

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: May 2, 2022 TIME: 9:30 a.m.

Public Session Minutes

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (“the Board”) was held via Videoconference and Conference Call pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022: An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2022 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects signed into law on February 12, 2022.

Board Members Present by video or phone:

Nicole Laffan
Sarah Young-Hong
Kristin Bresnahan
Donna Noonan
Gabrielle Simone

Staff Present by video or phone:

Thomas Burke, Executive Director
Jenna Hentoff, Board Counsel

Meeting called to order at 9:41 am.

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order
 - Mr. Burke advised members of the public to mute their volume and utilize the hand function to address the Board.

Board Business

- Approve Public Session Minutes
 - Minutes of 4/4/22 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the April 4, 2022 Board meeting. **Dr. Laffan moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**


Discussion

- Telepractice Policy – Review
 - The Board Chair provided a brief synopsis of concerns raised over the reinstatement of the permanent telepractice policy, namely the in-person evaluation requirement. Ms. Hentoff offered a review of ASHA guidelines and other states’ policies to the Board, noting that only two (2) other states currently indicate that they require an in-person evaluation or assessment. The Board agreed that the first step in reviewing the policy is to determine whether an evaluation or diagnosis of the client performed via telepractice, rather than in-person, constitutes a best practice. The Board concurred that such a determination rests on what is best for the client, regardless of whether the evaluation is carried out in-person or via telepractice. Board members then discussed whether the in-person evaluation may be presented as a “recommended” practice subject to the licensee’s clinical judgment as to what is best for the client. The Board also discussed the possibility of crafting different evaluation requirements for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists because audiologists must carry out an in-person evaluation to make an appropriate diagnosis based on anatomical

structure and function. The Board concluded its discussion by agreeing to consider separate policies or creating different requirements based on the licensee's scope of practice.

At 10:19 am, Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Simone seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Public Session Minutes of 4/4/2022 Board meeting
- Permanent and Temporary Telepractice Policies