

# **West Virginia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**

**July 28, 2020  
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 Member, Dr. Michael Zagarella**  
**Board Member, Dr. Vernon Mullins**  
**Citizen Member, Joe E. Richards**  
**Keith Fisher, Assistant Attorney General**  
**Executive Director, Patricia Nesbitt from remote location**

President Erin Browning called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

The minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting and Emergency meetings, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup> & April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were presented. Michael Zagarella made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Joe Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The PCard Expenses for December, 2019 and January thru June 25, 2020 were presented. Joe Richards made a motion to approve the PCard report as presented. Michael Zagarella seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Financials for Fiscal Year ending 2020, including 13<sup>th</sup> month expenses were presented. Total Expenditures for FY 2020 were \$124,005.11. Joe Richards made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Michael Zagarella seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Rule suspension approved by the Board allowing Provisional licensees and Assistants to provide telepractice therapy services during the state of emergency was discussed. Because the state of emergency is still in effect, the Rule suspension will remain in effect/

The Rule suspending the application and license fees for Department of Education Speech-Language Pathologists to provide telepractice services expired on June 30, 2020 and is no longer in effect.

Patty Nesbitt will notify the Secretary of State's office of the above. She will also delete the Rule suspension re: Department of Education from the Board's website.

Patty Nesbitt also reported there are currently 41 Speech-Language Pathologists with current out of state licenses registered to provide telepractice therapy services during the COVID-19 state of emergency, per the Governor's Executive Order 26-20.

The Interstate Compact progress was discussed. There are currently 6 states that have passed legislation for the compact. A total of 10 states are required for the compact to be operational.

The Legislative Auditor has recommended the Board's website include a "Frequently Ask Questions" link. Erin Browning & Patty Nesbitt will explore what other states' board websites include and report back to the Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Moving the Board Office to Charleston when/after Patty Nesbitt retires next year was discussed, as well as the request from House Government Organization to send a written assessment of the positives and negatives of being part of a Multi-Professional Licensing Agency. Patty Nesbitt participated in a Zoom Meeting re: the same subject with Government Organization Joint Committee Counsel, House Government Organization Legislative Analyst and House Government Organization Chief of Staff on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Board Members submit their assessment to Patty by August 15, 2020 for submission to the Joint Committee for Government Organization by September 1, 2020.

Vernon Mullins made a motion to adjourn. Joe Richards seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia J. Nesbitt, Executive Director  
for  
Vickie Pullins, Board Secretary