



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

**May 6, 2016**

**Board Members Present**

Alison Vega, AuD, Chair; Gail Rothwell, Vice-Chair; Hal Hunsaker; Rick Giles; Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member; Trice Konschuh, Public Member; Cary Larson; David Oplinger, AuD; Ann Plotnick

**Board Members Absent**

James Deal, Public Member; Henry Ou, MD

**Staff Present**

Janette Benham, Program Manager; Sandie Pearson, Program Representative; Trina Crawford, Executive Director; Joyce Roper, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

**Others Present**

Sandy Hubbard  
Sheryl Arends

On May 6, 2016, the Board of Hearing and Speech met in Wenatchee at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, 201 N Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801. 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 – Dr. Alison Vega, Chair** **9:00 a.m.**  
Dr. Vega called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
  - 1.1 Introductions**  
Board members, staff, and audience members introduced themselves.
  - 1.2 Approval of the amended agenda**  
Rick Giles moved to approve the agenda as presented. Board members voted in favor of the motion.
  - 1.3 Approval of the February 5, 2016 meeting minutes**  
The February 5, 2016 meeting minutes were corrected to list David Oplinger as absent from the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 5, 2016 meeting minutes as corrected. The board voted in favor of the motion.

## 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 2015, February 2016, and May 2016. Statistics for May 2016 are as follows:

	Hearing Aid Specialist	Audiologist	SLP	SLPA (Certification)
Active Licenses	307	417	2517	206
Inactive License	34	40	24	0
Expired License	959	243	1240	115
Revoked License	22	0	1	0
Suspended License	16	2	0	0

**2.2 Practical exam update for hearing aid specialists** – Ms. Benham shared that she is working on finalizing the contract with IHS regarding the exam. Ms. Benham asked the board about holding an exam practice session prior to the actual exam date. The board discussed designating proctors for the exam. The board voted in favor of designating Ann Plotnick and Dr. Vega as proctors for the first exam. Ms. Benham will schedule a practice session with Ms. Plotnick and Dr. Vega prior to the exam date. Ms. Hubbard shared that there may be eight candidates for the exam.

**2.3 Online application information and update** – Ms. Benham provided an update regarding the online applications. The audiologist profession will be one of the first professions able to use the online application system. The department will be contacting licensed audiologists as the project progresses to assist with field testing the application process.

**2.4 Board member terms and recruitment update; board member recognition** – Ms. Benham reported that Dave Oplinger and Gail Rothwell’s terms end on June 6, 2016. Ms. Benham and the board presented clocks to Ms. Rothwell and Mr. Oplinger in appreciation for serving on the board.

Ms. Benham shared that she will begin recruitment efforts for pro-tem members to act as exam proctors as well as to fill the SLP and Audiologist positions.

## 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Trina Crawford, Executive Director

**3.1 Current Budget Report** – Ms. Crawford provided updates on the program’s operating budget through April of 2016. Ms. Crawford shared that the program budget is in good shape and revenue continues to exceed expenditures. She noted that the Adjudicative Services portion of the budget was overspent because of the disciplinary hearing in November of last year. Updated budget reports will be provided at future meetings.

**3.2 Update on fee reductions – effective July 1, 2016** – Ms. Crawford shared that license and renewal fee reductions will take effect on July 1, 2016.

- 3.3 Legislative update** – Ms. Crawford shared that legislation had passed that increases fines for violation of the OPMA from \$500 per instance to \$1000 per instance. She also shared that the department is considering requesting legislation that would amend laws to allow the Washington State Patrol and the department to participate in RapBack. RapBack would expand electronic fingerprint-based background checks to all applicants either at initial licensure or at renewal. Any new criminal activity would be shared with the department.
- 3.4 2016 Boards and Commissions Leadership Forum – July 21, 2016** – Ms. Crawford provided information to the board regarding the Boards and Commissions Leadership Forum that will be held in Tumwater on July 21, 2016. Dr. Vega volunteered to attend in the event the new chair is unable to attend.
- 3.5 Information and discussion regarding meeting minutes and posting draft minutes on the board’s webpage** – Ms. Crawford shared and the board discussed making meeting minutes more efficient by posting a draft version before the board finalizes them. The meeting minutes will be streamlined and shorter. A motion was made, seconded, and the board voted in favor of making meeting minutes more efficient and posting a draft version of the meeting minutes on the board’s web page.

- 4. PRESENTATION AND INFORMATION – INTERNATIONAL HEARING SOCIETY**  
Joy Wilkins, Director of Professional Development, International Hearing Society, and Brent P. Foley, Psychometrician II, Alpine Testing Solutions, Inc., presented information regarding the written International Licensing Examination for Hearing Healthcare Professionals.

Rick Giles recused himself from the presentation and discussion.

Presenters went over how the exam is developed and went over the current exam competency model. Board members discussed the exam content and asked clarifying questions to the presenters.

- 5. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT – Joyce Roper, AAG** – Joyce Roper, AAG provided board members with information and research she has conducted.

Rick Giles recused himself from the discussion.

- 5.1** Ms. Roper provided information regarding review of the written International Licensing Examination for Hearing Healthcare Professionals and confidentiality in the context of RCW 18.35.050 and RCW 42.56.250. Ms. Roper shared that the board has the authority and duty to review exams per statute. The purpose of the review is to ensure exam content matter is appropriate. Board members discussed and Dave Oplinger made a motion that the board per RCW 18.35.050 and RCW 42.56.250 request copies of exams for hearing aid specialist, audiologist, and SLPs to review and for any exam that the board is not allowed to review the board may pursue legal action including a breach of contract. Trice Kenschuh seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of the motion.

- 5.2** Any additional information and research

- 6. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR** – Board members nominated and voted for chair and vice-chair positions effective August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017. 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 Hearing and Speech statute, a hearing aid specialist is next in rotation for the chair position.

The nomination for 2016-2017 chair was Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist. The board unanimously voted to elect Ms. Plotnick to serve as chair.

The nomination for 2016-2017 vice-chair was Hal Hunsaker, Speech Language Pathologist. The board unanimously voted to elect Mr. Hunsaker to serve as vice-chair.

Future rotations of board chair are as follows:

Speech-Language Pathologist – 2017-2018

Public Member – 2018-2019

Ms. Plotnick agreed to attend the July 21, 2016 Leadership Forum as the newly elected board chair.

- 7. BOARD MEETING AND HEARING AID SPECIALIST PRACTICAL EXAM DATES FOR 2017**

The board set the following meeting dates and locations for 2017:

Meeting Date	Meeting Location
February 3, 2017	Tumwater
May 5, 2017	Yakima (specific location TBD)
August 4, 2017	Bellingham (specific location TBD)
November 3, 2017	Tumwater

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

The board deferred setting dates for the practical exam until the August meeting.

- 8. CASE PRESENTATION** – Staff attorney Judy Young presented the following cases:
- 8.1** Order on Termination of Probation – M2014-416 – The board moved, seconded and voted to approve the order as presented.
- 8.2** Statement to Informal Disposition – M2015-1201 - The board moved, seconded and voted to approve as presented.
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE**
- 9.1** The board discussed and suggested a response to a question from an audiology office regarding electronic recordkeeping. Ms. Benham will work with Ms. Roper and Dr. Vega on drafting the response on behalf of the board.

- 9.2 There was no additional correspondence received by program staff to discuss at this time.

10. **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST SCOPE OF PRACTICE IN THE HOME HEALTH SETTING** – The board reviewed and discussed a letter from Kaiser Permanente Home Health regarding home health therapists (speech, occupational, and physical) and the requirement for a comprehensive assessment. Ms. Benham shared that the Occupational Therapy Practice Board has asked for a SLP representative from the board work with an OT representative to address the questions. Ms. Roper suggested a representative from the Home Health professions also be included in the conversation. The board moved, seconded and approved a motion to have an SLP representative from the board work with the OT representative to respond to the Kaiser Permanente letter dated April 25, 2016. Mr. Hunsaker will represent the Board of Hearing and Speech.

## 11. COMMITTEE WORK

### 11.1 Rules Committee

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

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

### 11.2 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

- 11.2.1 There were no additional agenda items referred for committee review.

- 11.2.2 The committee members reviewed the curriculum of the University of Florida's Bachelor of Arts degree program in Communication Process and Disorders and discussed whether to approve the program for the speech-language pathology assistant profession.

- 11.2.3 The committee members reviewed the curriculum of the Texas Christian University's Bachelor of Science degree program in Speech Pathology and discussed whether to approve the program for the speech-language pathology assistant profession.

### 11.3 Disciplinary Committee

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

- 11.3.1 The disciplinary committee did not meet at this time. There were no new cases to review.

#### **11.4 Public Relations Committee**

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

**11.4.1** There were no additional agenda items referred for committee review.

**11.4.2** The committee reviewed a request for a lists and labels from the Oregon Health and Science University Parkinson's Center.

**11.4.3** The committee reviewed a request for lists and labels from The Maple Leaf Center, Inc.

#### **10. 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**

- Committee members reviewed and discussed the curriculum of the University of Florida's Bachelor of Arts degree program in Communication Process 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.
- Committee members reviewed and discussed the curriculum of the Texas Christian University's Bachelor of Science degree program in Speech Pathology 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 a lists and labels request from the Oregon Health and Science University Parkinson's Center. The board voted to approve the lists and labels request from the Oregon Health and Science University Parkinson's Center.
- The committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended the board approve a lists and labels request from Maple Leaf Center, Inc. The board voted to approve the lists and labels request from Maple Leaf Center, Inc.

#### **13. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – Board members discussed the committee composition for the August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017 period. Committee assignments are as follows:**

<b>Rules Committee</b> Cary Larson, SLPA Trice Kenschuh, Public Member	<b>Education/Exam Committee</b> Cary Larson, SLPA Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member
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Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist Rick Giles, Hearing Aid Specialist Dr. Alison Vega, Audiologist	Hal Hunsaker, SLP Henry Ou, MD Dr. Alison Vega, Audiologist
<b>Disciplinary Committee</b> Jim Deal, Public Member Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist Trice Konschuh, Public Member Hal Hunsaker, SLP Dr. Alison Vega, Audiologist	<b>Public Relations Committee</b> Jim Deal, Public Member, Chair Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member Henry Ou, MD Hal Hunsaker, SLP
<b>Site Review Committee for Schools*</b> Ann Plotnick, Hearing Aid Specialist Courtenay Hendricks, Public Member Dr. Alison Vega, Audiologist Rick Giles, Hearing Aid Specialist <b>*Site reviews will be conducted as follows:</b> <b>Spokane Falls – 2016</b> <b>Bates Technical College – 2017</b> <b>Washington Hearing Society - 2018</b>	

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

- Set exam dates
- Presentation by DOH Director of Finance
- Online application update
- Exam review
- Update from OT/SLP meeting
- Recruitment update

**15. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public present at this time to provide comment.

**16. ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

There were no addition items discussed at this time.

**17. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

The open session portion of the meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION** – 12:09 p.m.

**19. APPLICATION REVIEW** – The board reviewed one application for licensure and directed staff to respond on the board’s behalf.

Prepared By: Janette Benham, Program Manager

Date

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Approved By: Dr. Alison Vega, Chair

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Date