

BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: February 1, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar
(use link below)
<https://dcca-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/96842721989>

Present: Erin Firmin, Chair, Speech Pathologist
Dr. Susan May, Vice Chair, Audiologist
Lorna Hu, Member, Speech Pathologist
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
Kedin Kleinhans (Technical Support)

Excused: None.

Guests: None.

Call to Order: **Chair Firmin provided attendees information on how to participate meetings being held remotely and that testimony would be limited to (5) minutes per person, per agenda item.**

Chair Firmin then confirmed by roll call that she, Vice Chair May, Dr. Chen, Dr. Rall and Ms. Hu were present and all members noted they were alone. With roll call complete Chair Firmin brought the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

Chair Firmin wanted to amend the agenda and add the following bills to the 2022 Legislative Session for discussion:

- SB2149-Relating to Newborn Hearing Screening and Diagnosis
- SB2024-Relating to Newborn Hearing Screenings
- SB3117-Relating to Newborn Hearing Screening and Diagnosis

Chair Firmin noted that the above bills have the same subject matter and language as SB3117 and HB986, which were already on the agenda to be reviewed by the Board. She also noted that the bills though related to the practice of audiology do not amend HRS 468E, and thus the Board would most likely form no position on the bills.

It was motioned by Chair Firmin, seconded by Dr. Rall, and unanimously carried to amend the agenda as stated above.

Approval of
Meeting Minutes
For December 10,
2021:

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

Chair Firmin asked members if there were any amendments to the December 10, 2021 meeting minutes.

Ms. Hu stated that there is one correction on page 5, first paragraph, to delete **Dr.** from her name and replace with **Ms.**

Chair Firmin motioned to approve the minutes, with the correction stated above, seconded by Ms. Hu, which the board unanimously carried.

Executive Officer's
Report:

EO Fernandez informed the Board that when the Governor's emergency proclamation related to remote meetings has expired on February 28, 2022, the Board can meet in-person. But also, due to the meetings being scheduled for the Queen Liliuokalani conference room, the Board will still have the option of doing meetings virtually, because that conference room is equipped to facilitate them. According to Act 220 (2021), providing a designated conference room available for the public to attend the meeting.

EO Fernandez received word today that the provisional licenses are up on the website and licensing branch are ready and prepared to take on these applications.

Applications:

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

A. Ratifications:

SP 2073	Alexa Elyse Stubenrauch
SP 2074	Bridgette M. Fa'agau
SP 2075	Tiffany G. Woynaroski
SP 2076	Amy Hill
SP 2077	Katherine Isaacson
SP 2078	Aaron Clark Cole
SP 2079	Karli Wagatsuma
SP 2080	Emily Elias
SP 2081	Katherine E. Steen
SP 2082	Ashley A.C. Mitchell

SP 2083	Jessica Eidsvaag
SP 2084	Katrina R. Gelhausen
SP 2085	Stacie L. King
SP 2086	Dorothy J. Nattiel

TOTAL: 14

AUD 226	Alisha G. Severson
AUD-227	Lierra Sobolevski
AUD-228	Avery Anna Creech

TOTAL: 3

After a motion by Chair Firmin seconded by Dr. Rall, the Board unanimously voted to approve the ratification list.

**2022 Legislative
Session:**

The Board to review the 2022 legislative session bills related to the practice of speech pathology and audiology.

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

a. **HB986 HD1 SD1-Relating to Newborn Hearing Screening**

Requires diagnostic audiologic evaluation results of newborn hearing screening evaluations, or infants whose hearing status changes, to be provided to the department of health. (SD1)

Chair Firmin asked if there are any discussion on this bill.

EO Fernandez said that this bill was carried over to the 2022 session, but it was not introduced again and does not appear to be moving forward.

b. **SB1140 SD1-Relating to Newborn Hearing Screenings**

Amends the newborn hearing screening status to mandate reporting of diagnostic audiologic evaluation results to improve hearing follow-up of infants. Updates definitions and terminology. (SD1)

Chair Firmin asked if there are any discussion on this bill.

Members agreed informally that they support the intent of the bill to ensure the children of Hawaii are provided effective early intervention care for hearing issues. Members also made a few notes as follows:

- From an education perspective, it is important to not just get screened but to get the intervention services that would be provided through the Department of Health Early Intervention Section.
- Not all hospital systems are the same. For example, Kaiser Permanente's system has in-house diagnostic services that otherwise may need to be outsourced in rural settings to independent or contracted audiologists. And, Tripler Army Medical Center ("Tripler") is a federal facility following federal regulations. Both Vice Chair May, and Dr. Rall stated that both hospital systems already disclose hearing screenings to the Department of Health ("DOH").
- There are concerns about the effects of mandates on HIPPA protected information and how one would opt out of sharing said information as a parent.

EO Fernandez noted that since the bills do not affect chapter 468E, the Board should track the bills and could provide comments if it feels the need to later in the session. In this case too, the Board's Legislative Committee could comment on behalf of the Board.

Chair Firmin heard from members that they were comfortable with tracking the bills and having the legislative committee provide comments as needed.

Telehealth:

The board to initiate discussion on telehealth for Speech Pathologists and Audiologists.

EO Fernandez reminded members that at the last meeting when the Board discussed legislative matters, specifically the interstate compact, it was concerned with the use of telehealth without defining it in chapter 468E. The intention of creating this agenda item is allow members the ability to discuss the subject and if desired to create a permitted interaction group to review the topic and present its findings to the Board at a later date.

Ms. Hu agreed that this subject is important to address.

DAG Suzuka noted that the creation of a permitted interaction group will need to be included on an agenda in order to be voted on.

The Board agreed to do so at their next meeting noting that members Ms. Hu and Dr. Rall are interested in looking in to the subject between now

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and then to bring up prior to a vote to create the permitted interaction group.

Next Meeting May 3, 2022
Date: 2:00 p.m.
Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 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

02/02/22

☒ Minutes approved as is.

☐ Minutes approved with changes; see minutes of _____.