



Board of Examiners
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**Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2018
Portland State Office Building
Conference Room 445
Portland, Oregon**

PRESENT: Gail Swanstrom, Audiologist, Chair
Victoria Edwards, Speech-Language
Pathologist,
Vice-Chair
John Evans, Speech-Language
Pathologist
Dustin Ooley, Audiologist
Jean Verheyden, M.D., Otolaryngologist
Elynor McPeak, Public Member – By
Phone (Until 10:08 a.m.)
Anna Sanger Reed, Public Member – By
Phone (Until 11:21 a.m.)

Erin K. Haag, Executive Director
David Linn, Administrative
Assistant
George Finch, Agency Investigator
Tyler Anderson, DOJ AAG

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Swanstrom, after a roll call quorum was established.

MINUTES OF November 10, 2017 MEETING

Ooley moved to approve the November 10, 2017 minutes. Verheyden seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Swanstrom called the Executive Session to order at 9:10 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 11:18 a.m. and the Board returned to public session.

MOTIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

2017-81: Swanstrom moved to close with no action. Verheyden seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2018-03: Ooley moved to close with no action. Sanger Reed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2017-83: Edwards moved to close no action. Seconded by Verheyden, motion carried.

2017-77: Verheyden moved to issue the license. Ooley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2017-82: Edwards moved to close with no action. Swanstrom seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2017-14: Verheyden moved to close with no action. Edwards seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2017-74: Ooley moved to close with action. Verheyden seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Licenses issued from August 4, 2017 through January 31st, 2018: Verheyden moved to ratify the issuance of these licenses. Ooley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Swanstrom called a second Executive Session to order at 11:21 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 12:36 p.m. and the Board returned to public session.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

License Renewal Report: Board staff gave an update on the biennial license renewal of all regular licensees. There was a discussion about the types and amounts of the delinquent fees associated with the renewal system. There were some complaints about the applicability of some fees and whether the office should waive some fees in certain cases. The consensus of the Board was that the fees must be consistently applied and there was no discussion on changing them.

Budget Update: Director Haag will have a more detailed budget update in May after the legislative session is over. The agency is currently requesting budgetary authority to hire a part-time investigator. The Director believes there are enough funds in the agency's reserves that they can absorb the cost without raising licensing fees. The current contract investigator has not raised their rates in several years and Swanstrom expressed that it was far too low and should be increased.

Legislative Update: Haag is required to appear during the February session to give a report on the investigation load and need for a staff investigator, additional funds for clinical review, and additional DOJ expenses. She is also reporting for the entire “Health Related Licensing Board Group” on our I.T. needs. Our long-time IT contractor is not continuing, and we also need a modern database. We expect the costs to increase significantly.

Board staff are tracking several bills in the 2018 legislative session, none are anticipated to have a large impact on the agency. Legislative concepts for the 2019 legislative session are due in April and must be finalized by June. Board consensus is that the concept of adding audiology assistants to the statutes was not ready to be moved forward. The Board does wish to pursue a legislative concept to open the accreditation standards in ORS 681.205(1) to include the American Academy of Audiology (AAA), which is the national professional association for audiologists. The current statute only lists the American Speech & Hearing Association (ASHA). Swanstrom made a motion to move forward the legislative concept regarding AAA, Verheyden seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Telepractice Rulemaking: Director Haag has assigned assistant Linn to be rulemaking coordinator for the draft telepractice rules. There are plans to hold two more stakeholder meetings to get additional feedback. They are tentatively scheduled for March & April, so that final draft rules can be considered by the Board at their May meeting.

Compact Advisory Group: Haag has continued to participate in an advisory group exploring state compact licensure. It is sponsored by the Council on State Governments (CSG) & the American Speech & Hearing Association (ASHA). The group has been reviewing different models of state compact licensure, such as a medical model vs commission model. Haag will continue to provide updates.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM. The next Board meeting will be held at 9 a.m., Friday, May 11th, 2018.