



## **FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 24-25, 2010**

Hotel Kabuki  
1625 Post Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 922-3200

### **Board Members Present**

Lisa O'Connor, M.A., Chairperson  
Alison Grimes, Chair Au.D., Vice Chairperson  
Sandra Danz, Hearing Aid Dispenser  
Deane Manning, Hearing Aid Dispenser  
Carol Murphy, M.A.  
Rodney Diaz, M.D.  
Robert Green, AuD.

### **Staff Present**

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer  
LaVonne Powell, Legal Counsel  
George Ritter, Legal Counsel  
Kathi Burns, Staff  
Cynthia Alameda, Staff  
Yvonne Crawford, Staff  
Debbie Newcomer, Staff  
Lori Pinson, Staff

### **Board Members Absent**

Monty Martin, M.A.

### **Guests Present**

Tim Shannon, Hearing Health Care Providers California  
Susan Kidwell, San Joaquin Delta Community College  
Tricia Hunter, Hearing Health Care Providers California  
Cindy Peffers, Hearing Health Care Providers California  
Jody Winzelberg, California Academy of Audiology  
Marcia Raggio, California Academy of Audiology  
Rebecca Bingea, University of California, San Francisco  
Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Deputy Director of Board Relations, Department of Consumer Affairs  
Art Sturm, Rexton Inc.  
Priya James  
Siamak Sani  
Sia Sani, World Hearing Organization Inc.

### **I. Call to Order**

Chairperson O'Connor called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### **II. Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

### **III. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Lisa O'Connor was elected Chairperson by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Alison Grimes was voted Vice Chairperson by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Chairperson O'Connor appointed members to the following Committees:

Hearing Aid Dispensers Committee: Chair Deanne Manning. Noted: All other committee members provided for in statute.

Audiology Practice Committee: Chair Alison Grimes, Robert Green, Sandra Danz, and Rodney Diaz

Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee: Chair Carol Murphy, Lisa O'Connor, Marty Martin, and Rodney Diaz

#### **IV. Board Member Orientation – Ethical Decision Making for Board Members- LaVonne Powell, Legal Counsel**

LaVonne Powell addressed the Board and provided an abbreviated board member orientation where she summarized the provisions of the Open Meetings Act and reviewed situations where the Board members may encounter potential conflicts of interest. She explained the acts of disqualification and abstention and provided applicable examples where either act of removing a board member from participation in a vote of the Board may be necessary. Ms. Powell also impressed upon the Board the importance of confidentiality in all closed session matters before the Board.

#### **V. Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 4-5, 2009 Audiology Practice Committee Meeting, Speech-Language Pathology Practice Committee Meeting, & Full Board Meeting Minutes**

The Board discussed minor grammatical edits to the practice committee and full board meeting minutes.

**M/S/C: Grimes/Murphy**

**The Board voted to approve the meeting minutes as amended.**

#### **IV. Closed Session (pursuant to Government Code Subsections (c)(3)- Proposed Decisions/Stipulations/ Other APA Enforcement Actions**

The Board convened into closed session at 3:45 p.m. to deliberate the following proposed stipulated settlements

- A. Proposed Stipulation and Settlement of Probation In the Matter of the Accusation Against Mika Inouye-Winkle, AU 1873**
- B. Proposed Stipulation and Settlement of Probation In the Matter of the Accusation Against Molly Stuckey, SP 14040**

The Board reconvened into open session at 4:11 p.m.

#### **V. Executive Officer's Report**

- A. Budget Update**

Annemarie Del Mugnaio reviewed the two budget projection reports included in the meeting packets, one for the speech-language pathology and audiology budget and the other for the hearing aid dispenser and dispensing audiologist budget. She indicated that the budget projections were based on expenditure reports through January 31, 2010. Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the Board

must manage the budgets and funds separately for speech-language pathology/audiology and the hearing aid dispensing/dispensing audiology programs pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 1535. She indicated that the dispensing fund must realize additional revenue within the next fiscal year in order to remain solvent and, as such, will be pursuing a regulatory change to reflect an annual renewal cycle for dispensing audiologists with the associated fee of \$280. Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that two major program expenses for the hearing aid dispensers' budget are the Division of Investigation costs, which is the unit that provides investigatory services for the Board's enforcement program, and the Examination program, which funds the administration of the written and practical hearing aid dispenser examination. She suggested that there will likely be some cost savings to the hearing aid dispensers' budget now that the entity is merged with the Board, as many program functions may be handled in-house as opposed to paying centralized units within the Department to provide such services as complaint mediation, mail processing, and call center assistance. Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the Board has been approved for additional staff to serve as a non-sworn investigator for the Board. She stated that this position will provide the Board with a dedicated investigator to handle many of its investigation needs and should prove to be more cost effective than out-sourcing all of its investigation work to the Division of Investigation. Ms. Del Mugnaio provided historical information on prior fee increases for the hearing aid dispensers' program and indicated that the last renewal fee increase occurred in 1993 when annual renewal fees were raised from \$205 to \$280 and the more recent examination fee increase in 1996, which raised examination application fees from \$125 to \$285. Ms. Del Mugnaio reported that the current fees for hearing aid dispensers and dispensing audiologists are at the statutory maximum.

Tricia Hunter expressed the Hearing Health Care Providers (HHP) of California's support in terms of the Board stabilizing its fiscal reserve and operating revenue.

**B. Status of Proposed Regulations**

**1. Review Final Statement of Reasons and Language for Clean-up Package – Continuing Professional Development Amendments Related to Supervision Requirements and Board Approved Institution Regulations (California Code of Regulations Sections -1399.152 (e), 1399.153.3 & 1399.160.4)**

Ms. Del Mugnaio reported that the final rulemaking file was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on March 17, 2010, where the OAL has thirty (30) business days to make a determination regarding the regulatory proposal. She indicated she would report on the outcome of the rulemaking file at the next meeting.

**2. License Renewal Requirements- Retroactive Fingerprinting – (Adopt California Code of Regulations Section- 1399.157.3)**

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the new provisions will enable the Board to secure fingerprints and criminal history information on licensees who do not have a retrievable Live Scan record with the Department of Justice (DOJ). She stated that when the DOJ transferred its records from wet-print scanning to Live Scan, some of the records did not accurately transfer and, as such, some records are no longer accessible in the DOJ database. Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the regulatory language in the packet would authorize the Board to require retroactive fingerprinting of identified licensees within a specified timeframe and would provide for administrative penalties for non-compliance. She stated that the previous Board had approved the regulatory proposal; however, since the Board was now merged and under new governance, it was necessary for the new Board to review and adopt the language for both the speech-language pathology and audiology and hearing aid dispenser code sections.

M/S/C: Grimes/Murphy

The Board voted to approve the regulatory proposal adding Sections 1399.128-1399.128.1 and 1399.157.3-1399.157.4 regarding fingerprint requirements for licensees.

**3. Consider Regulatory Proposal Regarding the Audiologist's Role in Cochlear Implant Fitting and Mapping (California Code of Regulations Section 1399.150.2- Definitions)**

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the regulatory amendment included in the meeting packets defining the audiologist's role in cochlear implant fitting and mapping was approved by the previous Board; however, action on the regulation was delayed due to merger implementation projects. She requested the Board to review and adopt the regulatory proposal and approve the filing of the regulatory notice.

M/S/C: Grimes/Diaz

The Board voted to approve the regulatory proposal Section 1399.150.2 defining the audiologist's role in cochlear implant fitting and mapping.

**C. 2010 Conference Schedule**

Ms. Del Mugnaio provided an overview of the conference travel schedule and indicated that she or another member of the Board would be speaking at the following conferences:

- American Academy of Audiology Conference- State Leaders Workshop- April 14-18, San Diego
- California Speech-Language-Hearing Association Conference – April 18, 2010- Monterey
- Hearing Health Care Providers of CA Conference – May 13-15, 2010- Anaheim
- California Academy of Audiology Conference - September 30-October 2, 2010- San Francisco

Chairperson O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

**March 25, 2010 Continuation of the Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board Meeting:**

Chairperson O'Connor called the continuation of the full board meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

**VI. Status of Audit Response from San Joaquin Delta Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program**

Chairperson O'Connor indicated that the Board had requested San Joaquin Delta respond to several outstanding compliance or deficiency issues identified by the Board during a site visit of the San Joaquin Delta Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Program, both at the main campus and the Santa Rosa satellite campus. She stated that she carefully reviewed the audit response letter prepared by Susan Kidwell, SLPA Training Program Director, and found the letter and its attachments adequately responded to the Board's identified concerns. Chairperson O'Connor

acknowledged Ms. Kidwell's tireless efforts in improving the administrative oversight of the SLPA Program at San Joaquin Delta and thanked her for thoroughly addressing the audit deficiencies.

**M/S/C: Murphy/Grimes**

**The Board approved the San Joaquin Delta audit response letter dated February 3, 2010, and confirmed that all deficiencies noted in the site review audit and subsequent communications of the Board and the San Joaquin Delta Program had been cured.**

## **VII. Department of Consumer Affairs Director's Report**

Ms. Del Mugnaio introduced Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Deputy Director of Board Relations Department of Consumer Affairs, who conducted a ceremonial swearing-in of the newly appointment board members.

### **A. Enforcement Reform – Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative (CPEI)/ Senate Bill 1111**

Ms. Kirchmeyer addressed the Board regarding the Department's CPEI project and stated that it is Director Stiger's mission to improve the overall efficiency and accountability in the boards/bureaus enforcement efforts and is dedicated to providing the boards and bureaus the necessary tools to that end. Ms. Kirchmeyer outlined the Department's CPEI project plan:

- Administrative Changes –Developing best practices for complaint/enforcement case handling; introduced the Department's Enforcement Academy to train all enforcement personnel in such best practice models; created a new Deputy Director of Enforcement Compliance to oversee all board/bureau enforcement programs; developing performance agreements with other state departments that provide enforcement services to the Department's boards/bureaus.
- Information Technology Improvements/Resources- Securing new enforcement positions for boards/bureaus; researching and procuring a new integrated licensing/enforcement data system to replace an antiquated database with limited functionality.
- Legislative Changes – Senate Bill 1111- Major statutory changes, including suspending a license in a timely manner for a specified cause, removal of any Gag Clause in civil settlements, and a delegation of authority for an executive officer to adopt a default decision.

Ms. Kirchmeyer indicated that SB 1111 was authored by Senator Negrete McLeod of the Senate Business Professions and Economic Development Committee and that SB 1111 was set for hearing on April 12, 2010. Ms. Kirchmeyer reported that several amendments to SB 1111 would be forthcoming to address concerns expressed by both health care boards and professional associations.

Ms. Kirchmeyer outlined the following amendments before the Board:

- Strikes language regarding the requirement for a licensee's address of record to be posted on a board's website.
- Cost recovery provisions of the bill specify that "reasonable costs" must be paid by the subject licensee as opposed to the current language which reflects "actual costs." A definition of "reasonable costs" will be included in the bill.
- Citation and fine appeals will be presided over by the board and will not include the executive officer as a voting member.
- Removes the option for allied health boards to utilize the services of the Medical Board of California investigators due to possible conflicts and resource limitations.
- Includes discretionary language that a board may delegate to the executive officer the authority to adopt default decisions independent of the Board.

- Amendments regarding fines levied against licensees who fail to provide patient records to the Board upon request shall only apply to practitioners who have access and control over said records.
- Requires all boards to report to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
- Provisions are included that licensees who are suspended in another state may also be subject to suspension in California.
- Mandates that licensees inform the courts of their license status.
- Removes language increasing the statutory licensing fees for all healing arts boards.
- Removes the requirement that all allied health boards utilize the Vertical Enforcement Model as employed by the Medical Board and clarifies that use of such a model is optional.

Ms. Kirchmeyer stated that, while the current CPEI plan is a reactive approach to addressing noncompliance, the Department is also examining proactive measures to help prevent incompetence or negligence by health care providers, such as continuing competency requirements either in the form of continuing education, actual clinical training, or supplemental examinations.

**B. Senate Bill 1441 – Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Arts Licensees and Related Amendments to the Board’s Disciplinary Guidelines**

Ms. Kirchmeyer explained that the Department commissioned a Substance Abuse Coordination Committee, comprised of the healing arts boards’ executive officers, the Director of the Department, and other individuals who specialize in substance abuse recovery, to develop and adopt uniform standards regarding substance-abusing healing arts licensees. She stated that the sixteen (16) standards provide a framework for boards to enforce specified restrictions on a subject licensee and defines the terms for treatment and rehabilitation. Ms. Kirchmeyer explained that for boards that do not have an in-house diversion program, the uniform standards should be incorporated into the boards’ disciplinary guidelines and applied in cases where a licensee has a confirmed substance abuse issue. She thanked Ms. Del Mugnaio for her work drafting the new disciplinary guidelines according to the uniform standards and explained that Ms. Del Mugnaio and Ms. Powell developed a model for other boards to use in amending their specific disciplinary guidelines.

Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced the amended disciplinary guidelines in the board packet and explained that the guidelines are still a work in progress, as the terms specific to hearing aid dispenser licensees must be incorporated into the new document. She indicated that an amended version of the disciplinary guidelines would be presented at the next meeting and would serve as a regulatory proposal for the Board’s consideration.

Ms. Kirchmeyer stated that legislative changes are being pursued by the Department to provide statutory authority for a few of the identified uniform standards, including a provision for a verified drug screen, automatic suspension of a licensee based on a confirmed positive drug screen, and provisions for an independent audit of a board’s diversion program. Ms. Kirchmeyer urged the Board to pursue changes to its disciplinary guidelines through the regulatory process and to incorporate provisions of the uniform standards in stipulated settlements as appropriate. She requested the Board discuss the regulatory proposal at its future meetings and track the forthcoming legislation.

**C. The Governor’s Executive Order S-01-10**

Ms. Kirchmeyer stated that the Governor issued Executive Order S-01-10 on January 8, 2010, which requires state departments to achieve a five percent (5%) salary savings in Personnel Services by July

1, 2010. She explained that this directive required state agencies, including boards and bureaus, to reduce their personnel service costs by five percent (5%).

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the Board submitted its plan to reduce its personnel service costs by five percent (5%) to the Department earlier in the month and stated that she was able to secure the reduction without layoffs through attrition of staff and reducing temporary help expenses.

Ms. Kirchmeyer stated that a related directive from the Governor requested boards and bureaus to utilize state facilities or no-cost facilities for conducting public meetings and hearings.

**VIII. Update from Board Member Lisa O'Connor  
Status Update on California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Special Education  
Credentialing – Communication Development Specialist- Proposed Regulations Title 5  
California Code of Regulations Section 80048.6.**

Chairperson O'Connor referenced the modifications to the regulations regarding Title 5 California Code of Regulations Section 80048.6 regarding the new authorization for Education Specialist Instruction Credentials and Special Education Added Authorization for the Communication Development Specialist, as included in the meeting packets. She stated that she prepared Board comments to the modified regulatory proposal, as several of the areas of ambiguity and inaccuracy outlined in the Board's original comments to the proposed regulations have not been rectified. Ms. O'Connor referenced the written comments as distributed to the Board and reviewed the areas of concern:

- The term "educational assessments" is not well defined and appears to be in conflict with the current provisions in both federal and state law.
- An objection to the use of the term "clinical assessments" as the *only* type of communication assessments a speech-language pathologist should be authorized to conduct.
- Overall concern that the proposed regulations appear to authorize the Communication Development Specialist to identify and treat specific language disorders without the involvement of the highly trained speech-language pathologist.

**M/S/C: Murphy/Grimes**

**The Board voted to accept the regulatory comments as prepared by Chairperson O'Connor and delegated Ms. Del Mugnaio to transmit the formal Board comments to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to be included in the official rulemaking file for the above reference regulatory action.**

**IX. Practice Committee Reports**

- A. Hearing Aid Dispensers Committee Report and Recommendations for Proposed Regulatory Amendments Continuing Professional Development Provisions, Establishment Registration, Modifications to the Song Beverly Consumer Warranty Act, and Conditions for Referral Amendments**

Ms. Del Mugnaio provided an overview of the matters discussed at the Hearing Aid Dispensers Committee meeting and outlined the recommendations of the Committee before the Board (included under the Hearing Aid Dispensers Committee Meeting Minutes).

**M/S/C: Manning/Green**

**The Board voted to accept the report recommendations of the Hearing Aid Dispensers Committee.**

**B. Audiology Practice Committee Report and Recommendations for Proposed Regulatory Amendments Regarding Audiology Aides, Renewal Fees, and Continuing Professional Development Provisions**

Ms. Grimes provided an overview of the issues discussed at the Audiology Practice Committee meeting and outlined the recommendations of the Committee before the Board (included under the Audiology Practice Committee Meeting Minutes).

**M/S/C: Murphy/Manning**

**The Board voted to accept the report recommendations of the Audiology Practice Committee.**

**X. Proposed Legislation**

**A. Amendments to AB 1535- Omnibus Submission**

Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced the proposed legislation as included in the meeting packets and indicated that the proposal was developed in an effort to clean up the provisions of AB 1535 that were determined unclear, erroneously omitted, or administratively difficult to implement. She stated that she discussed the changes with the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee and is seeking the assistance of the Committee to include the clean-up provisions in an omnibus bill. Ms. Del Mugnaio outlined the changes as follows:

- Defines the term “Dispensing Audiologist” as a licensed audiologist with the authorization to dispense hearing aids based on having met specified examination requirements.
- Provides for an audiologist with an inactive license to reactivate the audiology license and qualify for a dispensing audiology authorization by paying the specified fees and completing all associated continuing education as required for a dispensing audiologist.
- Provides for a licensed hearing aid dispenser who completes all requisite education and training to become a licensed audiologist to qualify for a dispensing audiology license.

Ms. Peffers inquired about the implementation of the provisions of AB 1535 as enacted and how the consumer is adequately notified about the authority for an audiologist to dispense hearing aids by referencing the Board’s website license verification features.

Ms. Burns explained that the on-line license verification feature will identify an audiologist as a dispensing audiologist if the licensee has been confirmed to possess the requisite qualifications and provides a definition of a dispensing audiologist. She stated that the license number of a dispensing audiologist shall remain an “AU” with the specified number and will include a class code of “dispensing audiologist,” which will be printed on the license and displayed on the website. Ms. Burns explained that if an individual searches for a dispensing audiologist under their hearing aid license number, the license will display “cancelled” and will include a disclaimer that the license has been cancelled because the authorization for dispensing hearing aids is incorporated under the audiology license. She stated that the website directs the individual to the audiology license verification feature.

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the certification to dispense hearing aids language that was included in AB 1535 was problematic since it required the Board to issue a separate certificate that was not tied to a license and had no specified terms of renewal or expiration. She further stated that the Board’s existing database



could not adequately track the issuance of the certification and migrate the relative qualifying terms to the audiology license.

The Board discussed the requirements for including the proper licensure information on all patient records and concluded that dispensing audiologists must use their audiology license number on all hearing aid related documents since the hearing aid license for a dispensing audiologist will display invalid.

Ms. Winzelberg expressed the California Academy of Audiology's support for the proposed legislative amendments and encouraged the Board to adopt provisions to alleviate the administrative hurdles identified in AB 1535.

Ms. Hunter indicated that HHP has some concerns regarding the certification issue and the method of authorization, but stated that HHP will continue to work with the Board on an appropriate resolution.

**M/S/C: Grimes/Green**

**The Board voted to adopt the proposed omnibus legislation and delegated to Ms. Del Mugnaio the task of working with the interested parties and the Senate Business Professions and Economic Development Committee on securing a bill.**

**B. Senate Bill 1111- Consumer Health Protection Enforcement Act**

Ms. Del Mugnaio urged the Board to considering supporting the measure in concept, taking into account the forthcoming amendments as presented by Ms. Kirchmeyer.

Ms. Powell suggested the Board consider supporting the bill with the caveat that the Board will take the opportunity to provide further comments once the amendments are available for review.

**M/S/C: Murphy/Diaz**

**The Board voted to support SB 1111 with an acknowledgment that the Board will provide further comments on future amendments as identified by the Department of Consumer Affairs. The Board requested Ms. Del Mugnaio to send a letter of support with the identified disclaimer regarding the forthcoming amendments.**

**C. Assembly Bill 2072- Mendoza. Hearing Screenings; Resources and Services**

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that AB 2072 would require information relative to communication options and community support be disseminated to parents of infants who fail the newborn hearing screening at the time of the screening, at a follow-up visit with an audiologist, or upon entry into an Early Start Program.

Ms. Grimes expressed her concern with the provisions of the bill since a large majority of newborns who fail the initial hearing screening are actually found to have normal hearing upon re-screening or diagnostic evaluation. She indicated that conceptually it's a great idea to distribute resource information to parents; however, timing is premature and general hospital personnel may not be equipped to answer questions from parents regarding infant hearing diagnosis and treatment strategies.

Ms. Winzelberg indicated that she and the California Academy of Audiology are working with Assembly Member Mendoza's Office to craft amendments to the bill that would encourage the dissemination of information to parents upon:

- Referral to the Early Start Program

- A follow-up visit with an audiologist and other appropriate professional
- Admission to an Early Start Program

Ms. Winzelberg indicated that further suggested amendments will include technical changes referencing referrals to community-based programs and will state that the reproduction of the materials will be at no cost to the provider or the state.

The Board requested that Ms. Del Mugnaio continue to track the bill and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

#### **D. Legislation of Interest to the Board**

##### **AJR 34- Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Sales**

Ms. Del Mugnaio reported that the resolution urges the federal government to authorize the sale of over-the-counter hearing aids.

Ms. Hunter stated that HHP is opposed to this measure and has communicated to the author that there are tremendous consumer protection issues surrounding the over-the-counter sale of hearing aids. She indicated that the author's office agreed to strike the current language in the resolution and replace the language with a national hearing awareness message.

##### **AJR 31 Special Education Funding**

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that AJR 31 addresses the need for the federal government to generate and allocate sufficient funds to special education and encourages the Federal Government to enact HR 1102 or other special education funding bills pending before Congress in order to fully fund special education. She stated that the resolution provides for the State Assembly to transmit copies of resolution to President, Vice President, and House Leaders. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that a hearing on AJR 31 was scheduled for March 24, 2010, in the Assembly Education Committee. She stated that the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association is supporting the measure.

The Board discussed the merits of the resolution despite obvious fiscal challenges.

**M/S/C: Grimes/Murphy**

**The Board voted to support the AJR 31.**

#### **XI. Licensing / Enforcement/Examination Statistical Data**

The Board reviewed the statistical data as included in the meeting packets. The staff answered questions regarding the statistical format and terminology.

Ms. Newcomer answered questions regarding the examination statistics and indicated that the statistics do not reflect the number of candidates that have retaken the examination multiple times.

The Board discussed at length the administration, examination format, and legal validity of the hearing aid dispensers' practical examination.

Ms. Grimes requested that Ms. Del Mugnaio arrange for a representative from the Office of Professional Examination Resources to attend a future meeting and address the Board to explain the occupational analysis and examination validation process.

## **XII. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

Ms. Winzelberg addressed the Board regarding the elimination of further optional Medi-Cal benefits, including the possibility of the elimination of all adult hearing aid benefits, and requested the Board to discuss the consumer ramifications of such exclusions with the Department of Health Care Services.

Chairperson O'Connor indicated that a speech-language pathologist from southern California requested that she bring an issue before the Board regarding the saturation or, potential thereof, of bachelor degree holders registering as speech-language pathology assistants and dominating the job market. Chairperson O'Connor stated that many speech-language pathology educators are concerned about associate degree holders being displaced in the employment market, rendering the need for SLPA training programs at the community colleges obsolete.

Ms. Raggio inquired about the status of the development of the doctorate of audiology programs within the University of California system and whether or not the Board received any further communication regarding program development or a plan of such in the future.

Ms. Del Mugnaio indicated that she has not received any further communication from the University of California Office of the President in more than a year and attributes the absence of any contact to the budget crisis within the university systems.

## **XIII. Announcements- Schedule Future 2010 Board Meetings- July 26, 2010 Sacramento- Regulatory Next Practices Conference**

The Board selected meeting dates for the remainder of 2010 as follows: May 26-27, 2010, Sacramento/ July 26, 2010, Sacramento/ October 21-22, 2010, San Diego

## **XIV. Adjournment**

Chairperson O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.