



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov.

**Board of Hearing and Speech Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2024**

111 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501 Room 166

Members Present: Connie Furry, Hearing Aid Specialist; Nichole Kingham, Audiologist; Amberkiah Pomeroy, Audiologist; Taylor Adkins, Speech-Language Pathologist; Sonja Braddford, Speech-Language Pathologist, Chairperson; Robert Richardson, Public Member, Vice-Chairperson; Ray Parker, Public Member; Brenda Litke, Hearing Aid Specialist

Members Absent: Cristy Pellegrini, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant; Ryota Kashiwazaki,

Staff Present: Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Na'Taya Harris, Administrative Assistant; Marianne Richter, Policy Analyst; Kristi Knieps, Assistant Attorney General; Patrick Hanley, DOH Staff; Margret Pagel, DOH Staff; Jeff Orwig, DOH Staff

Guests and Other Participants:

Melissa Johnson, Washington Speech Language and Hearing Association Representative; Chantal Hammers, Program Director, Spokane Falls Community College Hearing Instrument; Kristi Johnson, Hearing and Instrument Specialist, Spokane Falls Community College; Melissa Bushnell, Hearing Aid Specialist, VA

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Bradford called the public meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.1 Introduction of Board, Staff, and Guests.

Chairperson Bradford welcomed board members, staff, and guests, expressing gratitude for their participation and preparation.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approval of November 1, 2024 agenda.

Motion/Second: Dr. Pomeroy/ Dr. Kingham. The motion was approved unanimously by the board.

1.3 Approval of Minutes - July 26, 2024 Business Meeting

Dr. Kingham pointed out that item seven from July 26, 2024 board meeting minutes did not have the proper title listed and suggested the correction of the title. Dr. Pomeroy moved to accept the changes, Ms. Furry seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by the board.

July 26, 2024

Page 2

Motion: Approval of the minutes.

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

2. Open Forum

Chairperson Bradford opened the floor for an open forum. Ms. Shadduck reviewed two questions from members of the public that emailed their questions to her. These questions were tabled and will be further reviewed at the February 2025 meeting. Dr. Kingham also shared two concerns with the board for consideration, these concerns will be further reviewed at the February 2025 meeting.

3. HELMS Presentation

Ms. Geisler presented the Health Enforcement and Licensing Management System (HELMS). She discussed what HELMS is and how it will be implemented. She shared that there will be a freeze of the system in 2025, and they hope to manage that freeze to minimize any licensing complications.

4. Program Reports

Ms. Shadduck provided updates on the credentialing statistics report, the current budget report, and the 2025 legislative weekly call volunteers.

4.1 Credentialing statistic report

Ms. Shadduck provided the credential statistical report to the board. She shared the number of professionals that are credentialed with the hearing and speech profession. She also shared the results from the September practical exam, three candidates took the exam and two of them passed the exam. There will be three candidates scheduled for the December practical exam.

4.2 Current budget report

Ms. Shadduck provided the current budget report for the board. She stated that the budget is looking good, it is starting to decrease.

4.3 2025 Legislative meet me call volunteers

Ms. Shadduck informed the board that the department is looking into sending out emails versus Wednesday calls. She asked the board for one volunteer to represent the board during this legislative session. Ms. Adkins volunteered to represent the board.

July 26, 2024

Page 3

5. Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1724 Update and Rules Workshop

5.1 The Board reviewed and considered subcommittee approval of the list of states considered substantial equivalent in updated matrix for audiology.

The Board received an update of how 2SHB 1724 has affected the Board's work with reciprocity/endorsement licensure from Ms. Shadduck. The board reviewed all 50 states regarding substantial equivalent to Washington state for requirements of licensure and education standards. The board previously discussed and agreed upon which states they felt were substantially equivalent, the board today confirmed those states.

The Board reviewed the states that were not substantially equivalent for Audiologists licenses.

Dr. Kingham and Dr. Pomeroy agreed with the recommendations of the states that were not substantially equivalent. The states that were not considered to be substantially equivalent were New Jersey, New York, Washington DC, Michigan, and Nevada.

Motion: Approval of the states recommended to the board regarding states that are not substantially equivalent.

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

5.2 The Board reviewed and considered subcommittee approval of the list of states considered substantial equivalent in updated matrix for Speech Language-Pathology.

The Board reviewed the states that were not substantially equivalent for Speech Language Pathologists licenses. Chairperson Braford and Ms. Adkins felt that Washington DC, Connecticut, and Nevada as not being substantially equivalent.

Motion: Approval of amendments to the rules.

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

6. National Council of State Boards of Examiners (NCSB) and Audiology Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC)

Chairperson Bradford, Ms. Adkins, and Dr. Kingham discussed their experiences with and participation at the NCSB annual conference and the ASLP-IC meeting. The key takeaways were about mental health, Artificial Intelligence, and webpage accessibility for your board and program.

Break from 10:39am – 10:49am

July 26, 2024

Page 4

7. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) 2024 Convention

Ms. Shadduck discussed the upcoming plans for the ASHA conference. Ms. Harris and Ms. Shadduck will be hosting both at the conference with help from a few of the board members.

8. Newsletter

Ms. Schatz discussed the content of the newsletter and asked the board for their approval of the newsletter and any comments or questions they have. Dr. Pomeroy also asked if Ms. Schatz could include a section regarding the HELMS renewal and the freeze that HELMS will be conducting in February 2025. Dr. Kingham addressed the association that is listed throughout the newsletter and asked if any other associations were included in the participation of this newsletter.

Motion: Approval of the content of the newsletter.

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

9. Exception Application Matrix

The board reviewed the approval of the proposed modifications to the exception application matrix regarding the Blake Decision recommendations from the department.

Motion: Approval of the exception application matrix.

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

10. Washington Hearing Society's Hearing Aid Specialist

Washington Hearing Society's Hearing Aid Specialist (HAS) students all must take the practical exam prior to licensure. The program requested the board review and approved a time limit of when a student completes the HAS program and is required to take their practical exam. The board chose to submit a desk complaint to address these concerns.

11. Surety Bond for Audiologist and Hearing Conversationalist

The Board discussed and reviewed the requirement of Surety Bond under an umbrella policy for audiologists and hearing aid specialists. The board agreed that the surety bond must list the name of the individual.

12. Certified Occupational Hearing Conservationist

The Board had previously discussed this item earlier in the meeting, this will be reviewed at the February 2025 meeting for further discussion.

13. Agenda Building

The Board reviewed its board business and discussed priority items for the February 7, 2024 meeting.

July 26, 2024

Page 5

- Rules Hearing for the implementation of 2SHB 1724
- Roberts Rules overview
- Site review for the Washington Hearing Society Hearing Aid Specialist Program
- International Hearing Society Report-out
- Review and discuss Dr. Kingham's concerns
- Welcoming new board members

14. Adjournment of Open Session

Chairperson Bradford adjourned the meeting at 11:25 p.m.

Motion: Chairperson Bradford motioned for approval of adjournment.

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

Washington State Board of Hearing and Speech

On File

Sonja Bradford, Chairperson

Contact Information:

Kim Boi Shadduck, Program Manager

kim-boi.shadduck@doh.wa.gov

360-236-2912