

**American Academy of Audiology  
Board of Directors Virtual Meeting  
December 5, 2024**

**MEMBER SUMMARY- DRAFT**

**President:** Bopanna Ballachanda, PhD

**President-elect:** Patricia Gaffney, AuD

**Immediate Past President:** Virginia Ramachandran, AuD, PhD

**Board Members:**

**Term Ending '24:** Nichole Kingham, AuD. Chizuko Tamaki, AuD, PhD, Saunja Burt, AuD, MBA

**Term Ending '25:** Ursula Findlen, PhD, Kaitlyn Kennedy, AuD, Lachelle Lazarus, AuD

**Term Ending '26:** Kwame Curtis, AuD\*. Wafaa Kaf, MBBCh, MSc, PhD, Meagan Bauchman, AuD

**Ex-Officio:** Janna Orr, SAA Liaison; Patrick Gallagher, MBA, Executive Director

**Staff:** Larry Burner, Amy Miedema, Anne Poodiack, Kitty Werner

\* *absent*

1. The board approved the minutes of the October 2023 board meeting. A member summary is available on the Academy web site.
2. The board approved the September 2023 year-end financials for the Academy. The Academy ended the year with an increase of \$231K in net assets and continues with a positive trend of increasing non-dues revenue, a sign of a strong budget. In regard to the Academy's investments, an investment team reviews annually the investment portfolio and will be considering if any adjustments, while balancing the Academy's conservative policies, could yield a greater return for the organization.
3. The board approved the 2023-24 objectives and key results (OKRs) as a living document to provide strategic direction across the organization. The volunteer leaders across the councils and committees will use this document to guide activities and also to look for synergy across the organizational structure. The councils will use a standardized report template to communicate quarterly with the board and other councils on the progress of the OKRs.
4. The board approved and finalized the revisions to make adjustments to some of the membership categories. The board reviewed the limited comments returned by members, noting several suggestions that the Academy revisit the Fellows category. The board identified the need to gather more information and member feedback to come to a resolution about the possible inconsistency between the Academy's use of the "Fellow" term for base membership and how it is used in other disciplines to recognize advanced distinction of accomplishment. This issue is on the agenda within the Membership Engagement and Recognition Committee (MERC) and the Membership Engagement/Leadership Development (MELD) Council but may take some time before final recommendations come forward to the board.
5. The board approved the endorsement of a diversity statement developed by the Dialogues Group. The Academy has participated in the Dialogues Group and monitored the development of the statement over the last 2 years. The statement highlights a need for action to address the limited number of diverse audiologists.
6. The board approved a slate of candidates for the 2024 Honors and Awards.
7. The board reviewed an update on the current and exploratory work within the Payment Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC) for code development to modernize CPT codes to best reflect the services provided by audiologists. Orientation resources on the code development process will be available to board members. Whenever new codes become available, the Coding & Reimbursement Committee and the Advocacy Council assist with member and payor education.
8. Staff provided an update on the process and timeline for the mid-January launch of the Clinician Practice Information (CPI) survey. On behalf of a collective of non-physician specialty organizations who participate in the AMA RUC, Mathematica will distribute the survey to a random sample of audiologists

(and other non-physician specialists) to collect practice expense data. The survey mirrors one that is currently distributed on behalf of the AMA to physician specialty practices. The data collected will be provided to the RUC for use in the code valuation process. The Academy is an active participant in the CPI process and will promote the significance of participation for any Academy members who receive the survey.

9. Staff reported on upcoming changes in the publishing of the Journal of the American Academy of Audiology (JAAA) to maintain the quality and enable better control over the publication to preserve JAAA as an important member benefit. Erin Piker is assuming the role of the new editor and will report on transition plans.

**Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2024**