

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: June 10, 2020 TIME: 9:30 a.m.

Public Session Minutes

A regularly scheduled open public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (“the Board”) was held via Videoconference and Conference Call due to the Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20.

Board Members Present by video or phone:

Nicole Laffan
Kristin Bresnahan
Sarah Young-Hong

Staff Present by video or phone:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director
Lynn Read, Board Counsel

Board Members Absent:

Donna Noonan

Meeting called to order at 10:03

Discussion

- Covid-19 related issues for Audiology and reopening – The Board received a question regarding which phase of reopening applied to Audiology practices. The Board agreed that decisions regarding what phases of reopening apply to various professions are made by the Governor based on recommendations made by the Reopening Advisory Board in consultation with the Department of Public Health. Inquiries of this nature should be referred to resources provided by the Commonwealth’s reopening website.
- Updated Guidance for Telepractice.

Briefly discussed the revision to its temporary telepractice policy that was agreed upon at the June 2, 2020 Board meeting. The Board agreed that item “c.” of the amendments listed should be changed to the following:

- c. During the state of emergency, and for 90 days following the termination of the state of emergency, the Board hereby waives the requirement for an in-person evaluation to occur prior to the start of telepractice services. A Board licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist may begin to provide services via telepractice to a client who is clinically appropriate and has a medical need. After 90 days following the termination of the state of emergency, a licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist must perform an in-person assessment of the client’s need for services and candidacy for

telepractice, including behavioral, physical and cognitive abilities to participate in telepractice services.

Dr. Noonan made a motion to approve the above changes. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “yes”

Motion to adjourn. At 10:21, Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “yes”

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Hawley
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Board Guidance on License Renewal, Continuing Education, and Telepractice During the State of Emergency for Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Audiology and Phase 1 Question, dated May 19, 2020
- Updated 6.1.2020 SP Board Guidance-Renewal, CE, Telepractice