

**American Academy of Audiology
Board of Directors Meeting
Reston, VA
July 17-19, 2025**

MEMBER SUMMARY

President: Patricia Gaffney, AuD, MPH

President-elect: Dave Zapala, PhD, AuD

Immediate Past President: Bopanna Ballachanda, PhD

Board Members:

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

Term Ending '26: Meagan Bachmann, AuD, Kwame Curtis, AuD, Wafaa Kaf, MBBCh, MSc, PhD

Term Ending '27: Brenna Carroll, AuD, Maria Pomponio, AuD, Greta Stamper, AuD, PhD

Ex-Officio: Hector Sanchez, SAA Liaison; Patrick Gallagher, MBA, Executive Director

Member Guests: Jodi Baxter, AuD; Jamie Bogle, AuD, PhD; Anna Jilla, AuD; Maggie Kettler, AuD; Rebecca Lewis, AuD, PhD; Samantha Lewis, AuD, PhD; Carrie Meyer, AuD; Erin Miller, AuD; Tracy Murphy, AuD; Samantha Robler, AuD; Emily Vensykitis, AuD; Susan Von Dollen, AuD; Kady Williams, AuD

Consultant Guests: Carey Earle; Denise Garris; Stuart Hales, Carrie Kovar

Staff Present: Larry Burner, Anne Poodiack, Rachael Sifuentes, Andrew Stafford, Kitty Werner, Joanne Zurcher

- The board approved the consent agenda that included the minutes of the June board meeting, the proposed council chairs for 2025-26, the proposed candidates to fill the ABA open positions, the May 2025 financials, the quarterly councils' report, and other various updates.
- The board approved the budget for FY26 and evaluated the alignment of select activities with the Academy's strategic priorities for future funding considerations.
- ABA leadership presented to the board on the progress with the Vestibular Audiology Specialty Certification (VASC) exam development and the new Certificate Holder in Educational Audiology (CH-EdAud) program (developed jointly with EAA). The board accepted ABA's recommendation to proceed with developing a general board exam proposal.
- MCI consultants joined the board to lead a strategy discussion. Council leaders joined the board to discuss a survey used to assess the most significant pain points among audiologists. Discussion included brainstorming about the most useful benefits and offerings for members to address these pain points.
- In further discussions about areas of concern to members, the board considered how to maximize the impact of the resources allocated to payment policy and how to convey important information to members. PPAC representatives joined the board to discuss the committee's priorities with coding work and member education, as well as the importance of member engagement with payer advocacy at the state level. CRC leadership joined the board to review the committee charges and discuss member education on coding & reimbursement activities.
- Staff and the board discussed the Academy's federal and state legislative work, including challenges and opportunities. To inform advocacy work and messaging about the value of the profession, the board identified a need to leverage data from audiologists on outcomes and patient satisfaction. A small work group will define the questions and sources for related data.

- To support leadership development and to create an effective leadership pipeline in the Academy, the board appointed a task force to gauge what components to include in JFLAC and additional “leadership development” offerings.
- The board approved two recommendations from the Governance Council: (1) to consolidate the Nominations and Nominations Recruitment committees into one and update the timeline for the nominations process; and (2) to change the Ethical Practices Committee to a task force with updated charges. The board affirmed that the new task force will continue to review ethics complaints and make recommendations for action.
- Staff updated the board on considerations in the process of site selection for AAA 2029 and subsequent years.
- The board approved Sam Bittel, AuD, as program chair for AAA 2027 in St. Louis.
- Staff reported on opening the application process for members to apply for recognition as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Audiology (DFAAA) and the formation of an application review committee.
- The board recognized outgoing board members for their contributions.