

**BOARD OF HEARING AID  
SPECIALISTS  
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
Telephone Conference Call  
PHONE NUMBER: (888) 585-9008  
PARTICIPANT CODE\*: 599196982  
March 5, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. ET**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 10:01 a.m. ET by Board Chair, Leanne Polhill.

**ROLL CALL**

Those present for all or part of the meeting included the following:

**Members present:**

Leanne E. Polhill, HAS, Chair  
Randy Ellsworth, HAS, Vice-Chair  
Douglas Moore, HAS  
Pamela Dechmerowski, HAS  
Thomas Hollern

**Staff present:**

John B. Fricke, Jr., Esq., Board Counsel  
Jennifer Wenhold, Executive Director  
Breanne Ereckson, Regulatory  
Supervisor  
Court Reporter: For the Record  
Reporting  
(850) 222-5491

**Members Absent:**

John Fischer, HAS  
Robert Pickard, MD

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** by Mr. Ellsworth to approve the minutes as presented from the December 3, 2018 General Business Meeting.

**Second:** by Ms. Dechmerowski.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**III. RULE DISCUSSION**

**A. Rules 64B6-2.003, and 8.002, F.A.C., New Health History Questions**

During the December 3 Board meeting, the Board discussed updating the applications to reflect new health history questions. Board staff have incorporated these updates to Board of Hearing Aid Specialists State of Florida Examination Application for Licensure (Form DH-MQA 1155) and Training Program Registration Application and Instructions (Form DH-MQA 1158). The updated applications were presented to Board for review.

Mr. Moore stated that there may be a potential issue with these questions, as the presented questions do not inquire about an applicant's health history timeline. Ms. Wenhold shared that the current questions require applicants to disclose very personal

information and that the current questions may not be consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Therefore, the workgroup, of which Ms. Wenhold and Mr. Moore participated in this past September, decided that the proposed questions would be more consistent with ADA standards than the current questions.

After discussion, the Board took the following action:

**Motion:** by Mr. Ellsworth to accept the updates to Form DH-MQA 1155 and DH-MQA 1158 incorporated in Rules 2.003 and 8.002, Florida Administrative Code, respectively, as presented.

**Second:** by Ms. Dechmerowski.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**Motion:** by Mr. Ellsworth that a Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs (SERC) is not required as the proposed rule amendment has no impact on small businesses regarding regulatory costs and has no impact over \$200,000 in the aggregate in Florida within one year of this rule being filed.

**Second:** by Ms. Dechmerowski.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**Motion:** by Mr. Ellsworth that no part of this rule or a violation of this rule should be designated as a minor violation.

**Second:** by Ms. Dechmerowski.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

#### **B. Rule 64B6-8.003, F.A.C., Updated Sponsor Report Form**

The Board discussed updating the Training Program Sponsor Report Form (Form 1159) at the December 3 Board meeting. Board staff have updated the form, and the updated form was presented to the Board for review.

After discussion, the Board took the following action:

**Motion:** by Mr. Ellsworth to approve the updated Training Program Sponsor Report Form (Form 1159).

**Second:** by Ms. Dechmerowski.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**Motion:** by Ms. Dechmerowski that a Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs (SERC) is not required as the proposed rule amendment has no impact on small businesses regarding regulatory costs and has no impact over \$200,000 in the aggregate in Florida within one year of this rule being filed.

**Second:** by Mr. Ellsworth.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**Motion:** by Ms. Dechmerowski that no part of this rule or a violation of this rule should be designated as a minor violation.

**Second:** by Mr. Ellsworth.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

#### **IV. REPORTS**

**A. Jennifer Wenhold, Executive Director**

1. Financial Reports

Ms. Wenhold presented the Expenditure by Function Report to the Board for review.

**B. Board Assistant Attorney General**

1. Rules Report

Mr. Fricke presented the Rules Reports for January and February 2019 and notified the Board that the March 2019 Rules Report will include Rules 2.003, 8.002, and 8.003, Florida Administrative Code. The three aforementioned Rules were opened for development on February 22, 2019.

**C. Board Chair**

1. Examination Fees and Other States

Ms. Polhill wanted to inform the Board of an example from another state. In this example, an exam candidate challenged the other state's Board regarding the statutorily required examination fee. This state was using the International Hearing Society (IHS) exam, whose fees exceeded the statutorily required amount. Ms. Polhill would like to review Florida's current fee structure for the exam fee, as Section 484.0447, Florida Statutes, is not consistent with the current IHS examination fees.

Ms. Wenhold stated that many professions have provisions regarding fee caps in their respective practice acts. However, Section 456.017, Florida Statutes, is a general provision that requires all exam applicants pay the exact costs of the examinations. Ms. Wenhold advised the Board that they could rely on this provision, move to change the statutory fee cap, or move to eliminate the statutory fee cap pertaining to the cost of the examination. The Board decided to not move forward at this time with any statutory changes and rely on the general provision.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. 2019 Proposed Meeting Dates**

The following 2019 quarterly meeting dates were presented to the Board for approval:

- July 12, 2019
- October 11, 2019

The July 12, 2019 meeting will be an in-person meeting in Orlando, Florida and the October 11, 2019 meeting will be a teleconference call. Times for the October 11, 2019 will be determined by the Board at a later date.

After discussion, the Board took the following action:

**Motion:** by Mr. Ellsworth to approve the proposed meeting dates as presented.

**Second:** by Ms. Dechmerowski.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

## **B. Training Program: Stage Changes**

Currently, there is no set time limit for Hearing Aid Specialist Trainees to complete Stage I (Distance Learning) of the program. Therefore, Trainees may be in Stage I of the program for an extended amount of time. At this time, there are currently 47 trainee licenses in “clear, inactive” status, i.e. individuals who have secured a sponsor but have not completed the Distance Learning course.

In coordination with the Department’s regulatory goals, it has been proposed that the Distance Learning portion could be completed at any time during the duration of the program. This would grant Trainees a 6-month deadline to complete the Distance Learning portion of the program; thus, increasing the amount of licensees in Florida in a more timely manner.

Ms. Polhill stated that this alteration would grant Trainees the ability to practice while completing the Distance Learning course and would allow the Trainees to put their learned skills to use, which in turn, would create more well-rounded practitioners. Ms. Polhill recommended potentially altering the training program to consist of three stages instead of four. Mr. Ellsworth agreed with Ms. Polhill. Additionally, Ms. Polhill will send Ms. Wenhold some proposed language to reflect this discussion.

## **C. Ratification Lists**

### 1. Hearing Aid Specialist Trainees

After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion:** by Mr. Ellsworth to approve the list of newly licensed Hearing Aid Specialist Trainees.

**Second:** by Ms. Dechmerowski.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

### 2. Hearing Aid Specialists

After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion:** by Mr. Ellsworth to approve the list of newly licensed Hearing Aid Specialists.

**Second:** by Ms. Dechmerowski.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

## **VI. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **A. Spotlight on ULA**

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, the Board took the following action:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 am.