West Virginia Board of Examiners for

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

April 21, 2021

Board Meeting

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Video Conference Meeting

Board Office

99 Edmiston Way – Suite 214

Buckhannon, WV 26201

Present: Board President, Erin Browning

Board Secretary, Vickie Pullins

Board Member, Michael Zagarella

Board Member, Vernon Mullins

Citizen Member, Joe E. Richards

Board Attorney, Keith Fisher, Asst. Atty. General

Executive Director, Patricia Nesbitt – Board Office

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Erin Browning, Board President.

The minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting and the Emergency meeting of March 11, 2021 were presented. Joe Richards made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vern Mullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Financial Report and PCard Reports were presented. The cash balance, as of March 31, 2021 is $336,630.20. The PCard Expense Reports were presented. Patty Nesbitt explained the postage fees are higher than usual because the notification letters for the continuing education audit required certified/return receipt mailing. The fee for each letter was $6.96 or approximately $1,200. Joe Richards made a motion to accept the financial & PCard reports as presented. Vickie Pullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Joe Richards made a motion to go into Executive Session. Vern Mullins seconded the motion. The meeting was in Executive Session at 5:05 PM.

Vern Mullins made a motion to end Executive Session. Joe Richards seconded the motion. Executive Session ended at 6:30PM.

Complaint #52 - Vern Mullins made a motion for the Board to ~~reactive~~ reactivate Ms. Gallaher’s suspended license once she provides proof of continuing education that would have been required for licensing period ending 12/31/2020, pays the license renewal fee of $175 and reimburses the Board for the fees for the psychological exam. Vickie Pullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CE Audit – Vickie Pullins made a motion that the licensees who responded to the CE Audit but fell short by a few hours will be offered a Consent Agreement for a letter of reprimand, a $75 late fee and notation that the non-compliance is mandated to be reported to the National Practitioners Database. It will also be noted that any CEs completed in 2021 for the audit cannot be used for the licensing period 2021-2022.

Those that did not comply will be sent an email requiring submission of their CEs within five days and will be followed up with a Consent Agreement with the same terms as above.

Vern Mullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

License Renewal Report - Patty Nesbitt reviewed the license renewal numbers with the Board. The report also includes new licensees since January 1, 2021, # of late & reinstatement fees paid and the # of active military license renewals processed. This report is updated through the end of June and will be included in the Annual Report submitted to the Legislature and Governor’s office by the end of 2021.

ASHA Committee of Ambassadors - Erin Browning, the WV SLP representative for the ASHA Committee of Ambassadors, formerly the ASHA Advisory Council, explained the mission is to develop better relationships with licensing boards, associations and state & federal governments. The AUD WV representative is Jeremy Donai. Erin did participate in the virtual meetings held with the staffs of the WV representatives in Washington, DC advocating for the professions.

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Rule §29-1 - The proposed Emergency Rule mandated by HB 2024 passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on 04/09/2021 was discussed. The schedule of fees and continuing education requirements for registration of Interstate Telepractice Practitioners were discussed.

Vern Mullins made a motion that the schedule of fees and continuing education requirements for the interstate telepractice registrants be the same as the WV SLP & AUD licensees. Vickie Pullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vickie Pullins made a motion to delete the limitation of telepractice services provided by provisional licensees. The limitation of telepractice services by Speech Pathology or Audiology Assistants remains as originally stated in §29-1. Erin Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Interstate Compact Board of Directors – After a brief discussion, Joe Richards made a motion to nominate Vickie Pullins and Mike Zagarella to represent WV on the Interstate Compact Board of Directors. Vern Mullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marshall University SLPA Program – The Board discussed the letter received from Pamela Holland, MA, CCC-S/BCS-S, Chair of the Dept. of Communication Disorders, regarding Marshall University’s new Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program. The University is collaborating with the WV Dept of Education on the program. Assistants provide services in public school and since the WV does not have universal licensure and Board does not have jurisdiction in the school system, there is no reason to change our requirement to include certification for an Assistant. Patty Nesbitt will respond to the letter with the Board response.

Regulatory Software – Patty Nesbitt is revisiting the implementation of a regulatory software system and reviewed a presentation with Thentia. Information from other state boards, as well as WV boards who have the software in place will be collected and reviewed by the Board for a final decision.

Vern Mullins made a motion to adjourn. Joe Richards seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia J. Nesbitt, Executive Director

for

Vickie Pullins, Board Secretary