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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Public Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2024

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists (the Board) was held remotely with video and audio conference as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations, signed into law on July 16, 2022.

Lisa Guglietta, Executive Director, informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

Rony Soto, Chair, noted a quorum of members present via video or phone and called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dana Mario
Rony Soto
Elizabeth Adebayo
Paul Beckner
Heather Hanley

MEMBERS ABSENT

none

STAFF PRESENT (AT VARIOUS TIMES)

Lisa Guglietta, Board Executive Director
Katie Goldrick, Board Associate Executive Director
Sheila York, Esq., Board Counsel
Jonathan Dillon, BHPL Director of Policy
Gillian Coffey, BHPL Health Communications Manager

Lauren Nelson, BHPL Deputy Director
Edmund Taglieri, BHPL Pharmacy Substance Use Disorder Program
Mark Waksmonski, BHPL Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program
Sophia Emidy, BHPL Policy Intern

ATTENDANCE:

Rony Soto, Chair, took attendance by roll call and a quorum of board members was recorded with the following members present via video conference: *Mario, Soto, Adebayo, Beckner, Hanley*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Rony Soto, Chair, called for a motion to approve the October 18, 2024 meeting agenda. Thereafter a motion was made by Elizabeth Adebayo, seconded by Heather Hanley and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the October 18, 2024 agenda as drafted.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Beckner, Hanley

opposed: none

non-voting member: Mario

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND OPEN MEETING LAW REQUIREMENTS:

Sheila York, Board Counsel, reviewed Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Law Requirements with the Board. Members should contact Attorney York with questions about possible conflicts with applicants, petitioners, or cases before the Board. If possible, members should bring these matters to Board Counsel's attention before the meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

The Board discussed the draft public meeting minutes of 7/19/24. Thereafter a motion was made by Elizabeth Adebayo, seconded by Paul Beckner and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the public meeting minutes of July 19, 2024 as drafted.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Beckner

opposed: none

abstain: Hanley

non-voting member: Mario

APPRENTICESHIP EXTENSION REQUESTS

Gianna Parent, License HEA6513, requested an extension of her apprenticeship to be able to work and retake the International Hearing Society (IHS) exam. This was the first extension request for the licensee. Board members asked questions and discussed the request. Thereafter a motion was made by Elizabeth Adebayo, seconded by Rony Soto and VOTED (roll call); **to approve an 18-month extension of her apprenticeship.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Hanley

opposed: none

non-voting member: Mario

recused: Beckner

Kyle Trolan, License HEA6518, requested an extension of his apprenticeship to be able to work and retake the International Hearing Society (IHS) exam. This was the first extension request for the licensee. Board members asked questions and discussed the request. Thereafter a motion was made by Rony Soto, seconded by Elizabeth Adebayo and VOTED (roll call); **to approve an 18-month extension of his apprenticeship.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Beckner, Hanley

opposed: none

non-voting member: Mario

Sherry Skeen, License HEA507, requested an extension of her apprenticeship to be able to work and retake the International Hearing Society (IHS) exam. This was the first extension request for the licensee. Board members asked questions and discussed the request. Thereafter a motion was made by Rony Soto, seconded by Heather Hanley and VOTED (roll call); **to approve an 18-month extension of her apprenticeship.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Beckner, Hanley

opposed: none

non-voting member: Mario

Richard Reppucci, License HEA6536

The licensee did not attend the meeting and therefore the Board was not able to discuss his request for an extension of his apprenticeship.

URAMP Introduction

Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy, introduced the Board to the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP). The URAMP seeks to support health professionals with meeting their substance use disorder (SUD) and/or mental health related recovery goals while preserving public safety. Licensees voluntarily enter URAMP and work, pursuant to the program structure, to modify the personal antecedents that may have contributed to the event(s) that led to program entry. The URAMP monitors the participant's recovery and restoration activities instead of directly providing recovery related interventions. URAMP will be accessible to licensees of all 21 Bureau of Health Professions Licensure boards as an alternative to discipline program. Mr. Dillon provided a slide presentation. Mr. Dillon, Edmund Taglieri and Mark Waksmonski explained the program and answered questions from Board members. Board members were asked to consider what return-to-practice conditions they would recommend for their licensees and were encouraged to contact the program with suggestions.

RECIPROCITY APPLICATION HESNE100080

Applicant Joanne Weeden requested that the Board consider her training in the state of Wisconsin in lieu of the IHS Distance Learning Course for Hearing Healthcare Professionals which is a regulatory requirement for initial licensure in Massachusetts. The applicant attended the Miracle Ear Boot Camp which utilized the IHS Home Study Course materials. The applicant passed a practical examination for licensure in Wisconsin in addition to passing the ILE exam from IHS. The applicant has National Board Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences. The Board discussed the applicant's training and qualifications and determined they were substantially equivalent or higher to the requirements for licensure in Massachusetts.

Thereafter a motion was made by Heather Hanley, seconded by Paul Beckner and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the reciprocity application for licensure.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Beckner, Hanley

opposed: none

non-voting member: Mario

DISCUSSION

2025 Board Meeting Dates

The Board discussed the meeting dates for 2025. It was noted that Friday, April 18, 2025 was Good Friday. The Board agreed to move the April date up a week. Thereafter a motion was made by Rony Soto, seconded by Heather Hanley and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the 2025 board meeting dates with April's board meeting changed to April 25, 2025.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Beckner, Hanley

opposed: none

non-voting member: Mario

265 CMR Regulation Review Process

Board Counsel Sheila York provided comments on the Chair's proposed changes to the regulations which were discussed at the July meeting. She explained that some of the Chair's proposed changes could not be done without a statutory change by the state legislature. The Board cannot promulgate regulations that conflict with the statute. Heather Hanley asked if it was possible to change the amendment process and make changes to the statutes. Dr. Dana Mario stated that he liked the proposed changes and would like the Board to add ethical healthcare practice to the requirements. The Chair, Rony Soto, expressed his frustration with being unable to change the regulations to be more in line with other states like New York. Attorney York explained that the Board cannot make legislative changes, but it can update its regulations and policies in a manner consistent with the statute. The Board may review the regulations section by section to determine what updates can be made via regulation. The Board agreed to add the review of 265 CMR Chapters 2.00, 3.00, and 4.00 to the next meeting agenda. In addition, board counsel and the executive director will reach out to BHPL policy staff about the possibility of requesting legislative changes to board statutes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:550 a.m. a motion was made by Rony Soto, seconded by Heather Hanley and VOTED (roll call); to end the public session.

in-favor: Adebayo, Soto, Beckner, Hanley

opposed: none

non-voting member: Mario

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Guglietta, Executive Director
Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists

Documents used by the Board during open session:

- *Posted agenda 10/18/2024*
- *Draft public meeting minutes of 7/19/24*
- *URAMP Introduction and Presentation*
- *Reciprocity Application for Licensure HESNE100080*
- *2025 Board Meeting Dates*
- *Board Regulations 265 CMR and Board Statutes Chapters 13 and 112*
- *Proposed Changes to Regulations by Rony Soto with Board Counsel Comments*