

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Meeting Held by Phone

DATE: March 31, 2020

TIME: 9:00 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 Conference Call due to the Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20.

Board Members Present by phone:

Nicole Laffan
Donna Noonan
Kristin Bresnahan
Sarah Young-Hong

Staff Present by phone:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director
Lynn Read, Board Counsel

Members of the Public Present by phone:

Multiple attendees were present by phone

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order: At 9:00 a.m., Dr. Laffan called meeting to order.

Discussion

- **Reconsider changes to Speech Policy 2019-001 (regarding speech-language pathology and audiology services by electronic means) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic**

As a result of the Board’s Decision at the March 23, 2020 meeting, a temporary policy was drafted and submitted for administrative approval. The policy was not approved and the agency asked the Board to reconsider the requirement that licensees receive two hours of training prior to provision of services by electronic means and the possibility of relaxing that requirement to allow licensees to begin provision of services immediately.

The Board discussed the temporary policy and the reasoning behind requiring two hours of training prior to commencement of telepractice. Board members were reluctant to eliminate the requirement due to the availability of such training, in some cases for free. The Board members agreed, however, that a delay in implementing a temporary policy could prevent patients from receiving needed services and, for that reason, the Board agreed to modify the policy.

Dr. Laffan moved to modify the temporary policy, eliminating the requirement for two of hours of training prior to offering telepractice services and to require licensees to obtain the full ten hours of training within four months of commencing telepractice. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Ms. Noonan – “yes”; Dr. Laffan – “yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “yes”

Motion to adjourn. At 9:45, Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote: Ms. Noonan – “yes”; 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 the first name "Michael" and last name "Hawley" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Hawley
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Governor’s “Order Extending the Registrations of Certain Licensed Health Care Professionals”
- Governor’s “Order Expanding Access to Telehealth Services and to Protect Health Care Providers”
- Draft Board Guidance on License Renewal, Continuing Education, and Telepractice During the State of Emergency for Coronavirus (COVID-19)