



Board of Examiners
For Speech-Language
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Meeting Minutes May 1, 2020 Via Zoom Meeting

PRESENT: Gail Swanstrom, Audiologist, Chair
Victoria Edwards, Speech-Language
Pathologist, Vice-Chair
Amy Martin, Speech-Language
Pathologist
Dustin Ooley, Audiologist
Anna Sanger Reed, Public Member

Erin Haag, Executive Director
David Linn, Administrative
Assistant
Leslea Smith, Staff Investigator
Tyler Anderson, AAG

EXCUSED: Clarence Williams, Public Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Swanstrom, after a roll call quorum was established. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the meeting was held via Zoom.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Staff discovered an error, so minutes will be approved at the next regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Due to the meeting being held via Zoom there were at least 40 individuals from the public who were able to attend. Licensees have many questions relating to COVID-19 and how that affects the way they work with Oregon's students and patients.

- Wendy Hanks, Director of Audiology at Pacific University expressed an interest in working with the Board on any rules changes that may be needed regarding the changes in audiology competencies.
- Carrie Deaver of Bend asked whether ASHA's change in supervision for clinical fellows also holds true for supervision of SLPAs, i.e. via telesupervision. Haag said that it has always been allowed for SLPAs to be supervised via live videoconferencing. The Board's rules regarding utilization and supervision have changed as of January 1, 2020, and are no longer as aligned with ASHA's rules.
- Sara Starlin of Springfield commented that providers now have unique challenges due to COVID-19 and the fact that schools were closed before spring vacation. They are struggling to connect with families and students to obtain consent for telepractice. She

asked if the board considered speech homework to be “telepractice” and Haag clarified that it is not. Telepractice is simply a modality to provide services and pointed licensees to new guidance at Oregon Department of Education that was co-written by Haag.

- Vanessa Renchler, audiologist, mentioned furloughs and frustrations in trying to work with patients given the current lack of supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Cathy Shoop of Hermiston asked if Provisional SLPAs who are working on their 100 clinical fieldwork hours may count observing teletherapy. Haag said that it is acceptable for the Provisional SLPA to actually provide, not just observe teletherapy as long as the supervising SLP is also participating on the live session. (3 way session required for this to work – student/SLP/SLPA). The Board will be reviewing whether it will limit the number of hours that a Provisional SLPA may provide treatment via teletherapy.
- Andy McMillan, Faculty at Portland State submitted a letter from the training programs. Due to COVID-19, in-person training opportunities have all but disappeared but the CFCC is still requiring hours to be completed in person. He is asking the Board to write to the CFCC to ask that they be in accordance with state regulations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Haag stated that the Governor is asking for input from various constituencies including speech-language pathologists and audiologists regarding COVID-19 and criteria for fully re-opening schools and other facilities and activities.

Board staff were already equipped to work remotely, and BSPA was one of the first agencies to move to working remotely on or about March 10th. Thanks to the new online application and licensing system, staff have been able to move toward a paperless system and have been expediting applications by allowing E-transcript verification.

The Board discussed the fact that due to COVID-19, it might be not safe and possible for new applicants to obtain the required finger prints. Linn reported that background checks have been turning around much faster. The Board did not vote on the matter but is willing to consider allowing applicants to delay fingerprinting for 6 months if there are no places to obtain them in their community.

The Board clarified that it follows ASHA’s guidelines regarding clinical fellows including certain exceptions that are being allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic. See the ASHA website for details, and if there are specific questions regarding Oregon law and rules, individuals should contact the Board office. The Board will continue to send out email flashes with this and other information.

Haag provided the budget report. Since the agency went through its biennial renewal process in December, 2019, most revenue for the current biennium was received before the COVID-19 epidemic. The Board expects there to be a continued demand for SLPs, SLPAs and audiologists, regardless of whether schools go back to session physically since the Board rules allow for services when suitable to be provided via telepractice. The Board has not increased fees since 2013, and had long planned to increase them in the 2021-23 biennium. The amount of fee increase needed will depend on a number of factors including whether there are statewide

furloughs and salary freezes. Haag has already cut approximately \$80,000 from the current, 2019-21 biennium by eliminating travel and cutting contract investigations by \$70,000 since we now have a full time investigator. Those savings will extend into the proposed 2021-23 agency request budget.

The public session ended at 10:10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Swanstrom called the Executive Session to order at 10:03 a.m. 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), and 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).

The executive session ended at 2:10 p.m. and the Board returned to public session.

MOTIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

2020-01: Martin moved to close this case with no action. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2020-08: Ooley moved to ratify the license. The motion was seconded by Sanger Reed and passed unanimously.

2020-12: Edwards moved to ratify the license. Edwards seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2019-29: Martin moved to close the case with action. Ooley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2020-07: Swanstrom moved to close the case with no action. Edwards seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2020-03: Ooley moved to ratify the license. Martin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2019-65: Edwards moved to close the case with no action. Martin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2019-66: Sanger Reed moved to close with no action. Swanstrom seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2020-06: Martin moved to close the case with no action. Ooley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2019-55: Swanstrom moved to close the case with no action. Martin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2020-14: Sanger Reed moved to close the case with action. Swanstrom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2020-10: Edwards moved to close the case with action. Ooley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Martin moved to extend the time to investigate open cases. The motion was seconded by Swanstrom and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held on August 7th via teleconference.