

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF HEARING AID DEALERS & DISPENSERS

Board Meeting Minutes * December 10, 2013

Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive * Macon, Georgia 31217

A meeting of the Georgia State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at the Professional Licensing Boards Office, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

The following Board members were present:

Ralph T. Jackson, Jr., Chair

Jason Murphy, Vice-Chair

Dr. Donald N. Cote, M.D., Board Certified – American Board of Otolaryngology

Vaughn Bray, BC-HIS, CCCA

Deborah Brillling, Consumer Member

Joseph Stock, BC-HIS

Kadyn Ochs Williams, Au.D. (via teleconference)

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

Wylencia Monroe, Assistant Attorney General

Hope Harrison, Board Support Specialist

Mr. Jackson, Chair established that a quorum was present and called the Board meeting to order at 8:31a.m.

Agenda:

Approved with late agenda items added:

- CE audit/Renewal Requirements

Oath of Office:

Ms. Brillling took the Oath of Office for her reappointment to the Board. The Board members offered their congratulations.

Minutes:

- September 17, 2013

Mr. Stock moved, Ms. Brillling seconded and the Board voted to approve the meeting minutes for September 17, 2013 as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Application Ratify List:

Mr. Bray moved, Mr. Stock seconded and the Board voted to approve the application ratify list for applications administratively issued from June 10, 2013 through December 05, 2013. None opposed, motion carried.

<u>License Number</u>	<u>Licensee Name</u>
HAA000075	Williams, Daniel Todd
HAA000076	Cantrell, Gwendolyn Patrice
HAA000077	Scott, Robert Hill, Jr
HAA000078	Davis, Jeffrey K
HAA000079	Blatchford, Tyler John

HAA000080	Reynolds, Tyler Andrew
HADE035016	Better Hearing Aid Services
HADE035017	Better Hearing Aid Services
HADE035018	New Age Hearing Aid Center
HADE035019	Hearing Connection, LLC
HADE035020	Audibel Hearing Aid Centers
HADE035021	Beltone Hearing Aid Ctr
HADE035022	Beltone Hearing Aid Center
HADE035023	Advanced Hearing Aid Centers
HADE035024	Advanced Hearing Aid Centers
HADE035025	Pure Tone, LLC
HADE035026	Sam's Club Hearing Aid Center
HADE035027	Optimal Hearing Systems, Inc.
HADE035028	Optimal Hearing Systems, Inc.
HADE035029	Hearing Associates Inc
HADE035030	Optimal Hearing Systems, Inc.
HADE035031	AMBIT Hearing Aids
HADE035032	Beltone Hearing Center
HADS000894	Ciabattone, Anthony H, Jr
HADS000895	Kruse, Peter John
HADS000896	Ringer, Kimberly Towle
HADS000897	Ver Steeg, Luther L
HADS000898	Cantrell, Gwendolyn Patrice
HADS000899	Davis, Jeffrey K
HADS000900	Millwood, Benjamin Pete
HADS000901	White, Stephen Johns
HAP000185	Townsend, Joseph C
HAP000186	Cantrell, Gwendolyn Patrice
HAP000187	Blatchford, Tyler John
HAP000188	Shirley, Christopher Bridges
HAP000189	Winters, Marshall Lee
HAP000190	Martin, Charles L
HAP000191	Emerson, Carroll Reynolds

Correspondence:

- IHS Examination Agreement
- Alpine Testing Solutions

Correspondences as noted above were presented to the Board for review. No response is required by the Board at this time.

Miscellaneous Board Discussion Items:

- Sample Disciplinary Board Actions

Executive Director, Brig Zimmerman, presented two sample tables of disciplinary issues and Board actions in use by the Nursing Board and Board of Private Detectives and Security Agencies. The item will be added to the March agenda for additional discussion.

- Practical Exam: Parts 11 & 12
 - 2014 Administration/Locations/Dates

The Board members were notified that the State of Georgia has determined that the Practical Exam cannot be administered using employee models any longer due to liability issues. In addition, due to liability, the State will no longer provide the PLB Exam Center, Macon, GA facility for the administration of the practical exam.

Board Discussion:

- The practical exam is a key component of determining knowledge and the consensus of the Board was that not doing a practical exam would undermine the integrity of licensure.
 - One Board member stated that all but one state that regulates the licensure of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers does require a practical that is conducted by the Licensing Board.
 - The actual cost of administering a practical exam was discussed and determined to range from \$350 to \$400 per examinee.
 - Options were discussed and included the formation of an LLC by Board members for the purpose of providing the practical exam. This idea was determined to result in a possible conflict of interest or have the appearance of ethical issues.
 - A suggestion was made to check with various universities to see if the exam could be facilitated on a campus.
 - A Board member offered office space at a Macon location for the purpose of conducting the practical exam. This offer is pending legal advice from an attorney. This option would allow the Board members to conduct the practical exam in Macon following their scheduled quarterly Board meetings.
 - The Board members requested contact information for the Division Director to discuss the position of the State and Board further.
- Executive Director, Brig Zimmerman, reported that 35% of dispenser licenses and 28% of dealer licenses had been renewed to date.
 - CE Audit/Renewal Requirements
Rule 276-10-.02 Continuing Education was amended and became effective on October 7, 2012. In reviewing the CE audits of randomly selected licensees, the Board determined that to be consistent and fair, for all CE hours obtained in calendar year 2012, the Board may require a course description/syllabus/synopsis and will not require face-to-face medical hours. For all CE hours obtained in calendar year 2013, after the CE rule was effective, the rules will be upheld.

Ms. Brillig moved, Mr. Stock seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (1) (2), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (4), O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1), to receive the Attorney General and Cognizant Report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members Dr. Cote, Bray, Jackson, Stock, Murphy, Williams and Brillig.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, Mr. Jackson declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were obtained during Executive Session.

Application(s) Review:

- G. B. B. H.C.C. Inc.

Mr. Stock moved, Mr. Bray seconded, and the Board voted to approve the physical address change for the existing dealership pending receipt of a revised Bill of Sale. None opposed, motion carried.

- S.H.

Mr. Bray moved, Ms. Brillling seconded, and the Board voted to approve SH to sit for the required exams for licensure as a dispenser. None opposed, motion carried.

- Runion, Kasi

Dr. Cote moved, Mr. Stock seconded, and the Board voted to approve the training permit application for Kasi Runion. None opposed, motion carried.

- E. D. Inc.

Dr. Williams moved, Mr. Bray seconded, and the Board voted to approve the dealership application pending completion of section IV of the application and verification that applicant's dealership name is compliant with Georgia law. None opposed, motion carried.

- C. M. (renewal application)

Dr. Cote moved, Ms. Brillling seconded, and the Board voted to refer C. M. to the Attorney General's Office. None opposed, motion carried.

- M. H. A. C.

Mr. Stock moved, Mr. Murphy seconded, and the Board voted to refer M.H.A.C. to the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Bray opposed, motion carried.

Cognizant/Enforcement Report:

Case(s) Recommended for Closure:

HA130004, HA130012, HA130013, HA130017, and HA140005

Case(s) Pending Receipt of Additional Information:

HA130014, HA140002 and HA140004

Case(s) Recommended for Referral to Investigations:

HA140006

Case(s) Recommended to SOS Legal:

HA140001 – referred for a Cease and Desist Order

Dr. Williams moved, Ms. Brillling seconded, and the Board voted to accept the recommendations of the Board Cognizant as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Assistant Attorney General Report:

Wylencia Monroe, Assistant Attorney General, provided a written status report which included information on any cases referred for action, requests for advice and /or requests for authority for proposed rules.

Miscellaneous Board Discussion Items:

- Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2013

Dr. Cote moved, Ms. Brillling seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Executive Session (Closed-Confidential) meeting minutes of 09-17-13. None opposed, motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m. to be followed by the administration of the scheduled practical examinations.

Minutes recorded by:

Hope Harrison, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, HC1

RALPH JACKSON

Chair

Georgia State Board of Hearing Aid

Dealers and Dispensers

BRIG ZIMMERMAN

Executive Director

Professional Licensing Boards Division

These minutes were approved and signed on: March 25, 2014