



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

February 3, 2012

Board Members Present

Tom Putaansuu, Chair; Sheryl Arends; Rudy Gahler, MD; Di Irons, Public Member; Lynn Bishop; Wes Brosman, Public Member; James Deal, Public Member; Gail Rothwell; Cary Larson

Staff Present

Bob Nicoloff, Executive Director
Janette Benham, Program Manager
Sandie Pearson, Program Representative
Jason Howell, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Members Absent

Jody Magnusson, Vice Chair

Others Present

Rick Giles
Melissa Johnson
Martha Johaningsmeir
Kathy Carson
Chris Bess

On February 3, 2012, the Board of Hearing and Speech met via conference call and in Tumwater, WA at the Department of Health, Plaza Point East, 310 Israel Road SE, Room 326, Tumwater, WA. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting agenda and call-in information was e-mailed to the Hearing and Speech listserv.

OPEN SESSION – 9:00 a.m.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER – Tom Putaansuu, Chair** **9:07 a.m.**
Board members, staff, and guest callers introduced themselves.
 - 1.1 Approval of the agenda**
The agenda was approved as presented.
 - 1.2 Approval of the November 18, 2011 meeting minutes**
The November 18, 2011 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- 2. PROGRAM REPORTS – Bob Nicoloff, Executive Director, and Janette Benham, Program Manager**
 - 2.1 Executive Director Report**

- Current Budget Report – Mr. Nicoloff provided an updated budget report.
- Legislative Update and Meet-Me-Call Update – A copy of the 2012 Meet Me Call Bill Listing was given to board members. Mr. Nicoloff provided an update on various bills that are moving through the legislative process. Lynn Bishop was the board’s representative on the weekly calls. She provided additional input on various bills.

2.2 Program Manager Report

- Licensing Statistics – Ms. Benham provided updated licensing statistics. The handout included licensing statistics for February 2011, November 2011, and February 2012.
- Update on Board Member Terms and Recruitment – Ms. Benham informed the board of Chris Johnson’s (Audiologist) resignation from the board due to moving out of state. A recruitment notice for this position has been distributed. Ms. Benham reminded the board that Dr. Gahler has been serving as Medical Advisor to the board for some time beyond his term, and that filling this position is historically difficult. She reported that there has been an open recruitment to fill the position but no applications have been received. Information regarding other board member terms and their reappointment eligibility was provided to the board. Board members can serve two terms. Terms are as follows:

Board Member	Exp. Date	Eligible for Re-appointment (yes/no)
Sheryl Arends, Fitter/Dispenser	6-6-2013	No
Lynn Bishop, SLP	6-6-2014	No
Wes Brosman, Public Member	6/6/2013	Yes
Rudy Gahler, MD Advisor	6-6-2009	Serving until replacement MD Advisor is appointed
James Deal, Public Member	6/6/2014	Yes
Di Irons, Public Member	6/6/2012	No
Vacant, Audiologist	Vacant	Vacant
Jody Magnusson, Fitter/Dispenser	6/6/2014	No
Tom Putaansuu, Audiologist	6/7/2014	No
Gail Rothwell, SLP	6-6-2013	Yes
Cary Larson, SLPA	6-6-2014	Yes

- Online Renewal Project Update – Ms. Benham informed the board that the Department of Health began implementing online renewals using a phased-in approach. Currently online renewals are available to four different professions; Surgical Technologists, Pharmacy Technicians, Naturopathic Physicians, and Licensed Social Work Associate – Independent Clinical. The department is working toward online renewals of all professions by mid 2013.

3. REPORT ON AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION (ASHA) CONFERENCE

Lynn Bishop provided an overview of the ASHA Conference she attended in San Diego, CA. She said that the conference was well-attended and exciting. Ms. Bishop attended a session presented by the University of Washington regarding working with pre-school children. Jill

Bolte-Taylor, author of *My Stroke of Insight*, was the keynote speaker of the conference. In addition, David Seidler, Screenwriter, who won an Academy Award for *The King's Speech*, received the esteemed Annie Award. The Annie Award is an annual award that ASHA members use to recognize someone who has demonstrated distinction and courage.

4. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT – Jason Howell, AAG

4.1 Update on internet sales of hearing instruments – Jason Howell, AAG, provided an update on the internet sale of hearing instruments. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) ruled that North Carolina's Dental Board could not restrict teeth-whitening products being sold by non-dentists because board members are market competitors. Mr. Howell informed the board that the FTC upheld their initial ruling after an appeal from North Carolina's Dental Board. The appellate process will be ongoing and as more states are involved, the FTC will most likely want the cases consolidated. Mr. Howell will provide regular updates to the board throughout the process.

4.2 Additional updates/information/research – Mr. Howell provided information on WAC 246-828-290 – Purchaser Rescission Rights. The question posed to Mr. Howell was whether the purchaser's rescission rights only to the cost of the hearing instrument or to the total cost of the hearing instrument and any services associated with the fitting and dispensing of it. Board members reviewed and discussed the rule regarding rescission rights. Rick Giles reported that the International Hearing Society (IHS) has issued a white paper on the subject and will forward to Mr. Howell for his information. Wes Brosman reported that the Hearing Loss Association (HLA) is in favor of un-bundling the cost of the equipment from the cost of services. Mr. Howell will continue his research and suggested he develop a memo on the subject to be presented to the Rules Committee. It was moved, seconded, and the full board approved that the Rules Committee review the memo drafted by Mr. Howell and present their recommendation to the board.

5. REVIEW OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE FOR SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT (SLPA) CERTIFICATION

5.1 The board reviewed, discussed, and determined that the Bachelor of Science Degree in Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education from **Utah State University** qualifies as a board-approved program for SLPA certification under WAC-246-828-617 (2).

6. SCOPE OF PRACTICE QUESTION

6.1 The board continued the scope of practice discussion regarding speech-language pathologists and pharyngeal/trachea suctioning. Dr. Gahler shared his thoughts with the board; he said that pharyngeal/trachea suctioning is invasive, but not difficult to perform if properly trained. Mr. Howell reminded the board that any expansion of the scope of practice needs to be codified in rule. The board reviewed and discussed whether pharyngeal/trachea suctioning would be considered within the scope when part of an evaluation and treatment of a swallow disorder. Gail Rothwell moved, Ms. Bishop seconded the motion, and the full board unanimously agreed to consider pharyngeal/trachea suctioning as within the scope of an SLP when performed as part of an evaluation/treatment of a swallow disorder. The board will consider issuing an interpretive statement regarding this subject.

7. COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Board members discussed and determined if additional committee meetings are needed prior to the next meeting. The Education/Exam and Public Relations Committees determined it was not necessary for them to meet between meetings. The Rules Committee and the SLPA Committee will meet prior to the next meeting. Ms. Benham will contact committee members via email to set the committee meeting dates. The next meeting of the board is scheduled for May 4, 2012 in Tumwater. Updated meeting information can be found on the board's webpage at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/professions/Hearing_Speech/minutes.htm

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

- Committee work updates
- Update from Jason Howell regarding rescission process
- Draft policy regarding pharyngeal/tracheal suctioning
- Update from Jason Howell on internet sales

9. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chris Bess, with the Health Care Authority, discussed the need for Educational Staff Associates (ESAs) working in the schools to have the same qualifications for licensure as those professions licensed through the department. This is often a requirement for insurance (Medicaid) reimbursement. The board responded that the ESA exemption to licensure is a statutory exemption and would require a statutory change.

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Brosman shared that an advertisement for the direct sales of hearing enhancement devices was recently in the Hearing Loss Magazine, which is an official publication of the Hearing Loss Association. Mr. Giles reported that the International Hearing Society (HIS) is actively trying to restrict the direct sales of hearing aids.

11. ADJOURNMENT – 11:19 a.m.

Prepared By: Janette Benham, Program Manager

Date

Approved By: Tom Putaansuu, Chair

Date