spokane	June 24, 2022	Tumwater
July 29, 2022	Tumwater	September 30, 2022	Tumwater
November 4, 2022	Kent	December 2, 2022	Tumwater

The November 5, 2021 meeting was scheduled to be held at the Kent office; however, the Kent DOH offices are currently closed. Location of the November 5, 2021 meeting is to be determined.

OPEN FORUM – The board accepted comments from the audience on issues of significance to the profession.

Dianna Thompson shared information with the Board about legislation from last session regarding insurance coverage for hearing aids for children. The proposed bill did not pass but elements of it were added to the budget bill. The legislature may consider the issue more in future sessions.

8. Committee Work

- 8.1 Rules Committee:** Connie Furry, hearing aid specialist; Dr. Nicole Kingham, audiologist; Roberta Jackson, Speech-Language Pathologist; and Paula Benson, public member.

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

- 8.2 Education / Exam Committee:** Roberta Jackson, Speech-Language Pathologist; Ray Parker, public member; Nicole Kingham, audiologist; David Horn, MD; Kelly Siebecke, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, and Connie Fury, hearing aid specialist.

8.2.1 There were no additional agenda items referred for committee review

8.3 Disciplinary Committee: Brenda Litke, hearing aid specialist; Nicole Kingham, Audiologist, Ray Parker, public member, and Brian Shute, speech-language pathologist.

8.3.1 There were no additional agenda items referred for committee review.

8.4 Public Relations: Brian Shute, Speech-Language Pathologist; Lisa Illich, audiologist, David Horn, M.D.; and Kelly Siebecke, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

8.4.1 Committee members reviewed and discussed requests for lists and labels requests from:

- Change How We Think- Board members reviewed and determined more information was needed.
- Institute for Brain Potential – Board members reviewed and determined more information was needed.

8.5 Site Review Committee for Hearing Aid Specialist Programs: Brenda Litke, hearing aid specialist; Connie Fury, hearing aid specialist; Ray Parker, public member; Lisa Illich, audiologist.

8.5.1 There were no additional agenda items referred for committee review.

9. Committee Reports – Committee members reported their discussions and presented committee recommendations for board action.

Rules Committee

- The committee did not meet and did not provide a report.

Education/Exam Committee

- The committee did not meet and did not provide a report.

Disciplinary Committee

- The committee did not meet and did not provide a report.

Public Relations Committee

- The committee reviewed, discussed, and asked for more information for the lists and labels request from Change How We Think. The board voted to approve the motion requesting for more information from Change How We Think.
- The committee reviewed, discussed, and asked for more information for the lists and labels request from Institute for Brain Potential. The board voted to approve the motion requesting for more information from Institute for Brain Potential.

Site-Review Committee for Hearing Aid Specialist Programs

- The committee did not meet and did not provide a report

- 10. Decision Delegation and Signature Delegation – Brenda Litke, Chair** The board reviewed and updated the delegation forms for 2021 – 2023 biennium.

Ms. Shadduck presented the delegation forms and explained the forms needed updated approval for the 2021 – 2023 biennium. A motion was made and seconded to approve and update the delegation forms for 2021- 2023. Members voted in favor of approving the motion.

11. Agenda-building – Brenda Litke, Chair

The board discussed possible agenda items for the next meeting.

- Rules update
- Information on health equity

Ms. Shadduck asked members to email her with any suggestions for the next meeting agenda.

12. Adjournment of Open Session

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Next meeting scheduled for November 4, 2021, location TBD. Updated meeting information can be found on the program's website.