

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: June 5, 2023 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 section 40 of chapter 2 of the acts of 2023, signed into law on March 29, 2023.

Board Members Present by video or phone:

Nicole Laffan
Sarah Young-Hong
Kristin Bresnahan
Gabrielle Simone

Staff Present by video or phone:

Thomas Burke, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane,
Monique Brown, Board Staff

Board Members Not Present by video or phone:

Donna Noonan

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order at 9:35 am. Board chair called meeting to order.
- Roll Call Vote for Attendance
Board chair, Nicole Laffan, established a quorum via calling attendance: Nicole Laffan, Kristin Bresnahan, Sarah Young-Hong. Gabrielle Simone joined the meeting at 9:42 am. Donna Noonan was not present. All members present participated remotely via Cisco Webex.

Mr. Burke advised members of the public to disable the audio and video features unless they were addressing the Board. They were encouraged to utilize the hand function to address the Board.

Board Business

- Approve Public Session Minutes
 - Minutes of 5/1/23 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the May 1, 2023 Board meeting. Ms. Young-Hong requested that the section of the minutes on late license renewal applications be amended, striking the words “at least” and changing to “within 90 days” for licensees who submit late renewal applications.
Dr. Laffan moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Abstain”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Not Present.”

Dr. Simone arrived at 9:42 a.m.

- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke**
No report.
- **Report from Board Counsel**
Ms. York welcomed Attorney Judy Bromley to the Board meeting. Ms. Bromley recently joined the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure as Board Counsel. Ms.

York reported that deputy chief counsel is assisting in the formatting of proposed regulation changes for provisional licensure.

- **Application Requirements for Provisional Licensure and Full Licensure for Speech-Language Pathologists**

The Board reviewed a revised draft of the provisional licensure application for speech-language pathologists (SLPs). The Board discussed the additional following changes:

- The Board requested that language be added to the application instructions to clarify that the Clinical Fellowship experience (CF) is valid only under the supervision of the supervising Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). If there is a change in supervisor, a Form 2 must be submitted to terminate the original supervised practice plan and a new Form 1 must be provided with new starting and ending dates.
- The Board noted that according to the American Speech-Hearing Association (ASHA) standards, the provisional licensee should apply for an NPI number as a student and use the student taxonomy code on NPI application. When the clinical fellow is fully licensed, the newly licensed SLP should submit a new taxonomy code.
- The Board instructed staff to revise the completion of the Clinical Fellowship experience to include a minimum of 1260 hours and no less than 36 weeks of full-time work or the part-time equivalent.
- The Board directed staff to remove sections of the application that ask for a description of the Clinical Fellowship Year or National Certification Status.
- The Board discussed the maximum length of time to complete the CF and whether the provisional license may be extended. The Board agreed that the provisional license should terminate upon the upgrade to full licensure; however, provisional licensees may extend their supervised practice for up to two years. After two years, provisional licensees must petition the Board for additional time and submit a new Form 1, letter of explanation, and new CORI acknowledgement form.

- **SLPNE100158 Application for Reciprocal Licensure**

The Board reviewed an application for licensure by reciprocity for a speech-language pathologist who does not possess the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency (CCC). Although the CCC is not required for licensure in the state where the applicant is currently licensed, it is required for initial and reciprocal licensure in Massachusetts. The Board noted that the Certificate of Clinical Competency ensures that the individual applicant has completed all requirements for receiving and maintaining ASHA certification. The Board instructed staff to notify the applicant to present evidence of the CCC and provide a letter of good standing from ASHA. Similarly, the applicant may contact ASHA for guidance on how to obtain CCC to include with the application.

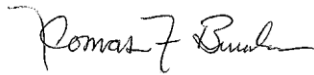
Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting:

- Dr Roger Cohen addressed the Board with continued concern regarding speech-language pathologists (SLPs) who diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Massachusetts. Initially, his concerns were prompted by the actions of a specific SLP. He now believes that the problem is more widespread. He stated to the Board that Massachusetts General Law (MGL) and ASHA guidelines indicate that the diagnosis of ASD is not within the SLP scope of practice, something that only medical doctors and psychologists can diagnose. Dr Cohen requested that the Board clarify the matter and notify all licensed SLPs. Board Counsel stated that members of the public may provide written concerns or questions to the Executive Director for Board discussion, or they may file a complaint so that the Board may review the facts of the case.

Settlement Offers, Cases – Investigative Conference [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C]: None

At 11:05 a.m., 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 – “Not Present.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Public Session Minutes of 5/1/2023 Board meeting
- Draft Provisional Licensure Application
- Application by reciprocity for C. Steel (protected personal data redacted)