



Government of the District of Columbia  
Department of Health  
**BOARD of AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

**899 NORTH CAPITOL ST. NE – 2<sup>ND</sup>FLOOR.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**DECEMBER 19, 2016  
9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.**

**OPEN SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

DRAFT



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OPEN SESSION MINUTES DECEMBER 2016

ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:		
	STEPHANIE MARSHALL, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	KRISTIN SPIVEY, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	KARI COMER, BOARD MEMBER	Present (via Phone)
STAFF:	ROBIN Y. JENKINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Present
	ERIC YEAGER, HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST	Present
	LEONARD HOWARD, INVESTIGATOR	Absent
	PANRAVEE VONGJAROENRAT, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL	Present
VISITORS	LaVERNE TUCKSON, PT	Present
	GAIL LIM, ARNP, AuD	Present
	GLADYS DESSEL	Present
	CATHERINE DEMIREL, PhD, AuD	Present
	LAUREN DICKSTEIN, AuD	Present

The Agenda begins on the next page.



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OPEN SESSION: Call to Order

	<p><u>Executive Director's Report:</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> There was no report.</p>	
	<p><u>Chairperson's Report:</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Board Member Stephanie Marshall opened the meeting by informing the group that she was sitting as Acting Board Chair and that Member Kari Comer was participating via telephone. She then welcomed the many visitors present at the meeting and asked the Board Attorney to dive right into the discussion of the pending regulations.</p>	
	<p><u>Board Attorney's Report:</u> There was no report.</p>	
OS-1219-01	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> The Open Session Minutes of the September 19, 2016 meeting were approved.</p>	
OS-1219-02	<p><u>CLINICAL FELLOWS, AUDIOLOGY ASSISTANTS, AND SLP ASSISTANTS UPDATE</u></p> <p><u>Board Actions:</u></p> <p>The Board Attorney then took the group through a lengthy discussion of the pending regulations, which had been reviewed at the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). She said</p>	



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the Clinical Fellow regulations went through review without any difficulty.

However, the Board Attorney said was one key problem area with respect to Audiology Assistants: the OAG's office is not comfortable with Audiology Assistants being supervised by SLPs. To the AOG's office, the Health Occupation Revision Act (HORA) is clear that only Audiologists may supervise Audiology Assistants. Although in the summer the subcommittee had worked on language allowing for SLPs to supervise AAs and its intentions may have been well placed, this type of supervision cannot be permitted, the Board Attorney said. So, once the HORA amendments have been made, we can revisit this set of regulations, the Board Attorney said.

Board Member Stephanie Marshall, acting as Board Chair, then recognized the visitors who had come to discuss the regulatory changes that will limit who may conduct newborn hearing screenings. As proposed, this testing will be done by audiology assistants, and hospital technicians and hospital volunteers will no longer be able to conduct these tests unless first becoming registered as audiology assistants.

Gail Lim, AuD, Vice President of MEDNAX, insisted the newborn screening test is primarily automatic and machine driven, and the machine operator does little more than push a button and perform basic steps. No treatment, therapy, or critical analysis is performed by the machine operator, so it is



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hard to understand why the person administering this screening test would have to have audiology assistant training, Lim said. Gladys Dessel of Providence Hospital and Catherine Demirel of Georgetown echoed this concern, saying that their facilities would be unfairly impacted by this change.

The Board Attorney clarified that this proposed change came from a regulation under the authority of DOH's Community Health Association (CHA), not the Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA). She suggested that the Board should reach out to CHA so that an accommodating exception can be written into the HORA.

The Board agreed to invite CHA representatives to the next meeting on March 20, 2017 to discuss the language for this exception. The stakeholders from local hospitals thanked the Board for allowing them to voice their concerns, and they promised to return in March to ensure that their facilities are not negatively impacted by this proposal.

The OPEN SESSION concluded at 10:50 a.m.