West Virginia Board of Examiners for

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

September 18, 2019

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

Keith Fisher, Assistant Attorney General

Executive Director, Patricia Nesbitt at the Board Office

President Erin Browning called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

The minutes of the May 23, 2019 meeting were presented. Vickie Pullins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Joe Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The PCard Expenses for the periods of 03/16/2019 – 04/15/19 totally $1,041.48, 05/16/19 – 06/15/19 totaling $243.96, 07/16/19 – 08/15/19 totally $5,896.89 were presented for review. Vern Mullins made a motion to accept the PCard Expenses as presented. Joe Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Patty Nesbitt presented financial reports for FY ending 2019 and FY 2020 through August 31, 2019. The cash balance for FY ending 2019 was $277, 160.48. The cash balance for FY 2020 through August 31, 2019 was $266,416.79. The total expenses for FY ending 2019 were $114,444.39. The total expenses for FY 2020 through August 31, 2019 were $23,096.87. Joe Richards made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Vickie Pullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vern Mullins made a motion to go into Executive Session. Joe Richards seconded the motion. Executive session began at 5:09 PM.

Joe Richards made a motion at 6:10 PM to end Executive Session. Vern Mullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Complaint #52 – Vickie Pullins made a motion that a letter be sent to Ms. Gallaher as a result of information received from the probation supervisor. The Board is extending the probationary period until December 1, 2019, at which time all conditions of her Consent Agreement must be met. Joe Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Complaint #54 – Vickie Pullins made a motion to issue a Statement of Charges, as well as a Consent Agreement. The Consent Agreement will include a reprimand, the requirement of three (3) hours of continuing education in Ethics/Professional Responsibility, three (3) hours of continuing education in Billing Practices and the reimbursement of the Board’s legal fees and costs. Joe Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Interstate Compact – The Board’s position on the Interstate Compact was discussed. Vickie Pullins presented a summary of the information from the ASLP-IC Legislative Summit in Washington, DC on August 19th & 20th.

The WV Audiology Assn. Conference is the last week of October. Vern Mullins and Mike Zagarella will discuss with the attendees for their feedback and report back to the Board. The Board’s position was tabled until the next Board Meeting.

Rule 29-1 & 29-4 Modification Status – Patty Nesbitt reported 29-1 was originally on the Interim Committee Schedule for September but because 29-4 modification is currently out for public comment, 29-1 was pulled from September’s agenda so the Legislative Rules Committee can review both modifications at the same time. Public Comment ends for 29-4 on Friday, September 20, 2019.

Regulatory Software – Patty Nesbitt reported the board has a purchase order for the InLumon regulatory software. InLumon will not begin “building” our software package until November 1, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Patty Nesbitt reported, that based on information brought to the Board office’s attention by an applicant after completing a Postgraduate Professional Experience, the Board can no longer require 10 hours of continuing education while holding a provisional license for completion of the Professional Experience. The requirement is not stated in Rule 29-1 so it cannot be required by the Board.

The wv.gov email accounts have become very cumbersome for the Board Members because they use them so rarely. When the accounts are not accessed on a regular basis, passwords are deleted, accounts are locked because of non-use., etc. After researching a secure encrypted service, Patty Nesbitt recommended the Board Members set up email accounts with ProtonMail. Instructions for setting up an account will be sent to the Board Members.

A question from an unlicensed school speech pathologist, regarding the requirement for completing billing information for Medicaid services provided, was received by the Board office. Since the SLP is unlicensed, they are considered a SSLPA by the Dept. of Education and cannot bill Medicaid. Vickie Pullins spoke to LeeAnn Brammer regarding the issue. All unbillable services provided are totaled at the end of the year for a cost settlement. Medicaid then reimburses the Dept. of Education for those services.

A request was received to share expenses for Keith Fisher, Board Attorney, to attend the FARB Regulatory Law Seminar in St. Louis, MO the first week of October. Mike Zagarella made a motion to contribute a maximum of $500 toward travel and registration expenses. Vickie Pullins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Erin Browning summarized the accomplishments of the WVU summer intern, Natalie Thorpe. Overall, it was a positive experience for all involved.

Vickie Pullins made a motion to adjourn. The next tentative meeting date is December 4, 2019. Joe seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia J. Nesbitt, Executive Director

for

Vickie Pullins, Board Secretary