

BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY
Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: April 16, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar
(use link below)
<https://dcca-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/96451761018>

Present: Lorna Hu, Member, Speech Pathologist
Erin Firmin, Member, Speech Pathologist
Dr. Susan May, Member, Audiologist
Dr. Denby Rall, Member, Audiologist
Brian Chen M.D., Public Member/Otorhinolaryngologist
Christopher Fernandez, Executive Officer (“EO”)
Kelly Suzuka, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Susan A. Reyes, Secretary
Stephanie Karger, Office Assistant (Technical Support)
Christine Dela Cruz, Office Assistant (Technical Support)

Excused: None.

Guests: None.

Chair Firmin provided information to attendees about how to be identified and provide testimony during the meeting. They were also informed that testimony would be limited to five minutes per person, per agenda item.

Call to Order: Chair Firmin confirmed by roll call that she, Vice Chair May, Dr. Chen, Dr. Rall and Ms. Hu were present. With roll call complete Chair Firmin brought the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes For February 19, 2021:

Chair Firmin asked if there was any public person who wished to provide oral testimony on the agenda item; there were none.

Chair Firmin then asked members if there were any amendments to the February 19, 2021 meeting minutes. Hearing none, it was moved by Chair Firmin, seconded by Ms. Hu, and by roll call vote, members present voted unanimously to approve the minutes for February 19, 2021.

Executive Officer's
Report:

EO Fernandez stated to the Board members that he will be sending out information regarding the Educational Testing Service ("ETS"), who run exams for ASHA and adding it to the Board's agenda for the next meeting. The Board will need to approve the new praxis exam and the approval will need to be relayed to ETS before the new exam can be authorized for Hawaii. He told the Board if they have any questions or comments to please let him know.

EO Fernandez reported that there were no disciplinary actions through February 2021.

Applicant
Ratifications:

SP 1901	Corinne Stevens
SP 1902	Kathleen MacPhee
SP 1903	Madeline Seto
SP 1904	Jennifer Rivers
SP 1905	Ceara Sumida
SP 1906	Laura Easter
SP 1907	Chitra Parmashwaran
SP 1908	Katelyn C. Taylor
SP 1909	Ashley E. McCoy
SP 1910	Cyndi M. Horikawa
SP 1911	Tara N. Roehl
SP 1912	Rebecca Bishop
SP 1913	Chelsea Tumbarello
SP 1914	Holly Herriger
SP 1915	Rachel Mashtare
SP 1916	Lauren Broyles
SP 1917	Christina Behta
SP 1918	Mallory Whitenton
SP 1919	Carolyn Kilar
SP 1920	Jan Amour Llorico
SP 1921	Sarah Guigneaux
SP 1922	Janine Segner
SP 1923	Kacey Remley
SP 1924	Gail Jaffe
SP 1925	Heather Sanchez
SP 1926	Janelle Flores
SP 1927	Meredith Page
SP 1928	Nohemi Mofatt
SP 1929	Jaclyn Colopietro
SP 1930	Kyle Otte
SP 1931	Holly Hartong
SP 1932	Melissa Wagner
SP 1933	Sheila Fowks
SP 1934	Jessica Duke

SP 1935 Jessica Walsh
SP 1936 Jessica Attard
SP 1937 Claudia Behnam
SP 1938 Carrie Kyrias
SP 1939 Deborah Spellman
SP 1940 Suman Panda
SP 1941 Mahwish Hashmi
SP 1942 Jessica Mattingly
SP 1943 Lauren Chou
SP 1944 Vaidehi Singh
SP 1945 Chandani Patel
SP 1946 Dabarash Madi
SP 1947 Kacie Adkins
SP 1948 Nima Moore
SP 1949 Alyssa Jabara
SP 1950 Josephina Fredericks
SP 1951 Aanchal Malhotra
SP 1952 Christina Behar
SP 1953 Mel Feldman
SP 1954 Sara Brownstein
SP 1955 Amy Sakuda
SP 1956 Aimee Sthilaire
SP 1957 Sallyann Giessm
SP 1958 Kristen Latta
SP 1959 George Cooley
SP 1960 Ya-tzu Chang
SP 1961 Loren Tacker
SP 1962 Morgan Reinhold
SP 1963 Katie Russell
SP 1964 Melanie Gingerich
SP 1965 Briana Turner
SP 1966 Sarah Foody
SP 1967 Caitlin Fanning
SP 1968 Jennifer Kolling
SP 1969 Latia Pacely
SP 1970 Madison Blaylock
SP 1972 Lindsay Young
SP 1973 Johanna Olson
SP 1974 Jessica Daw
SP 1975 Emma Harrington
SP 1976 Susan Mason
SP 1977 Kathryn Arnold
SP 1978 Claudine Talamayan
SP 1979 Amy Besecker
SP 1980 Patricia Caulfield
SP 1981 Carolyn Burton

TOTAL: 81

AUD 218 Devin Anderson
AUD 219 Rachel Walters-Stout
AUD 220 Veronica Whitnell

TOTAL: 3

It was motioned by Chair Firmin, seconded by Dr. Rall, and unanimously carried by roll call vote, to ratify the list of approved applicants noted above.

Applications
Requirements
And Forms:

Chair Firmin asked if there was any public person who wished to provide oral testimony on the agenda sub-items; there were none.

- a. What is required for an applicant whose ASHA certification has lapsed and who does not hold a doctoral degree now required for ASHA certification?

EO Fernandez explained that there was someone that was applying for the hearing aid dealer fitter (“HADF”) license who is an audiologist in California. Because of some difficulties with obtaining the HADF license, they wished to see if they could apply as an AUD instead. At the time of their original licensure, California only required a master’s degree and while they had held a current ASHA certificate, it is now lapsed. They hold certification from American Academy of Audiology, but pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”) 16-100-22.1, the Board only recognizes certification from the American Board of Audiology (“ABA”).

In order to help this person, he researched ASHA’s requirements for recertification, and found that although a person is required to hold a doctoral degree to get the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (“CCC”) in Audiology, a person who first received their CCC when a master’s was only needed can reinstate their CCC if they complete some requirements. To confirm, he asked ASHA, if someone had a master’s and let their CCC expire, is there a way for them to recertify. The answer was yes, but they would need to retake the practice exam. EO Fernandez stated that he wished to disseminate this information to the Board.

There was no further discussion.

- b. The Board to discuss the development of forms, fees, and other related items to the Provisional License going active on January 1, 2022.

Chair Firmin asked if there was any public person who wished to provide oral testimony on the agenda item; there were none.

EO Fernandez informed Board that the Professional Vocational Licensing (“PVL”) division’s new database and licensing system went live and is called Ho’ala. (And just as FYI, although there seems to be kinks in the new system at this time, the SP’s and AUD’s have not really been affected). When the system was being developed the new provisional license, due to go live on January 1, 2022 was discussed and there should not be any issues with including this license type on the new platform. However, at the moment, PVL Licensing Branch is preparing for the largest of its renewal cycles: December 31 of odd-ending years., and this has increased the need to get the provisional license prepared much earlier than January 1, 2022. After ACT 235 of 2019 passed, he started to work on trying to find, within DCCA, other areas that have provisional licenses. He found that for dentistry and pharmacy they have something similar where they can obtain a temporary license to meet the requirements of full licensure. He has a couple of application templates that he is working from but wanted to ask for the Board’s input and help developing the application to be sure that there is a clear assessment of the applicant’s credentials and the ability to meet the language that is within ACT 235.

Chair Firmin stated that she did some research in preparation for the meeting and found that there are a lot of states that have similar applications. She tried to find what kind of commonalities they had for their provisional/temporary licenses. She found a few things. One of the major commonalities was that a supervision plan was included in applications, which included a start date, place of employment, contact information for the employer, the hours that would be worked, the anticipated date of completion, etc. She explained that the applicant would have to have a supervisor’s name, contact info, and credentials they carried, and the supervisor would attest that they are providing the supervision. Chair Firmin noted that states varied on how in depth this information needed to be. Some of them have a completion form which could be as simple as attesting that the applicant was competent in practice. Others were more comprehensive and include substantial check lists. She also noted that there were instances where states verify or confirm that alternative supervision methods were not used. Right now, this is a hot topic related to COVID and teleworking. People have had to submit

plans in order to, for example, tele-supervise, because the requirements for ASHA are pretty specific in terms of onsite direct supervision and the number of hours for indirect supervision. There was also a process for a change of plan for employment, supervisors and employment hours. Because ACT 235 allows for one extension for an additional year, the Board would need a process for this as well. The other general parts were different fee plan, transcripts were required, timelines for submission to obtain the professional licensure and then after completion, when you can apply for your full licensure. The majority of the states required the practice being completed, but when she looked at ACT 235, we do not have this in our language, but she said this should be okay, because they cannot obtain full licensure until they pass the PRAXIS exam.

Dr. Chen asked what the normal process is after you get your master's to get the full license.

Chair Firmin responded that one easy route is to complete your certificate of clinical competence ("CCC"), which is 36 weeks of minimum supervised practicum, where there is a minimum amount of direct and indirect supervision. Then you apply for licensure. The other way is to submit verification from your University that you completed your coursework, prove that you passed the PRAXIS, which is everything you need to do to get your CCCs without actually applying for your CCCs with ASHA.

Dr. Chen said then it will essentially be two years of school and then about a year of post graduate experience.

Chair Firmin said it is a little less: a minimum of 36 weeks of full-time employment, which is 35 hours per week.

EO Fernandez asked for a reminder of the justification for the passage of ACT 235. Is this because of the limited number of practitioners with DOE? Because these would be the only ones that could practice without their fellowship completed currently.

Chair Firmin said that the reason for the provisional license was that new graduates that want to enter the medical setting, the setting in which service billing occurs, were not being offered positions because their services cannot be billed without a license. A supervisor would be need present and so essentially you would have two employees doing the same job in order to obtain reimbursement. A new graduate who wants to work, is not being hired in clinics, hospitals and Skilled Nursing Inpatient Facilities. They would only be hired in the DOE, who has only a finite

amount of positions. So, new grads have been leaving the state in order to find these types of employment opportunities elsewhere.

EO Fernandez said to Chair Firmin that he looked over the commonalities she referenced, e.g. supervision plans and said that just because it was not included as a requirement in ACT 235, it can be something that the Board can request based on the language in 436B-10(a)(9):

“...Any other information the licensing authority may require to investigate the applicant’s qualifications for licensure....”

This means that the Board has room to ask for additional information to make the justification for the approval.

Chair Firmin said that almost every state that she saw required the PRAXIS exam prior to getting the provisional license. Most Universities also encourage their students to take it in their final semester. It would not be an odd thing to include in the Board’s application process.

EO Fernandez asked DAG Suzuka if this is something that can be looked into; to see if it can be a requirement for the provisional license.

DAG Suzuka said that we should take a further look into this before the Board makes a final decision.

EO Fernandez asked to go through the list of the requirements From the ACT 235.

Requirements for the provisional license:

- Have a master’s degree in speech pathology, and it has to be from a recognized educational institution.
- You are required to have supervised clinical or academic practice. It does make that determination between academic and clinical.
- The supervisor must hold current ASHA’s CCCs. Supervision verification forms are typically completed by the supervisor. This will be the time that they will need to provide proof that their CCCs are current.

- The provisional license itself has to name the supervisor, because only under that name the supervision can happen.

After listing the requirements, EO Fernandez asked what kind of information needs to be asked for to determine an approval. For example, when is a supervisor chosen?

Chair Firmin responded that it commences at your employment. When they apply, applicants need to make sure that there is a supervisor qualified that can provide the experiences and supervision that they need at their job site.

EO Fernandez asked Chair Firmin if the school or the program helps connect supervisees with supervisors.

Chair Firmin said that the program does not, but the hiring agencies know what is expected and already have this in their process.

Ms. Hu said that the only requirement is that the supervisors are ASHA certified, because not all speech pathologists will maintain their membership in ASHA.

EO Fernandez asked if applicants have not graduated yet, what could they provide as proof that they have completed a master's degree in a recognized educational institution.

Chair Firmin said that she knows that ASHA requires a verification form from the graduate program director. She also did notice that some states did have a form for their provisional licenses.

EO Fernandez said that there are other professions that will accept a letter from the dean, but he was wondering if there is specific language that should be included, for example, "this individual has completed all course work and program requirements for graduation". The Board does not necessarily have to request a form be filled out, instead maybe just a signed affidavit. As an alternative to the letter we could request the transcripts if people would be only applying after graduation. Just depends when people would be applying before or after graduation.

EO Fernandez asked the Board members if there are any program accreditation concerns. Is there a standard across the board throughout the U.S?

Chair Firmin said that there is a separate organization that does the accreditation for graduate schools. In order to obtain your CCCs you need to graduate from an accredited school. For international schools they have a different accreditation program, so there needs to be some sort of proof that their program has fallen under that accreditation status.

Ms. Hu asked Chair Firmin if the University of Hawaii lost their accreditation.

Chair Firmin said that they are going through a re-accreditation now.

EO Fernandez cited HAR 16-100-20(b): "The applicant shall be a graduate of a college or university that is accredited by a regional or specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education." With regards to the requirement for supervised academic practice, he wanted to know how this could relate.

Chair Firmin wanted to know where EO Fernandez found the difference between the academic practice and clinical practicum.

Dr. Chen said that EO Fernandez was referring to ACT 235 and then asked if the only program here in Hawaii is at the University of Hawaii "(UH)".

EO Fernandez stated that he was not sure if provisional licensing is only limited to UH. Someone in Oklahoma could be in a program there and still apply for a provisional license here, but the chances are not very good. Still, there is that possibility.

Chair Firmin said that she will look into academic practice more and that it may have something to do with research and different type of settings other than clinical. She will look at what ASHA's language has.

EO Fernandez said that as far as the other requirements, he should have added the Board of Psychology's postdoctoral experience verification form as an example. The top half of the form is for the applicant to fill in their personal information and then it is sent off to their supervisor to complete the second half, filling in the date range, hours, site location and a brief summary of duties during supervision. The form needs to be notarized and the supervisor will need to provide their license numbers for any licenses in other states.

Chair Firmin asked if the Board would come up with ideas and recommendations as the form gets developed by PVL.

EO Fernandez said that he will be drafting the forms based on the Board's requirements and recommendations. This will also probably need to be reviewed by the director's office for their approval. He said that there can be up to two board members that he could talk to between meetings to make the forms, get a draft and have something ready for the Board's review. He told the Board that it only has two meetings for the rest of the year and said that it could add another meeting if needed.

Vice Chair May questioned if there was a previous recommendation to include CEUs with the Hawaii license. She said that one of the Board members had requested or brought up the requirement for CEUs for audiologist and speech pathologist in the past.

EO Fernandez said he will need to look in past minutes to find any discussion regarding the CEs. A statutory change would have to happen. Someone will need to introduce the bill to include this in the Board's statutes. He can include this on a future agenda for the Board to discuss and see if they want to change it so that it is a requirement.

Vice Chair May said she only brought this up, in regard to his comments about if ASHA lapses and they do not have ABA, how do we ensure that they are doing CEUs. When we bring this topic up, maybe we could include this in that.

EO Fernandez responded, yes definitely and he can prepare this for the next meeting as a topic for discussion. He also wanted to get confirmation that Chair Firmin and Ms. Hu will be available to talk with him about these forms before the next meeting.

Chair Firmin said yes, she is available.

There was no further discussion.

Next Meeting
Date:

June 18, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Virtual Videoconference Meeting - Zoom

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. by Chair Firmin.

Reviewed and approved by:

Taken and recorded by:

/s/ Christopher Fernandez
Christopher Fernandez
Executive Officer

/s/ Susan A. Reyes
Susan A. Reyes
Secretary

CF:sar

04/19/21

Minutes approved as is.

Minutes approved with changes; see minutes of _____.