



TELECONFERENCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 30, 2017

Board Members Present

Alison Grimes, Board Chair
Patti Solomon-Rice, Vice Chair
Rodney Diaz, MD, Public Board Member
Jaime Lee, Public Board Member
Marcia Raggio, Board Member
Dee Parker, Board Member
Amnon Shalev, Board Member
Debbie Snow, Public Board Member

Staff Present

Paul Sanchez, Executive Officer
Breanne Humphreys, Program Manager
Kelsey Pruden, Legal Counsel
Karen Robison, Enforcement Analyst

Guests Present

Vanessa Cajina, KP Public Affairs for Hearing Healthcare Providers (HHP)
Amy Welch Gandy, Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES)
Toby Hill, HHP, President
Robert Ivory,
Donna McCoy, HHP
Heather Olivares, OPES
Cheree Ramon, OPES

1. Call to Order/ Role Call / Establishment of a Quorum

Alison Grimes, Board Chair, called the Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board meeting to order at 9:00a.m. Ms. Grimes called roll; eight members of the Board were present and thus a quorum was established.

2. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

There were no comments from Public/Outside Agencies/Associations.

3. Legislation- SB 198 (Galgiani) Hearing Aid Dispensers: Cerumen Management.

Paul Sanchez opened with an overview of SB 198 then handed the discussion over to the Board. The Board discussed tympanometry and noted that it is a diagnostic procedure not required to fit and sell hearing aids. The Board questioned whether all hearing aid dispensers (HAD) will be required to take a class or if they would be able to opt out of providing the services or if there would be two levels of licensure. It was noted that the current examinations would need to be expanded to cover tympanometry

and cerumen management if the bill passes; however, it would be impractical to include these items in the practical examination. Marcia Raggio questioned what “general vicinity” means in the language of SB 198. Kelsey Pruden apprised the Board could promulgate regulation to address what “general vicinity” means in the language of the bill.

Vanessa Cajina with HHP informed the Board that SB 198 is a work in progress. She noted that proficiency in cerumen management would need to be demonstrated and that anything above an elementary level of cerumen management would be referred to a Physician, Audiologist, or Otolaryngologist. In response to the question, “Why is tympanometry necessary for a hearing aid dispenser to perform,” Toby Hill of HHP stated that in cases where the audiogram isn’t giving accurate scores, due to the size of shape of the clients head, a tympanometry test is used to verify if the client needs to be referred out. Ms. Grimes mentioned that air bone gaps are referred out anyway, while Ms. Raggio remarked that if weight or the size of skulls were a problem with the accuracy of bone conduction tests this issue would have been addressed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) over the past fifty years with the calibrating standards they have set.

Mr. Sanchez advised that the Board would need to look at the data before accepting cerumen management and tympanometry as a standard of care throughout the county. He noted when looking at scope of practice, we can only go by what is stated in the law and that even if other states allow these practices we would have to look at our scope of practice and why we should expand it when hearing aid dispensers are only tasked with the fitting and selling hearing aids. When determining whether to expand our scope of practice we need to look at training and education in these areas.

Mr. Sanchez noted that the bill does not address Hearing Aid Dispenser Trainees (HT) and how the law allows an HT to perform all tasks that an HAD can perform and HT’s are only required to be supervised 20% of the time.

M/S/C Parker/Snow

- **Move to oppose the bill as written. The motion carried 7-0 with Ms. Lee abstaining.**

4. Proposed Regulations – Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

The Board discussed amendments to the proposed text which adds “business” to clarify the type of days in which the Responsibility Statement for Supervision of a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SPA 110) must be submitted to the Board in addition to other minor changes to the text.

M/S/C Solomon-Rice/Parker

- **Move to approve the proposed text for a 15 day public comment period; delegate to the EO the authority to adopt the proposed regulatory changes if there are no adverse comments received during the public comment period and make any technical and non-substantive changes that may be required to complete the rule making file. The motion carried 7-0 with Ms. Lee abstaining.**

5. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 11:20a.m.