



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

November 6, 2020

A meeting of the Washington State Board of Hearing and Speech was called to order at 9:41 a.m. on Friday, November 6, 2020, by Chair Roberta Jackson. 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:

Roberta Jackson, Chair; Brenda Litke, Vice Chair; Lynn Satre; Lisa Illich, Connie Furry; Kelly Siebecke; Paula Benson; Nichole Kingham; David Horn; and Brian Shute

Board Members Absent:

Ray Parker

Staff Present:

Brad Burnham, Executive Director; Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager; Sandie Pearson, Health Services Consultant 1; Joyce Roper, Assistant Attorney General (AAG) and Sara Kirschenman, Staff Attorney

Others Present:

Sandy Hubbard, Washington Hearing Society (WHS)
Diana Thompson, Hearing Loss Association of Washington (HLAW)
Melissa Johnson, Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association (WSLHA)
Chantal Hammers, Spokane Falls Community College
Rick Giles, Hearing Aid Specialist
Tess Crowder, CART Services
Janavieve Cook, public member

OPEN SESSION – 9 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Roberta Jackson, Chair

Roberta Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m.

1.1 Approval of the draft agenda

Roberta Jackson, 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 8, 2020, meeting minutes

Roberta Jackson, chair, asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the July 31, 2020 board meeting. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved as submitted.

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

2. Follow up information about HLAA district court decision case

Dr. Kingham provided an update to the board. She said arguments so far rest on whether denying hearing aid coverage is discriminatory under Obamacare. The next tentative scheduled hearing is January 3, 2022. There's been another motion to dismiss. The motion to dismiss will be heard in December. They will be looking at definition of law; the defendants are saying there's no case. AAG Roper added that the case name is *Schmitt v. Kaiser Foundation Health Plan*, 965 F.3d 945 (9th Cir., July 14, 2020). The 9th Circuit reversed the district court's dismissal of both claims, returning one of the claims to the district court authorizing Ms. Schmitt to amend that claim. Ms. Schmitt did so and Kaiser is seeking to dismiss that amended claim in district court.

3. Credentialing statistics

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

- Hearing Aid Specialist – 332
- Audiologists – 479
- Speech Language Specialist – 3,247

Ms. Shadduck shared information about the September Washington hearing aids practical exam. There were eight applicants. One applicant was not actually a student of Washington Hearing Society. Another applicant was unable to take the exam due to a medical emergency. The six remaining applicants took the exam; three passed. Of the remaining three, one will need to take the full exam and two will need to re-take sections of the exam. The next practical exam is scheduled for December 3 and 4. The exam will be held at the Kent DOH office. Ms. Shadduck asked members to let her know if they were available to proctor the exam. Connie Furry volunteered to be a proctor for the December 3, 2020 exam.

4. Current budget report and inability to issue grants

Ms. Shadduck provided the board with an updated budget report. She said the report was in a different format. The ending balance for September was positive.

Brad Burnham, executive director, provided additional information about the budget. There have been several changes from our financial team. The normal number of renewals has changed due to COVID. The secretary of health offered a renewal extension to people who had renewals during the spring and summer. The extension went until the end of September. This resulted in lower number of renewals during that time. However, those numbers are expected to return to normal levels.

Mr. Burnham also looked into a couple of the expenses and the variances. For the month of September, we had more expenses than we expected for a line item called contractual services. In that category there are expenses related to the captioning being offered for the today's meeting.

Another line item that was more than expected were legal services. Legal services expenses are based on the number of complaints and/or cases that are received.

A line item expense that was less than expected was the investigations that are done per complaints received. Another one that was less than expected was AG support. Also, due to COVID, travel expenses were reduced because we're holding meetings virtually.

Ms. Jackson said she had received an e-mail from a member of the Washington State Speech Language and Hearing Association, who was participating in a national meeting of presidents of speech language and hearing associations. During that meeting it was shared that some of the other state licensing boards provide grants to the professional organizations. The question was asked was whether the Washington State Board of Hearing and Speech provides similar grants. Ms. Shadduck indicated that providing grants or funding to professional organizations was not legislatively and/or statute-wise possible for the Board of Hearing and Speech.

5. Legislative update

Mr. Burnham provided a legislative update to the board. In January, the next legislative session will begin. It will be a long session, 106 days. Session begins January 11, 2021. This session a biennial budget will be developed. Tax revenue is down due to COVID. The legislature will be working with less money than in past years.

In addition, Mr. Burnham explained that during the legislative session the department invites representatives from the boards, commissions, and committees to participate in a weekly meet-me conference call to review legislation. Calls are held first thing in the morning and last about 30 minutes. Last year the calls were held on Wednesday mornings and Robbie Jackson was the representative. Ms. Jackson said she would be happy to be the meet-me call representative again this year. Ms. Shadduck asked board members to let her know if they would like to be a back-up on the meet-me calls.

Open Forum

The board accepted comments from the audience on issues of significance to the professions.

Melissa Johnson, representing the Washington Speech Language Hearing Association, said the association will pursue legislation this upcoming session that would establish the audiology and speech language pathology compact.

Chantel Hammers asked if it was possible to get the credentialing statistics report either electronically or included in the minutes for the meeting.

Diana Thompson shared her suggestions for WAC 246-828-615. programs. And as the professionals are required to give this information to clients, Ms. Thompson asked for more information about the rules workshop scheduled for later in this meeting.

Board Business

6. Meeting and Exam Dates for 2021

The board reviewed and approved the following 2021 meeting and practical exam dates:

Board of Hearing and Speech meeting	Hearing Aid Specialist Practical Exam
February 5, 2021 TBD by webinar	March 26, 2021 in Tumwater
May 7, 2021 TBD by webinar	June 25, 2021 in Tumwater
July 30, 2021 location Tumwater	September 24, 2021 in Tumwater
November 5, 2021 location Kent	December 3, 2021 in Tumwater

7. Rules Workshop for updating WAC 246-828

The board reviewed and discussed the recommended language changes in rules packet CR 102 for WAC 246-828 from the department's policy office.

Board members discussed the changes. Ms. Shadduck asked members to review and let her know if they had any additional clarifications or changes.

8. Review of Current National Exams Scores

The board reviewed and discussed that AuD and SLP national exam Praxis keeps the exam scores for only 10 years. The board discussed options for alternative ways to get official records for licensure from another state.

Ms. Shadduck said the board may want to update the rules regarding exam score records needed for licensure. A lot of providers who live really close to the border of Washington and Oregon may have patients on both sides of the border. They would need to be dually licensed to work with residents of Washington if they reside in Oregon, for example. In that case they would be required to get their Praxis test scores. Praxis keeps the test scores for only 10 years. The Hearing Society typically keeps their scores for only seven years. Some of these folks have been in business for more than 20 years. The board discussed alternative ways to obtain these scores. Ms. Shadduck will do more research into this and bring it back to the February meeting for further discussion.

9. Committee Work

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

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

9.2 Education / Exam Committee: Roberta Jackson, Speech-Language Pathologist; Ray Parker, public member; Nichole Kingham, audiologist; David Horn, M.D.;

Kelly Siebecke, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, and Connie Furry, hearing aid specialist.

9.2.1 Committee members will review the education curriculum from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania for Audiology and SLP for Washington licensure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. 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

- Committee members reviewed, discussed and recommended the board approve the education curriculum from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania for Audiology and SLP for Washington licensure.

A motion was made, seconded and the board voted in favor of accepting the education curriculum from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania for Audiology and SLP for Washington licensure.

Disciplinary Committee

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

Public Relations Committee

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

Site-Review Committee for Hearing Aid Specialist Programs

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

- 11. Decision Delegation and Signature Delegation forms** – The board will review and update the delegation forms.

Ms. Shadduck said these are standard forms. The forms do not take away any of the board's decision-making authority, they simply direct the work of the department. Board members reviewed, discussed, and voted to approve both forms as presented.

- 12. SSB 6061 Telemedicine Training Standards** – The board reviewed and discussed the Telemedicine – Training Standards SSB 6061, which requires a health care professional who provides clinical services through telemedicine to complete telemedicine training beginning January 2021.

Ms. Shadduck provided information to the board regarding SSB 6061 regarding training requirements for practitioners providing telemedicine. The department is working on this and will provide updated information soon. Ms. Shadduck will include this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

- 13. Agenda-building - Roberta Jackson, Chair**

The board discussed possible agenda items for the next meeting.

- Telemedicine update SSB 6061
- Legislative update
- Rules update
- Review endorsement credentialing regarding national examination test scores

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Next meeting scheduled for February 5, 2021 and will be held by webinar.