

Board of Registration in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
1000 Washington Street 1st Floor Room 1C, Boston, MA 02118
Date: February 12, 2016 Time: 10:00 A.M.

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Kathryn Manfield (KM)
Nicole Laffan (NL)
Aixa Borrero Sanchez (ABS)
Lauren Woller Mummolo (LWM)

Board Members Absent:

Mark Campbell-Foster (MCF)

Staff Present:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director
Shara Benedetti, Associate Executive Director
Lynn Read, Board Counsel
Monique Brown, Board Administrator

Member of the Public Present:

None

House Keeping:

- 10:08 a.m. NL called the meeting to order
- The Executive Director reviewed exit procedures in the case of a fire and where to meet outside

Executive Director Report, Michael Hawley

- E-licensing system update: Internal testing of new system is about to begin. Some documentation will still need to be submitted by hard copy e.g. official transcript. On time renewal will be completely online unless the licensee cannot answer "yes" to one or more of the attestations. In that case additional documentation may be required. Late renewals will still require signed affidavits (reinstatement forms). Implementation is planned for late August 2016.

Board Counsel Report by Agency Counsel, Lynn Read

- Final proposed regulations were submitted for review by the Secretariat and Administration and Finance. Final approval is still pending, and once approval is received a public hearing will be held. Due to the fact that the changes have yet to be approved, public notice requirements make it unlikely that the process will be completed by the intended March 31 implementation date.

- If comments are received at the public hearing, a special board meeting may be necessary in order for the Board to review the comments and determine whether to make additional changes based on the comments. Any changes the Board makes at that time will trigger another review process.

Review Minutes:

- The Board reviewed the Minutes from the October 2, 2015 and October 16, 2015 Board meetings.
NL moved to accept the minutes from the October 2 and October 16, 2015 Board meetings. KM seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- Application question from K. Swanson regarding acceptable alternatives for documentation of Praxis score. The question was rendered moot because Educational Testing Services provided official notification of the applicant's score and staff was able to issue the license prior to the Board meeting.
- Application question from B. Patten. Ms. Patten is an applicant for licensure as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant. She requested that the Board consider that a Biology of the Inner Ear and a Phonetics course be counted toward the licensure requirement of 6 credit hours of Disorders related courses. The Board determined that they did not need to make a decision based on those courses because the applicant had passed other courses that Board Members were certain did qualify for the Disorder requirement.
NL moved to allow Ms. Patten to proceed in the licensing process. LWM seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Supervision question from C. Yu. LWM recused herself and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion.
Ms. Yu submitted an e-mail to the Board requesting guidance. She wished to know whether a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant is permitted to attend Individual Education Program ("IEP") meetings without having the supervising Speech-Language Pathologist ("SLP") present. Board indicated that the supervising SLP must be present if the assistant is to be present at the IEP and directed staff to respond to the inquiry.
NL moved to direct staff to inform the licensee that the SLP must be present if the assistant attends an IEP meeting. ABS seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

LWM returned to the meeting.

Open Session for Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior in advance of the meeting:

- Audiology 4th year externship documentation. The Board received an e-mail from a member of the public expressing concern that many graduates of Doctor of Audiology ("AUD") programs have not completed their 4th year externship prior to graduation. Since the Forms 1 & 2 were removed from the Audiologist applications, graduates might be able to obtain Massachusetts licensure without successfully completing the externship requirement.

Board members agreed that the Forms 1 and 2 should be restored to the Audiologist licensure application. Also, because the ASHA and ABA requirements are different, the Board directed staff to familiarize themselves with the standards in order to determine whether the requirements have been met. The Executive Director will modify the forms and send them to NL for review. Upon NL's approval the modified form will be posted to the Board web site

- The Board briefly discussed the possibility that some school departments may be allowing unlicensed practice of Speech Pathology. The Board discussed whether a letter can be sent to school departments to help make them aware of the issue. The executive director made the Board aware of outreach done in 2012 to help schools avoid having unlicensed individuals practicing in the public schools. The discussion will be continued at the next Board meeting.

Quasi Judicial Session [Closed Session pursuant to G.L. c.30A, §18]:

At 11:14 a.m. NL moved to enter quasi-judicial session [Closed Session pursuant to G.L. c.30A, §18] for the purpose of considering final decisions and order in the case of SP-14-011. KM seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

During the closed session, the Board voted to take the following actions:

- SP-14-011 Issue final decision and order

At the end of the closed session, the open meeting resumed.

Investigative conference [Closed Session pursuant to G.L. c.112, §65C]:

NL moved to enter investigative conference [Closed Session pursuant to G.L. c.112, §65C] for the purpose of considering settlement offers LWM seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

At 12:03, KM recused herself from consideration of SP-14-002 and left the meeting

At the end of the closed session, the open meeting resumed.

During the investigative session, the Board voted to take the following actions:

- SP-14-013 Provided guidance to the prosecutor
- SP-14-018 Provided guidance to the prosecutor
- SP-14-002 Provided guidance to the prosecutor

Adjournment

AT 12:31am LWM moved to adjourn. NL seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aixa Borrero Sanchez
Board Secretary

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes of the October 2, 2015 board meeting
- Draft minutes of the October 16, 2015 board meeting
- E-mail from K. Swanson
- E-mail and Transcripts from B. Patten
- E-mail from C. Yu
- E-mail from Dr. Sandra Cleveland