

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

1000 Washington Street 1st Floor Room 1C, Boston, MA 02118

DATE: August 2, 2019

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

Public Session Minutes

Board Members Present:

Nicole Laffan (NL)

Lauren Woller Mummolo (LWM)

Donna Noonan (DN)

Staff Present:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Thomas F. Burke, Assoc. Exec. Director

Lynn Read, Board Counsel

Anne Driscoll, Investigator Supervisor

Members of the Public Present:

Helen Freed

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order: At 9:37 a.m., NL called meeting to order.
- Facility Briefing (fire drill instructions & location of exits and restrooms): Procedures reviewed by Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Board Business

- Approve Minutes
 - Minutes of 4/5/2019 meeting. – Tabled
- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
 - Mr. Hawley discussed plans to go paperless with the renewal and licensing process. He also discussed changes to the executive staff of the Division.
- Report from Board Counsel, Lynn Read
 - CORI Policy – Attorney Read discussed additional changes to the Board's CORI policy. New policy will be reviewed and voted on at a future meeting.

Discussion

- Reinstatement request – Helen Freed.

Ms. Freed held an Audiologist license that expired in 2006. She has not practiced as an audiologist in any jurisdiction since that time. She appeared before the Board to request that the Board allow her to reinstate her license without the requirement to retake the national exam and meet the continuing education requirements. Ms. Freed explained that her current employer desires that she obtain this license in order to obtain a more desirable classification in the company. She indicated that she has no intention of treating patients or acting outside of her competency. The Board discussed the fact that a person who holds an audiology license is authorized to treat patients and the Board cannot grant a license unless it ensures that the licensee meets the minimum qualifications for licensure. The Board provided advice to Ms. Freed on how to proceed with preparing to take the examination, should she decide to do so.

MOTION: DN moved to deny Ms. Freed's petition. NL seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Audiologist Training for Telehealth**
The Board received question from a licensee regarding the training requirements for audiologists who wish to treat patients via telehealth. The licensee wanted recommendations for providers of training that the Board would consider sufficient to meet the training requirements. She also wished to know whether telehealth services can be provided across state lines. The Board discussed the training requirements and agreed that it would not recommend specific courses or providers. Training may be provided across state lines but the Board advised that the statutes and regulations of every state involved must be followed. The Board directed board staff to respond to the Licensee.
- **Question regarding rules for audiologists dispensing hearing aids.**
The Board received a question from a licensee regarding the applicability of rules and regulations to audiologists dispensing hearing aids. The Board directed staff to inform the licensee that the practice of audiology, including the dispensing of hearing aids, is governed by the statutes and regulations of the Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:

- The Board received a request from licensee, Anna Lifvergren, to approve her selection of continuing education courses to satisfy the terms of her consent agreement in matter 2018-001059-IT-ENF. **DN moved to approve the course selection. NL seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Investigative Session - Closed Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, Section 65C:

At 11:18 am, NL moved to enter investigative session [Closed Session pursuant M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C] to discuss the following new case: SP 2019-000416-IT-ENF. DN seconded. Motion passed unanimously

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

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

- 2019-000416-IT-ENF – Forward to the office of prosecutions.

Motion to adjourn. At 11:54, NL moved to adjourn the meeting. DN seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Hawley
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Armbrust Email re Tele-practice
- SP Audiologists and Hearing Instruments – email re: statutes and regulations governing Audiologists' dispensing of hearing aids.
- Massachusetts Licensure Letter March 27 2019.
- SP Letter of support for H. Freed
- SP Regulation applicable to reinstatement request from Helene Freed License
- Lifvergren Consent Agreement
- Lifvergren CEU 2018-001059-IT-ENF