Board Members Present

Gwendolyn Wilson, Ed.D. CCC-A, Chairperson Beth F. Montgomery, CCC-SLP, Vice Chair Jason Wigand, Au.D., CCC-A Sarah Davis Emory, CCC-SLP

Board Members Not Present

Elizabeth Bunge, Public Member

Staff Present

Mack Williams, Board Administrator Tara Nixon, Advice Counsel Jonathan Owens, Program Coordinator LeAnna McMenamin, Esq, Office of Disciplinary Counsel April Howe, Office of Investigation & Enforcement

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at 110 Centerview Drive Columbia, SC 29210 Board of Examiners in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology office, lobby of the Kingstree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. A quorum was present at all times.

Call to Order

Dr. Wilson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented for review and approval.

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

Approval or Disapproval of Absent Members

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve Ms. Bunge's. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

Meeting Minutes

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to approve the July 25, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

Administrative Reports

<u>Office of Investigations Report</u>: Ms. Howe, Office of Investigations & Enforcement presented the OIE statistical report and training report. The Board accepted the reports as information.

Ms. Howe presented the IRC report to the Board. Ms. Howe presented one (1) Formal Complaint, Case# 2023-9, to the Board for approval.

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to accept the IRC recommendation of approval for Case # 2023-9. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report: Ms. McMenamin presented the ODC report. The Board accepted the report as information.

<u>Finance Report</u>: Mr. Williams presented the finance report to the Board. The Board accepted the report as information.

Disciplinary Hearing:

Stipulation of Facts: Closed Hearing

2023-5: The Respondent made a personal appearance before the Board and was represented by Ms. Tracey Perlman, Esq. Ms. McMenamin, Esq. with the ODC, presented the Stipulation of Facts to the Board.

<u>Motion</u>: In closed session, Ms. Emory made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

(11:05 am - 11:55 am) – No votes were taken during executive session.

<u>Motion</u>: In closed session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

<u>Motion</u>: In closed session, Ms. Emory made a motion to accept the Stipulation of Facts for Case # 2023-5 and find no violation of the Practice Act. The Board will issue a letter of caution. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

<u>Motion</u>: In closed session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

Freedom of Information Act Training:

Ms. Nixon discussed FOIA with the Board. Meetings must be held in public. Board meeting agendas must be posted at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. Amendments for non-emergency, non-final action take a 2/3 vote. Amendments for final action require a finding of an emergency and a 2/3 vote. Meetings can be closed for certain purposes.

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

(12:15 pm - 12:40 pm) – No votes were taken during executive session.

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

Quarterly Review Audit (Update):

Mr. Williams informed the Board that one (1) licensee has not complied to the audit.

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

(12:45 pm – 12:52 pm) – No votes were taken during executive session.

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

Ms. Nixon discussed with the Board the process in which a licensee has not responded to the audit.

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to issue a letter of caution to a licensee who is non-compliant with the quarterly review, Board staff will initiate the planning process for next year's audit, and utilize the administrative suspension process for future audits. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

Initial Applications – Determine how long initial application should be valid:

Mr. Williams discussed how long initial applications should be valid with the Board and stated that this is not stated in the regulations. An application is valid for one (1) year. After one (1) year, the application will expire and the applicant would have to reapply.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion for an application be valid for one (1) year, then after one (1) year, the applicant would have to reapply. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

Expert Reviewers: Appoint Expert Reviewers

Motion: In open session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to accept the recommended names of Dr. Burns, Mr. Simmons, and Ms. Weatherly as expert reviewers. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

2024 NCSB Annual Conference-(Update):

Ms. Montgomery updated the Board on the 2024 NCSB Annual Convention. Dr, Wigand was elected to the Board of Directors for the NCSB. There were seventeen (17) states that were represented and seventy (70) attendees. Also, Ms. Montgomery stated there was a mock hearing. If a licensee was found to have violated the Practice Act, a letter would be mailed and it would state that the National Practitioner Data Bank, ASHA, State Department of Education, State Speech Associations, and employer would be notified. Once the violation is reported to the NPDB, this would remain indefinitely. Also, Ms. Montgomery asked since the Board does reimburse her for NCSB travel, would the Board also reimburse Dr. Wigand.

<u>NCSB – Request Travel Approval:</u>

Mr. Williams informed the Board that due to Agency policy, only two Board members and the Board Executive will be approved for reimbursement of travel expenses. The request travel approval was deferred to the January 16, 2025 meeting.

2025 Board Meeting Dates:

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve the dates of 01/16/25, 04/17/25, 07/17/25, and 10/16/25. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

ASLP Interstate Compact (Update):

Dr. Wigand updated the Board with the ASLP Interstate Compact Dr. Wigand stated that the PT Compact had a meeting after the NCSB Annual Convention. ALSP Compact is still searching for the platform so the data can be store, seeking committee members and a Chair. The Compact is creating a sub-committee to plan for seek outreach and membership.

ADJOURNMENT

<u>Motion</u>: In open session, Ms. Emory motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery. (The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm)