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Board of Hearing and Speech Draft Minutes

February 02, 2024

University of Washington Tacoma, Garretson Woodruff & Pratt, Rm 320, 1754 Pacific Ave,
Tacoma, WA 98402

Members Present: Connie Furry, Hearing Aid Specialist; 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; Brenda Litke, Hearing Aid Specialist; Paula Benson, Public Member

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Marianne Richter, Policy Analyst; Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Shani Hue Budget Analyst; Lydia Koroma, Supervising Staff Attorney

Guests and Other Participants: Bryan Wall, Melissa Bushnell, Chantal Hammers, Alyssa, Athina Maganzini, Chia-Cheng Lee

Open Session

1. Call to Order

1.1. Introduction of Board, Staff, and Guests

The meeting began with Chairperson Furness introducing herself and welcoming attendees. Other board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves, each detailing their professional roles and locations.

1.2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was motioned for approval by Dr. Pomeroy and seconded by Ms. Adkins. The board voted unanimously to approve.

1.3. Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2023, Business Meeting

The minutes were motioned for approval by Vice-chairperson Bradford, seconded by Ms. Litke. Chairperson Furness noted no typos, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Open Forum

The board opened the floor for comments. Chairperson Furness invited contributions, but no comments were made, leading to the conclusion of this segment.

3. Program Reports

3.1. Credentialing Statistic Report

Ms. Shadduck presented the credentialing statistic report, noting unusual trends in professional credentials. An increase in audiologists and speech-language pathologists, a decrease in hearing aid specialists and speech-language pathologist interns, and a notable increase in speech-language pathologist assistants were reported.

3.2. Current Budget Report

The financial standing was reported as healthy, with a positive balance of over \$1,000,000. Ms. Santiago reminded that board members who have opted out of reporting their time and service will affect the budget for future board members, since the budget is not correctly reporting expenses. Vice-Chairperson Bradford raised concerns about the timecard reporting process, suggesting a need for a more streamlined system.

3.3. Program and Legislative Update

An update on relevant healthcare bills was provided, with a focus on House Bill 2102, House Bill 2014, and Senate Bill 5481. The board noted no direct impacts on the board's operations or authority.

4. Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1724 Update

4.1. Review and Consider Program Approval of Substantial Equivalency States

The board reviewed and approved four states (California, Florida, Minnesota, Texas) as having substantially equivalent licensure for speech-language pathologists. A motion was made to approve these states by Dr. Pomeroy and was seconded by Vice-chairperson Bradford.

4.2. Consideration of Chapter 246-828 WAC Rules for Implementation of 2SHB 1724

The board discussed the integration of 2SHB 1724 into existing regulations and decided to file a CR-101 to open the rules. A motion to file CR-101 was made by Dr. Pomeroy, seconded by Ms. Adkins, and passed unanimously.

5. House Bill (HB) 1001 Audiologist Speech-Language Pathologist Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) Rules Workshop Establishing Practice Privilege Fees

The board held a workshop to implement HB 1001 ASLP-IC practice privilege fees and proposed a fee of \$80 for both application and renewal. The proposal to incorporate a new section, WAC 246-828-991 fees for compact privileges and to create a renewal cycle was put forth by Ms. Adkins. The motion received support from Dr. Pomeroy and was subsequently passed with unanimous approval.

6. Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA) Core Courses

The board discussed recommending a list of SLPA core courses to SLPA students/professionals, emphasizing the need for a structured approach to qualifications. The discussion led to the board determining that they did not want to pursue approving individual SLPA courses, and the statute should stand on its own. The board agreed to open rules for the necessity for a systematic method to approve SLPA certification and clarification of the requirements. The proposal to open WAC 246-828-617, which was initiated by Vice-chairperson Bradford and seconded by Ms. Adkins, has been passed.

7. Education/Examination Subcommittee

The board reviewed recommendations from the Task Force on the new hearing aid specialist practical exam. Ms. Litke expressed satisfaction with the updated exam. The board discussed the launch plan and the need for board members' availability during the exam date.

8. Non-Routine Application Requests

The board considered and approved the program's proposal to autonomously approve straightforward non-routine applications. This included approvals for SLP supervisors with less than two years of WA licensure, SLPI extension requests, ILE from approved states, out-of-state SLPA work experience, and transcripts from foreign schools. The proposal to create a policy statement produced by the board was initiated by Vice-chairperson Bradford and seconded by Chairperson Furness. The motion to approve non-routine application requests agenda items 8.1 – 8.5 was made by Ms. Adkins and seconded by Dr. Pomeroy. This motion has been passed unanimously.

9. Public Relations Subcommittee

The board discussed and unanimously approved the request from Spokane Falls Community College for lists/labels, as recommended by the Public Relations Subcommittee. The motion was initiated by Dr. Pomeroy and seconded by Mr. Richardson. The motion passed.

10. Agenda Building

The board reviewed board business and set priority items for the upcoming meeting on May 3, 2024. Discussions focused on the integration of the jurisprudence exam, restructuring of

WAC rules, and the preparation for leadership transitions and setting dates for 2025 activities.

Adjournment of Open Session

The meeting was adjourned, with the next board meeting scheduled for May 3, 2024, at the Department of Health, Town Center 2 Rm 166, 111 Israel Rd. S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501.

Washington State Board of Hearing and Speech

On File _____

Nichole (Kingham) Furness, Chairperson

Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager

Contact Information:

Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager

kim-boi.shadduck@doh.wa.gov

360-236-2912