



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

May 1, 2015

Board Members Present

James Deal, Chair; David Oplinger, Vice-Chair; Rick Giles; Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member; Hal Hunsaker; Trice Konschuh; Public Member; Ann Plotnick; Alison Vega; Gail Rothwell.

Board Members Absent

Dr. Henry Ou and Cary Larson

Staff Present

Janette Benham, Program Manager; Sandie Pearson, Program Representative; Trina Castle, Executive Director; Jack Bucknell, Assistant Attorney General (AAG),

Others Present

Michael Libertini
Lori McDonald
Stephanie Sari
Jerry Traynor
Paul Sass
Lori Kuniki
Zach Kennedy
Kathleen Reaser

Nadine King
Jessica Lewis
Rachel Holland
David Fiore
Chantal Hammers
John Johnson
Jorgen Baug
Melissa Butterfield

On May 1, 2015, the Board of Hearing and Speech met in Spokane at Spokane Falls Community College – Library, Building 2, Room 211, 3410 W Ft. George Wright Dr., Spokane, WA 99224. 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 – 9:06 a.m.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER – James Deal, Chair** **9:06 a.m.**
Mr. Deal called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
 - 1.1 Introductions**
Board members, staff, and audience members introduced themselves.
 - 1.2 Approval of the amended agenda**
The amended agenda was approved as presented.

1.3 Approval of the February 6, 2015 meeting minutes

The February 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

2. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT – Janette Benham, Program Manager

2.1 Licensing statistics

Updated licensing statistics were presented to the board. The handout included licensing statistics for May 2014, February 2015, and May 2015. Statistics for May 2015 are as follows:

	Hearing Aid Specialist	Audiologist	SLP	SLPA (Certification)
Active Licenses	301	408	2378	208
Inactive License	36	41	29	0
Expired License	939	221	1090	88
Revoked License	22	0	1	0
Suspended License	15	2	0	0

2.2 Update on May 27, 2015 rules hearing – location and time – Ms. Benham updated the board on the May 27, 2015 rules hearing. The rules revisions implement Engrossed House Bill 2108, update sexual misconduct rules, update exam and CE standards, make general updates, and add a provision for military spouse temporary practice permits. The rules hearing will be in Kent on May 27, 2015 and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

2.3 Online application information – Ms. Benham updated the board on the status of online applications. Audiologists will be one of the first professions to allow applicants to apply online. Other professions will be phased in over the next year and a half. Applicants applying online still need to mail in supporting documents, but won't have to print an application to fill out and mail.

2.4 Board member terms and recruitment – Ms. Benham shared that both Dr. Ou and Trice Konschuh are eligible to serve a second term and the Governor's office will make those appointments soon. Ms. Benham will also begin recruiting pro-tem members to act as exam proctors.

2.5 Renewal card information – continuing education and bond requirements – Ms. Benham updated the board about adding a reminder to the renewal cards regarding the continuing education requirement of one hour of infection control. At a past meeting the board asked that the renewal cards include this reminder. Ms. Benham shared that the reminder was added to the renewal cards for audiologists, hearing aid specialists, and speech language pathologists. The bond requirements are still printed on renewal cards for hearing aid specialists and audiologists.

2.6 Boards and Commissions Leadership Forum – July 20, 2015 – Ms. Benham shared that the department's annual leadership forum will be on July 20, 2015 in Tumwater. This forum is open to the chair and vice-chair to attend. Mr. Deal is planning on attending and will report back to the board at the next meeting.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Trina Castle, Executive Director

3.1 Current Budget Report – Ms. Castle provided an updated report on the program’s operating budget. She reported that the program’s budget was in good shape. The report showed that currently the program’s allotment is underspent \$37,000. Ms. Castle shared with the board that the end of the biennium is June 30, 2015. The department is still working on the budget for the 2015 to 2017 biennium. An update regarding the budget for the 2015 to 2017 biennium will be provided to the board at the next meeting.

3.2 Disciplinary statistics – Ms. Castle presented updated disciplinary statistics regarding continuing education (CE) audits. She shared that approximately 2% of licensees are audited for CE compliance. In looking at the hearing and speech programs disciplinary trends, most of the disciplinary cases are a result of CE deficiencies during a CE audit. During the 2013 to 2015 biennium two audiologists, four SLPs, and one hearing aid specialist have been deficient when audited.

3.3 Update on fee reductions – Ms. Castle reported that the department is moving forward with the CR101 to reduce licensure and renewal fees for many health professions. The proposed licensure and renewal fees are as follows:

Audiologist		
Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Application Fee	\$165	\$110
License Fee	\$140	\$95
Renewal Fee	\$110	\$75
Speech Language Pathologist		
Application Fee	\$165	\$110
License Fee	\$140	\$95
Renewal Fee	\$110	\$75
Hearing Aid Specialist		
Application Fee	\$165	\$110
License Fee	\$140	\$95
Renewal Fee	\$110	\$75
Speech Language Pathology Assistant		
Application Fee (Initial credential)	\$125	\$85.
Renewal Fee	\$70	\$40

3.4 Legislative update/Meet-me-call update – Board members were updated on the weekly meet-me-calls. Information was presented regarding the following bills:

- House Bill (HB) 1555 – Relating to applied behavior analysts. This bill is continuing through the legislative process.
- Senate Bill (SB) 5151 – Relating to continuing education in cultural competency for healthcare professionals. This bill did not pass.
- House Bill (HB) 1339 – Allowing the secretary of health to intercede and stay any decision of a disciplining authority that expands scope of practice. This bill did not pass.

4. DELEGATION OF SIGNATURE AUTHORITY – The board reviewed Signature Delegation forms and discussed delegating Signature Authority to Department of Health staff.

Ms. Benham explained that the Signature Delegation forms are used to outline the routine procedures, such as credentialing, that the board delegates to department staff. These forms are presented every two years to the board to review, update, and approve. The board reviewed and voted in favor of approving the Delegation of Signature Authority form as it was presented.

5. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR** – Board members nominated and voted for chair and vice-chair positions effective August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016. 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, an audiologist is next in rotation for the chair position.

The nomination for 2015-2016 chair was Alison Vega, Audiologist. The board unanimously voted to elect Ms. Vega to serve as chair.

The nomination for 2015-2016 vice-chair was Gail Rothwell, Speech Language Pathologist. The board unanimously voted to elect Ms. Rothwell to serve as vice-chair.

Future rotations of board chair are as follows:

Hearing Aid Specialist – 2016-2017

Speech-Language Pathologist – 2017-2018

6. **BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2016** – The board set the following meeting dates and locations for 2016:

Meeting Date	Meeting Location
February 5, 2016	Tumwater with conference call option
May 6, 2016	Wenatchee (specific location TBD)
August 19, 2016	Kent
November 4, 2016	Tumwater with conference call option

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

7. **HEARING AID SPECIALIST PRACTICAL EXAM DISCUSSION AND UPDATE** – The board discussed proctoring, fees, and contracts for the practical exam for hearing aid specialist applicants completing a nine month certificate program. Ms. Benham reported that she is currently working on securing locations and contracts for the exam. She hopes to have received program applications at the next meeting for the board to review.

Ms. Benham shared she will begin the recruitment effort to recruit pro-tem members to serve as exam proctors. The board discussed how many proctors per student would be needed. Mr. Giles suggested there be two proctors per student and that an appointment schedule be used for scheduling the exams. Ms. Vega shared her concerns regarding sterilization during the exam and suggested talking with the colleges about using their facilities. Mr. Deal shared that as a public member he would like to observe an exam and suggested setting up a “mock exam” board members could observe.

Ms. Benham also shared that she is also working with staff on determining and setting the exam fee schedule for the practical exam.

Mr. Bucknell, AAG, reminded the board that a release of liability form also needs to be developed. Ms. Benham and Mr. Bucknell will work with other DOH staff that administer exams and create a draft version of a release of liability form for the board’s review.

- 8. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT** – Jack Bucknell, AAG, provided board members with information or research conducted since the last meeting. Mr. Bucknell shared that he will be leaving as AAG for the board. Joyce Roper will be replacing Mr. Bucknell as the board’s AAG.

Mr. Bucknell reported that the court had made a determination in the case of the Federal Trade Commission vs North Carolina Dental Commission. The court determined that the NC Dental Commission did not have the authority to act on the state’s behalf. Any updates and information about how the decision may affect the work of the board will come through the Office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Bucknell also updated the board regarding the work being done on getting DOH email accounts for all board, commission, and committee members. DOH staff is currently working on setting up the email accounts and registering board members for access to the DOH secured servers. Board members will receive a status update on this at the next meeting.

- 9. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS** – Board members discussed the committee composition for the August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016 period. Members reviewed the current committee composition and voted unanimously to maintain the current committee composition for the August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016 period. Committee assignments are as follows:

<p>Rules Committee Gail Rothwell, SLP, Chair Cary Larson, SLPA Trice Korschuh, Public Member Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist Rick Giles, Hearing Aid Specialist Alison Vega, Audiologist</p>	<p>Education/Exam Committee Cary Larson, SLPA, Chair Rick Giles, Hearing Aid Specialist David Oplinger, Audiologist Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member Hal Hunsaker, SLP Henry Ou, MD</p>
<p>Disciplinary Committee David Oplinger, Audiologist, Chair Jim Deal, Public Member Gail Rothwell, SLP Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist</p>	<p>Public Relations Committee Jim Deal, Public Member, Chair Courtenay Hendricks, Public member Alison Vega, Audiologist Henry Ou, MD Hal Hunsaker, SLP</p>

10. COMMITTEE WORK

10.1 Rules Committee

Members: Gail Rothwell, SLP, Chair; Cary Larson, SLPA; Trice Konschuh, Public Member; Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist; Rick Giles, Hearing Aid Specialist; Alison Vega, Audiologist

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

10.2 Education/Exam Committee

Members: Cary Larson, SLPA, Chair; Rick Giles, Hearing Aid Specialist; David Oplinger, Audiologist; Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member; Hal Hunsaker, SLP; Henry Ou, MD

10.2.1 There were no additional agenda items referred to the committee for review.

10.2.2 Committee members reviewed a draft version of the jurisprudence exam as a requirement for audiology and speech-language pathology interim permit holders.

10.2.3 Committee members reviewed the curriculum of Stephen F. Austin State University Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders and discussed whether to approve the program for the speech-language pathology assistant profession.

10.3 Disciplinary Committee

Members: David Oplinger, Audiologist, Chair; Jim Deal, Public Member; Gail Rothwell, SLP; Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist

10.3.1 There were no disciplinary cases referred to the committee for review. The committee did not meet at this time.

10.4 Public Relations Committee

Members: Jim Deal, Public Member, Chair; Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member; Alison Vega, Audiologist; Henry Ou, MD; Hal Hunsaker, SLP

10.4.1 There were no additional agenda items referred to the committee for review.

10.4.2 The committee reviewed public service announcements to post on social media on behalf of the board.

10.4.3 The committee reviewed a request for a lists and labels from Therapy Staff, LLC.

10.4.4 The committee reviewed a request for lists and labels from Harborview Medical Center.

10.4.5 The committee reviewed a request for lists and labels from Allied Health Media.

10.4.6 The committee reviewed a request for lists and labels from Alan Lowell Seminars, Inc.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Committee members reported on their discussions and presented recommendations for board action.

Rules Committee

- The committee did not provide a report as they did not meet.

Education/Exam Committee

- The committee corrected minor typographical errors and recommended the board approve the corrected jurisprudence exam as a requirement for audiology and speech-language pathology interim permit holders. The board voted in favor of approving the corrected jurisprudence exam as a requirement for audiology and speech-language pathology interim permit holders.
- Committee members reviewed and discussed the curriculum for the Stephen F. Austin State University Bachelor of Science degree in Communication 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 provide a report as they did not meet.

Public Relations Committee

- The committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended the board approve public service announcements drafted by staff to post on behalf of the board. The board voted to approve the public service announcements. Staff will send the approved public service announcements to the social media desk for posting on Facebook and Twitter. After further discussion, the board asked that staff continue to draft public service announcements and present them at future board meetings for review.
- The committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended the board deny a lists and labels request from Therapy Staff, LLC because the company does not meet the definition of a “professional association.” The board voted in favor of denying the lists and labels request from Therapy Staff, LLC.
- The committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended the board approve a lists and labels request from Harborview Medical Center. The board voted to approve the lists and labels request from Harborview Medical Center.
- The committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended the board approve a lists and labels request from Allied Health Media. The board voted to approve the lists and labels request from Allied Health Media.
- The committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended the board approve a lists and labels request from Alan Lowell Seminars, Inc. The board voted to approve the lists and labels request from Alan Lowell Seminars, Inc. Mr. Giles abstained from the vote.

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

- Update on Public Service Announcements
- BCC Leadership Report
- Practical exam update
- Meeting dates and locations

13. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Audience members asked questions regarding the nine-month program and also about the bond requirement.

Chantal Hammers asked the board to consider not using instructors of nine-month programs as exam proctors, as it may be perceived as a conflict of interest.

John Johnson also thanked the board for traveling to Spokane to hold the meeting and was excited to have the members tour the facility and learn more about the program.

Paul Sass shared his appreciation for the time the board spent on the rules relating to the nine-month program.

14. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

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

15. CONSENT AGENDA

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

16. ADJOURNMENT

The open session portion of the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION – 11:52 a.m.

17. APPLICATION REVIEWS – The board reviewed three applications for licensure and directed staff to respond on the board’s behalf.

18. INFORMAL TOUR OF SPOKANE FALLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE HEARING AID SPECIALIST INSTRUCTION PROGRAM – Board members toured the hearing aid specialist program at Spokane Falls Community College. The tour was not considered a formal site review of the program.

Prepared By: Janette Benham, Program Manager

Date

Approved By: James Deal, Chair

Date