



Board of Examiners
For Speech-Language
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Special Meeting Minutes March 5, 2010 Portland State Office Building Conference Room 445 Portland OR

PRESENT: Ashley Northam, SLP, Chair
Alison Metcalf, Audiologist, Vice-Chair
Carol Clupny, SLP
Elisa Williams, Public Member
Charles Murphy, Public Member
Evan "Butch" Evans, Audiologist
Sandy Leybold, Executive Director
Tim Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Excused Absence:
Mark Wax, MD, Otolaryngologist

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public attendees present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:10 AM, to consider information obtained as part of investigations of licensee or applicant conduct as provided in ORS 192.660(2)(k), consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection as provided in ORS 192.660(2)(f), to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed as provided in ORS 192.660(2)(h), and to consider employee performance matters as provided in ORS 192.660(2)(b).

Leybold and Anderson were invited to remain since they are involved in Board investigations.

ACTIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A review of cases led to the following proposals regarding policy issues that the Board wishes to address through legislative concepts, rule changes, and/or policy changes:

Current Coursework / PD

Williams moved that as it relates to general licensing requirements, the Board needs to require that the applicant show current competence through professional development, recent coursework or recent work experience or practicum. Motion seconded by Evans.

Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans

Nay: None

Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Updating License Requirements for Audiologists

Metcalf moved to require an AuD or PhD degree for those completing audiology training after 2007, keeping existing requirements for those that completed audiology training before 2007. Motion seconded by Williams.

Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans

Nay: None

Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Renewal

Evans moved to change the professional development reporting period to a calendar year and the make the renewal due date January 1 of even numbered years, but to keep the expiration January 30.

Metcalf seconded.
Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans
Nay: None
Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Evans moved to change our Professional Development rules and policies to allow licensees to sign an affidavit that they completed the required number of hours, instead of listing hours on renewal for those who are not being audited. At the same time, the Board should raise the percentage of licensees randomly audited and aggressively deal with discrepancies identified through the audit process.
Murphy seconded.
Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans
Nay: None
Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Incomplete Renewals

Metcalf moved that with exceptions as noted in executive session, those licensees in cases 2010-11, 2010-12, 2010-13, 2010-14, 2010-15, 2010-16, who did not fully complete renewal and were issued a license were to be charged an additional \$200 delinquent fee, were given until May 15, 2010 to complete their Professional Development and will be included in the mandatory audit in the next renewal cycle. Seconded by Clupny. Leybold noted an exception for medical reason. Metcalf added that if the licensees fail to meet the May 15 deadline they may be targeted for disciplinary action from the Board. Clupny seconded the addendum.
Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans
Nay: None
Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Equivalency

Clupny moved that for international applicants, their equivalency to a master's program should be examined in reference to those requirements recognized by ASHA. Evans seconded.
Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans
Nay: None
Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Clupny moved that for the purposes of equivalency, recognizing the historical timeframe before which a master's degree was the "gold standard" for speech-pathologists, that the Board considers years of experience, current professional development, and the year and title of the degree. Metcalf seconded.
Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans
Nay: None
Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

SLP Licensing Statute

Clupny moved that considering the statute for licensing SLPs, ORS681.260, that the Board continue with (1)(a), delete (1)(b), (1)(c), continue (1)(d) with re-examination of the number of hours for partial employment, continue (1)(e), and delete all of (2). Seconded by Murphy. Leybold clarified that the Board had always had (1)(b) as a standard, but when they were speaking of approved college or university that they assumed it was ASHA-accredited.
Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans
Nay: None
Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

POLICY ISSUES RELATED TO LEGISLATIVE CONCEPTS, RULE CHANGES, AND/OR BUDGET PROPOSALS

Federal/University Employee Exemption

Leybold stated that she spoke to licensing board colleagues about the exemptions for federal employees and university employees. Colleagues told her that the federal employees should be required to show evidence of current licensure in some state. Northam stated that she didn't think

that it is true that federal employees are required to have licensure by the state. This will be clarified. Northam stated that universities require their staff to hold state licenses both to work with clients as well as to work with SLP students.

Metcalf moved that the Board should staff should explore ways to remove from our statute the exemptions for federal and university employed SLPs and Audiologists. Murphy seconded.

Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans

Nay: None

Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Temporary License

Leybold spoke to the Board about the possibility of issuing a temporary license to accommodate the extra licensing time for processing fingerprints, and removing the loophole for applicants to practice on their CCC's while awaiting the issuance of their initial license. In addition, there may be other reasons to have this provision.

The Board directed Leybold to pursue this.

Pro-Ration of Fees

Leybold mentioned that since the Board fees were increased last July 1, it would be helpful to licensees if we could reduce the initial license fee during the last part of the licensing period.

Obviously, this needs to be balanced by the agency's budget needs.

Williams moved to direct staff to draft administrative rules regarding this, possibly by reducing the initial license fee during the last six months of the licensing period. Metcalf seconded.

Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans

Nay: None

Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Use of the Title "Doctor" by Audiologists

A current state statute defines who may call themselves a "doctor". The list has not been updated to include the clinical doctorate that is now standard training for audiologists. Williams moved to work on getting this into the statute. Murphy seconded.

Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans

Nay: None

Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Executive Director Authority

Leybold noted that the need for a Board Chair/Vice-Chair signature for a subpoena has slowed down the investigative process. It would streamline things if the Executive Director could sign a subpoena on their own. We typically issue subpoenas for employee records or patient records as part of investigations of complaints.

Clupny moved to put authority into statute for the Executive Director to sign/issue subpoenas.

Murphy seconded.

Yea: Williams, Metcalf, Murphy, Clupny, Northam, Evans

Nay: None

Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

TOEFL

The Board asked Leybold to look into this exam, and propose legislative or rule language to address English language proficiency for licensees.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.