

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 4, 2023

Time: 2:05 p.m.

In-Person Meeting Location: Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room
HRH King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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")
Christopher Leong, Deputy Attorney General ("DAG")
Shasteen Hiona, Secretary

Excused: None.

Guests: None.

Call to Order: Chair Firmin confirmed by roll call that she, Vice Chair May; Ms. Hu; Dr. Chen, and Dr. Rall were all present. With roll call complete Chair Firmin brought the meeting of the Hawaii Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology ("Board") to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: After the Board reviewed the meeting minutes of November 22, 2022, Dr. Rall motioned to approve the minutes as is, Vice Chair May seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously by the Board.

Applications Ratifications:

Speech Pathologist

- | | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|
| 1. | SP-2204 | Khanedra E. Roberts |
| 2. | SP-2205 | Phillip C. Weir-Mayta |
| 3. | SP-2206 | Kililani T. Kunitomo |
| 4. | SP-2207 | Lindsay Kristine Donellan |
| 5. | SP-2208 | Robin Ann Costa |
| 6. | SP-2209 | Shealynna K. Wellman |

- | | | |
|-----|---------|------------------------|
| 7. | SP-2210 | Cosette Aguirre |
| 8. | SP-2211 | Sara Rae Ramsey |
| 9. | SP-2212 | Caitlin S. Benvenuti |
| 10. | SP-2213 | McKenna S. Stewart |
| 11. | SP-2214 | Sonya D. Collins |
| 12. | SP-2215 | Emily V.K. O. Reaveley |
| 13. | SP-2216 | Hana Imai |
| 14. | SP-2217 | Tracy |

Audiologists

- | | | |
|-----|---------|-----------------------|
| 1. | AUD-234 | Jan M. Sakamoto |
| 2. | AUD-235 | Tena I. McNamara |
| 3. | AUD-236 | Steven James Rea |
| 4. | AUD-237 | Kate M. Landowski |
| 5. | AUD-238 | James I. Parks |
| 6. | AUD-239 | Amelia K. Pollard |
| 7. | AUD-240 | Andrea L. Casey |
| 8. | AUD-241 | Michael J. Figueiredo |
| 9. | AUD-242 | Amelia Grabowski |
| 10. | AUD-243 | Mary E. Neeley |

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

**Provisional
Licensure
Applications:**

Chair Firmin noted that the Board had received inquiries before from potential applicants who could not submit the supervisor verification form at the time of the initial submission of the application for provisional licensure. In these cases, the form would be completed after the person has secured their job, i.e. supervisor, but cannot obtain the job until they have their license; and this requires the supervisor. At the last meeting Chair Firmin explained, the Board had considered looking at this on a case-by-case basis, and that those individuals could approach the Board and ask for a letter or confirmation that their license had been conditionally approved. In this way the person would be able to provide it to their employer as proof that they meet the qualifications. And, once the Board receives their supervisor verification form, they will be licensed. Chair Firmin noted the Board last wanted this to happen.

EO Fernandez informed the Board that he has asked in office for ways other Boards handle this issue and that he received feedback. He stated that it may be possible to review and conditionally approve, for example,

an applicant who has completed all but one requirement, and send them a letter to that effect which explicitly lays out all conditions, including if further documentation required. It also notifies the applicant that they will be required to answer the “yes” answer questions, e.g., “Have you ever been convicted or have pending charges?” when they submit their final paperwork as well as sets a deadline. He added that a license would not be issued until all requirements have been met. He suggested to state in a meeting and then it can be on a case-by-case meeting.

After a brief discussion about whether the members wished to address these applications in such a way as outlined by EO Fernandez, the Board agreed to do so.

Telehealth/Remote
Practice:

Chair Firmin noted that the state compact bill for speech pathologists has stalled in the legislature but has brought a lot of telehealth questions to the Board.

Dr. Rall also noted that before speaking about telehealth, terminology should clearly distinguish between remote training and telepractice. She added that trainees should not be unnecessarily burdened in Hawaii trying to find in-person supervision due to how remote the state is, and how difficult it can be to obtain training that is comprehensive.

EO Fernandez added that only the Veterinary and Medical Boards have existent telehealth language. There was testimony in the legislative session from RICO about the constitutionality of the compact bill, stating they might not be able to release all information to the compact of disciplinary action. There are some things the State cannot release by law. He stated that he does not know how strong that argument was and how it played out.

DAG Leong stated that he does not know if it did very much. The national organization or association will require Hawaii to turn over all the information on licensees, who are also compact users. If information is protected, then the state cannot turn that information over, and it becomes hard for Hawaii to join the compact.

EO Fernandez reminded the Board that it has authority to make sure the chapter language is current and effective. He suggested that the Board draft telehealth language before addressing the compact, since it will most likely bring more telehealth or telepractice to the state in regard to Speech Pathology.

Dr. Rall asked if there is a subcommittee that can address this.

EO Fernandez answered that the Board has an on-going Permitted Interaction (PIG) group regarding telehealth. He explained that the Board can have that committee collect more information and get it ready to present here in a meeting.

Dr. Rall responded if the Board would utilize ASHA standards.

EO Fernandez stated that the Board can. He added that he can ensure the members of the PIG have the resources they may need, including ASHA standards, and the American Association of Audiology standards too.

After some discussion about what other resources the PIG may need for its meetings, it agreed to have a meeting of the PIG members to start the process of creating telehealth language.

Executive Officer, Christopher Fernandez, said he would send out an email to confirm the committee meeting.

Speech Language

Pathologist

Assistants ("SLPA"): Chair Firmin began discussion by explaining what a SLPA is, a Speech Language Pathology Assistant, adding that Hawaii does not have SLPA licensure, nor does the state have a training program. She stated that this does not mean that SLPAs are not here, or being utilized some other way that does not require licensure.

EO Fernandez asked if this is unregulated practice.

Chair Firmin believed so, but considered that their oversight is performed by their employer: the Department of Education (DOE).

Ms. Hu noted that in the DOE they are called Communication Aides. She believes that really there is no training in the Honolulu district for SLPAs. She added that SLPAs are an effective support when the number of accessible SLPs is low. She also noted that most Communication Aides in practice now in the DOE are not trained in speech pathology, but are performing within the scope under supervision.

Chair Firmin stated that Communication Aides have to have minimum requirements of education, and both general and specialized experience. They are supposed to have this already when they begin their experience under a Speech Pathologist, but realistically they are doing on-the-job training.

Dr. Rall also stated that this may depend on what type of practice a SLPA is working in.

Vice Chair May stated that it then would be good to have minimum training and SLPA regulation.

After some further discussion on how to move forward with the subject, members decided to continue the conversation about SLPA regulation at a meeting in the future.

Election of
Officers:

Chair Firmin called for nominations for the Vice Chair position.

On a motion by Ms. Hu to nominate Dr. Rall as Vice Chair, seconded by Dr. Chen, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Rall as Vice Chair.

On a motion by Ms. Hu, seconded by Dr. May, the Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Chair Firmin.

Next Meeting
Date:

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room

Adjournment:

Before the meeting was brought to a close, members and staff congratulated and thanked Dr. May for her time on the Board since she informed members that she was stepping down.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m. by Chair Firmin.

Reviewed and approved by:

Taken and recorded by:

/s/Christopher Fernandez
Christopher Fernandez
Executive Officer

/s/Shasteen Hiona
Shasteen Hiona
Secretary

CF:sh

5/1/23

[x] Minutes approved as is.

[] Minutes approved with changes; see minutes of _____.