



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

**May 2, 2014**

**Board Members Present**

Lynn Bishop-Chair; James Deal, Public Member-Vice-Chair; Rudy Gahler, MD; Rick Giles; Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member; Trice Konschuh, Public Member; Cary Larson; Ann Plotnick; Tom Putaansuu; David Oplinger; Gail Rothwell

**Staff Present**

Janette Benham, Program Manager  
Sandie Pearson, Program Representative  
Trina Castle, Executive Director  
Jack Bucknell, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)  
Karl Hoehn, Staff Attorney  
Patricia Stuart, Staff Attorney  
Andy Fernando, Rules and Legislation Manager  
Danielle Welliever, Policy Analyst  
Ericka Brown, Credentialing Lead

**Others Present**

Kisha Eikner, Assistant Attorney General  
Andrea Vallejo  
Melissa Johnson  
Sandy Hubbard  
Diane Fox  
Anne Riley  
Paul Sass  
Tammy Clark  
Monica Hendsch

Jim Crabbe, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges  
Glen Cosby, Spokane Falls Community College  
Summer Kenesson, Bates Technical College  
Dolores Gahler  
Paula Cain  
Connie Furry  
Mirjana Rudic

On May 2, 2014, the Board of Hearing and Speech met in Tumwater at the Department of Health, Town Center Two, 111 Israel Rd SE, Rm 158, Tumwater, WA 98501. 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.

**OPEN SESSION – 9:00 a.m.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Bishop, Chair**  
Ms. Bishop called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**9:02 a.m.**

**1.1 Introductions**

Board members, staff, and audience members introduced themselves.

**1.2 Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**1.3 Approval of the January 31, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

The January 31, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**2. CASE PRESENTATION**

Staff attorney Patricia Stuart presented the following case:

**2.1 Agreed Order – M2013-1119**

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Agreed Order – M2013-1119.

**3. HEARING – APPEAL OF INTENT TO DENY LISTS AND LABELS REQUEST FROM VERISYS CORPORATION**

A telephonic hearing was held regarding Verisys Corporation's appeal of the denial of its application for recognition by the Board of Hearing and Speech as a professional association. Verisys Corporation requested a list of Audiologists, Hearing Instrument Fitter/Dispensers, Speech Language Pathologists, and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants.

The hearing began at 9:28 a.m.

**3.1** Kenneth Coronel, Chief Legal Officer for Verisys Corporation, stated the reasons Verisys Corporation requested to be an approved professional association. Kisha Eikner, Assistant Attorney General, stated the reasons why the State of Washington, Board of Hearing and Speech, does not find that Verisys Corporation meets the criteria to be recognized as a professional entity.

The public hearing concluded at 9:47 a.m. The board did not provide a decision at the meeting and chose to deliberate in executive session to review all the materials. A decision will be issued in writing to Verisys Corporation within 90 days.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 9:48 a.m.**

The board met in executive session beginning at 9:48 a.m. and concluding at 10:03 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION 10:03 a.m.**

**4. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT – Janette Benham, Program Manager**

**4.1 Licensing Statistics**

Ms. Benham provided updated licensing statistics. The handout included licensing statistics for May 2013, January 2014, and May 2014. Statistics for May 2014 are as follows:

	<b>Fitter/Dispenser</b>	<b>Audiologist</b>	<b>SLP</b>	<b>SLPA (Certification)</b>
Active Licenses	300	400	2242	208
Inactive License	42	38	34	0
Expired License	909	201	937	64
Revoked License	22	0	1	0
Suspended License	15	2	0	0

The report shows the number of licensed SLPs continues to increase due to the requirement that school district Educational Staff Associates (ESAs) need to be licensed to receive reimbursement for their services.

#### **4.2 Update on board member recruitment and board member appointments**

Ms. Benham provided updated information regarding board member terms and recruitment efforts. Board members may serve two three-year terms. Ms. Benham has received one application for the audiologist position currently held by Tom Putaansuu and one application for the SLP position currently held by Lynn Bishop. Ms. Benham also reported that she has received two applications for the medical advisor position currently held by Dr. Rudy Gahler. Jim Deal and Cary Larson both have their first terms expiring in June. Both will be recommended for reappointment.

Ms. Benham and the board presented plaques to Ms. Bishop and Mr. Putaansuu in appreciation for serving on the board. Both have served two terms. Ms. Bishop and Mr. Putaansuu thanked the board and agreed to serve until their replacements can be appointed.

Ms. Benham and the board also presented a clock to Dr. Rudy Gahler in appreciation for his dedication and serving on the board as the medical advisor for over 16 years. Dr. Gahler thanked the board and added that he enjoyed serving and was impressed with the dedication of his fellow board members. Dr. Gahler received a standing ovation from board members and the audience.

#### **4.3 Boards and Commissions Spring Leadership Forum**

Ms. Benham shared information regarding the Boards and Commissions Spring Leadership Forum scheduled for June 13, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Topics to be included in the forum include:

- Medical Marijuana
- Alternative Discipline
- Telemedicine

Jim Deal, Vice-Chair, will attend on behalf of the board. Courtenay Hendricks will attend in the event Mr. Deal is unable to attend.

### **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Trina Castle, Executive Director**

- #### **5.1 Current Budget Report**
- Ms. Castle provided an updated report on the Hearing and Speech Program budget through April of 2014. She reported that the program’s overall budget was nicely balanced. Revenue continues to exceed expenditures. The department is looking at possible fee reductions in the future. Program staff will continue to monitor the budget and will provide an updated report at the next meeting.

**5.2 Legislative Update from 2014 Session** – Ms. Castle provided an update on legislation that passed during the 2014 legislative session.

- Engrossed House Bill (EHB) 2108 – Concerning hearing aid specialists; amending several sections of chapter 18.35 RCW and creating a new section. This bill passed and was signed by the Governor on April 2, 2014. The legislation requires the department, the board, and representatives from the community and technical colleges review the opportunity to establish a work-based learning permit, or similar apprenticeship opportunity to provide an additional pathway for licensure for hearing aid specialist applicants. The work group must submit the recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2014. EHB 2108 also changes the name of the credential of “hearing instrument fitter/dispenser” to “hearing aid specialist” and amends the minimum qualifications for hearing aid specialist licensure.
- Engrossed House Bill (EHB) 2351 - Concerning the practice of out-of-state health care professionals volunteering in Washington. This bill passed and was signed by the Governor on March 28, 2014. The legislation allows out-of-state health care professionals to obtain a temporary permit (30 day maximum) to practice on a voluntary basis in Washington.
- Engrossed Senate Bill (ESB) 5964 - Concerning training public officials and employees regarding public records, records management, and open public meetings requirements. This bill passed and was signed by the Governor on March 27, 2014. The legislation requires public employees, including board, commission and committee members, to obtain training regarding public records and the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) within 90 days of appointment. A refresher course every four years is also required. The Department of Health and the AAG office is working on a “roll-out” plan for this training. Updated information will be provided to board members at a future meeting regarding implementation of ESB 5964 and the required training.

**6. SURETY BOND EXEMPTION FOR FEDERALLY EMPLOYED/MILITARY PERSONNEL**

The board discussed requesting legislation to exempt federally employed personnel from the surety bond/security requirement. Ms. Benham reported that the department would be supportive of the board requesting this type of legislation. She provided a brief summary of a previous correspondence received by the board, requesting an exemption of the surety bond requirement for federally employed personnel (military). Ms. Rothwell shared that she has had questions about educational audiologists being granted a surety bond exemption. Mr. Deal asked why we would exempt only one group of people if the board supported an exemption. Ms. Benham shared that she has received several requests from out-of-state audiologists who are not school district employees or college employees. Mr. Giles suggested the board might consider requesting legislation to remove the bond requirement (RCW 18.35.240). Ms. Rothwell would like more information before a decision is made. Ms. Rothwell made a motion to include a discussion related to all aspects and issues of RCW 18.35.240 and 250 as an agenda item for the next meeting. Mr. Deal seconded the motion. The board voted in favor

of the motion. Staff will include a discussion of the surety bond/security requirement of RCW 18.35.240 and 250 on the agenda for the August 1, 2014 meeting.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.1** The board reviewed correspondence from a speech-language pathologist licensed in California regarding conducting telepractice with a Washington patient/client. Cary Larson had concerns about SLPs from another state not having substantively equivalent licensure requirements of SLPs licensed in Washington and that they would be practicing in Washington. Ms. Castle shared that the subject of telemedicine/telepractice will be discussed at the leadership meeting. After discussion, Ms. Larson made a motion that a Washington SLP license is required for SLPs providing services, including telepractice, with patients/clients in Washington. Ann Plotnick seconded the motion. The board unanimously voted to approve the motion. Ms. Benham will respond to the correspondence with the board’s decision. She will also encourage the SLP to obtain a Washington SLP license.

**7.2** Any additional correspondence received by program staff

No additional correspondence was received for the board to review at this time.

**8. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT – Jack Bucknell, AAG – Jack Bucknell, AAG, provided an update on research he has conducted since the last meeting.**

**8.1** Update regarding Enterprise email for board and commission members

Mr. Bucknell shared that the department and the AAG’s Office have been working together to develop a solution to provide board members secure communications while working on board-related business.

Ms. Castle shared that there is a committee working on a solution to secure email for board members. Some suggestions for the interim include board members creating a separate folder for board-related business on their computer, and include a DOH staff member on all board-related communications.

**9. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – Board members discussed committee composition for the August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015 period. Committee assignments are as follows:**

<b>Rules Committee</b>	<b>Education/Exam Committee</b>	<b>Disciplinary Committee</b>	<b>Public Relations Committee</b>
Gail Rothwell, SLP, Chair	Cary Larson, SLPA, Chair	David Oplinger, AuD	Jim Deal, Public Member, Chair
Trice Kenschuh, Public Member	Rick Giles, Fitter/Dispenser	Jim Deal, Public Member	Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member
Ann Plotnick, Fitter/Dispenser	David Oplinger, AuD	Gail Rothwell, SLP	
Rick Giles, Fitter/Dispenser	Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member	Ann Plotnick, Fitter/Dispenser	

## 10. COMMITTEE WORK

### 10.1 Rules Committee

Members: Gail Rothwell, SLP, Chair; Cary Larson, SLPA; Trice Konschuh, Public Member; Ann Plotnick, Fitter/Dispenser; Rick Giles, Fitter/Dispenser

- There were no agenda items referred for committee review. Committee members discussed future rulemaking.

### 10.2 Education/Exam Committee

Members: Cary Larson, SLPA, Chair; Rick Giles, Fitter/Dispenser; Lynn Bishop, SLP; David Oplinger, Audiologist; Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member

- There were no agenda items referred for committee review.
- Committee members reviewed the curriculum for Baylor University's Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and discussed approval of the program for the speech-language pathology assistant profession.
- Committee members reviewed the curriculum for the University of South Florida's Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and discussed approval of the program for the speech-language pathology assistant profession.
- Committee members reviewed the curriculum for Loma Linda University's Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and discussed approval of the program for the speech-language pathology assistant profession.

### 10.3 Disciplinary Committee

Members: Tom Putaansuu, Audiologist, Chair; Jim Deal, Public Member; Gail Rothwell, SLP; Ann Plotnick, Fitter/Dispenser; David Oplinger, Audiologist

- The committee did not have any new cases to review and did not meet at this time.

### 10.4 Public Relations Committee

Members: Jim Deal, Chair; Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member; Rudy Gahler, MD

- There were no agenda items referred for committee review. The committee did not meet at this time.

## 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Committee members reported their discussions and presented recommendations for board action.

### Rules Committee

- The committee reported that they discussed the need to draft rules regarding continuing education for SLPAs and continuing education in cultural competency. The committee discussed updating the rule to reflect the audiologist test score change. The committee also reported they discussed EHB 2108 and the need to draft rules to reflect the change of the hearing instrument fitter/dispenser credential title to "hearing aid specialist" as well as the changes to the educational requirements per EHB 2108. Ms. Benham shared

that the rules to implement EHB 2108 will be worked on at the same time as continuing education rules and the test score references for audiologists.

### **Education/Exam Committee**

- Committee members reviewed and discussed the curriculum for Baylor University's Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders program for the speech-language pathology assistant profession. The committee recommended approval of the program. The board approved the program for speech-language pathology assistant certification.
- Committee members reviewed and discussed the curriculum for the University of South Florida's Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders program for the speech-language pathology assistant profession. The committee recommended approval of the program. The board approved the program for speech-language pathology assistant certification.
- Committee members reviewed and discussed the curriculum for Loma Linda University's Bachelor of Science degree program in Communication Sciences and Disorders for the speech-language pathology assistant profession. The committee recommended approval of the program. The board approved the program for speech-language pathology assistant certification.

### **Disciplinary Committee**

- The committee did not have any new cases to review and did not meet at this time.

### **Public Relations Committee**

- The committee did not have any lists and labels requests to review and did not meet at this time.

## **12. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2108**

### **12.1 Discussion of rulemaking regarding nine-month certification program, practical examination, and name change for hearing instrument fitter/dispenser**

Ms. Benham provided a brief summary regarding EHB 2108 and its requirements. One of the provisions of EHB 2108 created an alternate pathway to licensure that consists of a nine-month board-approved certificate program, and successful completion of a practical examination.

Ms. Benham added that the nine-month certification plan mentioned in EHB 2108 requires the nine-month certificate be from a hearing aid specialist program. Currently a nine-month program does not exist. In addition, Ms. Benham explained that the practical exam administered by IHS will be updated in the near future. IHS is working to revise their practical exam, but was not able to specify when the updated exam would be ready for administration. The board could develop a practical exam and could review an existing practical exam from another state to use as an example. Currently, Oregon administers a practical exam. Ms. Benham has contacted Oregon about reviewing their exam. Oregon's legal department is reviewing the request and will get

back to Ms. Benham when a determination had been made. EHB 2108 requires the practical exam be offered four times per year.

Jim Crabbe, Director of Workforce Education, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, shared that the colleges have met several times to review the parameters of EHB 2108. He also commented that building educational programs to get folks job-ready is what the colleges do; however, input from the board is needed.

Glenn Cosby, Dean of Instruction, Spokane Falls Community College, shared that Spokane Falls has considered developing a nine-month program available to people who have a four-year degree. He added that Spokane Falls could proctor a board approved exam.

Summer Kenesson, Executive Dean, Bates Technical College, shared that Bates is looking at how to condense the 16 month program to the nine-month program with an exam. She also shared that once the board approves a practical exam, Bates may be able to administer or proctor the exam.

Rick Giles shared that the IHS clinical exam is being revised and is coming in the future. Mr. Giles also shared that years ago he was an exam proctor for the Oregon practical exam.

Tammy Clark shared that she is currently a member of the IHS education committee and that IHS is putting a lot of work into revising their practical exam.

Ms. Benham reminded the board that rule writing can't begin until the effective date of the law, which is June 12, 2014.

The board discussed forming a committee to research practical exam options. Ms. Plotnick, Mr. Giles, Ms. Hendricks, and Mr. Oplinger volunteered to serve on the practical exam committee. A motion was made by Ms. Rothwell to approve the practical exam committee and its members. Ms. Kenschuh seconded the motion. The board approved the motion by a unanimous vote.

The board also discussed forming a second committee to work with the college representatives in reviewing any nine-month certifications from hearing aid specialist programs. Mr. Giles suggested that the committees work with the college representatives in discussing the nine-month certification programs and the practical exam, since EHB 2108 requires that both must be approved by the board. A motion was made by Mr. Giles and seconded by Ms. Larson to create an education committee to work with the college representatives on the nine-month certification programs. The members for the nine-month certification program committee are Ms. Plotnick, Mr. Giles, Ms. Hendricks, and Mr. Oplinger. The board approved the motion by a unanimous vote.

## **12.2** Discussion and development of objectives for report/recommendations to the legislature

Ms. Benham explained that EHB 2108 also requires the department, board, and community and technical colleges work together to review the opportunity to establish

an interim work-based learning permit, or similar apprenticeship opportunity as an additional pathway for hearing aid specialist licensure. A report that reviews these objectives and makes recommendations is due to the legislature by December 1, 2014. Ms. Benham introduced Andy Fernando, Rules and Legislative Supervisor, and Danielle Welliever, Policy Analyst, and shared that they will be working with the board to draft the report. Ms. Bishop asked if it would be appropriate to have a committee work on the draft report to the legislature. Ms. Benham said a committee could work on the draft report. The draft report would need to be presented at a future meeting for board approval. Ms. Larson, Ms. Kenschuh, Ms. Rothwell, and Mr. Giles volunteered to be on the report committee with the representatives from the colleges and the department. Melissa Johnson asked that an audiologist be represented on that committee. Ms. Benham shared that she anticipates having the new audiologist appointment filled by that time and will ask that person to work on the report committee. Ms. Bishop called for a motion. Ms. Larson made a motion to create a report committee, consisting of volunteers from the board and representatives from the department and community and technical colleges to work on the draft report that will be presented at the August 1, 2014 board meeting for approval. Mr. Giles seconded the motion. The board approved the motion by a unanimous vote.

**12.3 Determine additional work group meeting dates**

The board discussed setting additional meeting dates for the practical exam committee, the nine-month certification committee, and the report committee. The dates of the committee meetings are as follows:

<b>Meeting Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tuesday, June 24 at 9:00 a.m.	TBD
Tuesday, July 1 at 9:00 a.m.	TBD

Notice of the meetings and the meeting agenda will be sent to the listserv and posted on the Hearing and Speech website. The committee meetings will be open public meetings pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. If the July 1 meeting is not needed, it will be cancelled.

Updated meeting information will be posted to the listserv and to the Hearing and Speech website.

**13. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Board members nominated and voted for chair and vice-chair positions effective August 1, 2014 through July 31, 2015. Per RCW 18.35.150(4):

*The chair shall rotate annually among the hearing instrument fitter/dispensers, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and public members serving on the board.*

Because rotation of the professions is stated in the law, a public member is next in rotation for the chair position.

The nomination for 2014-2015 chair was Jim Deal, Public Member. The board unanimously voted to elect Jim Deal to serve as chair.

The nomination for 2014-2015 vice-chair was David Oplinger, Audiologist. The board unanimously voted to elect David Oplinger to serve as vice-chair.

Future rotations of board chair are as follows:

Audiologist – 2015/2016

Fitter/Dispenser (Hearing Aid Specialist) – 2016/2017

**14. BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2015**

The board set the following meeting dates and locations for 2015:

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Location</b>
February 6, 2015	Tumwater
May 1, 2015	Tumwater
August 7, 2015	Kent
November 6, 2015	Tumwater

Updated meeting information can be found on the Hearing and Speech webpage.

**15. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The board discussed adding the following items to future meeting agendas:

- EHB 2108 Committee reports
- Rules update and rules workshop – EHB 2108
- Surety bond discussion
- Telepractice
- Leadership meeting report
- New members

**16. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mira Rudic, a member of the audience, addressed the board and stated she had recently passed the IHS exam and her application would be coming to the board for review. She stated she had been working with Sandy Hubbard at Miracle Ear.

Tammy Clark presented a copy of the IHS Distance Learning Course curriculum for board review. Ms. Clark added it is important for the committee to consider a minimum number of hours for “hands-on” experience and she believes the IHS course will meet the requirements of a nine-month certification.

Sandy Hubbard, President of the Washington Hearing Society, shared she was pleased to see Bates Technical College and Spokane Falls at the meeting and working with the board. She stated she believed that the supervisory component is what’s missing from the programs. Ms. Hubbard stated she believed industry members could be used to proctor the practical exam.

Ms. Bishop thanked Ms. Clark and Ms. Hubbard for attending and expressed that their comments are appreciated by the board.

**17. ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

There were no additional items to present to the board at this time.

**18. CONSENT AGENDA**

**18.1** A copy of the current issue of “The Sentinel News for DOH Employees” was provided in board member packets for review.

**CLOSED SESSION** – The board did not meet in closed session at this time.

**19. APPLICATION REVIEWS** – There were no applications presented for board review at this time.

**20. ADJOURNMENT – 2:08 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prepared By: Janette Benham, Program Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved By: James Deal, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date