

**Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**  
**Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone**  
**DATE: December 1, 2020      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 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  
Donna Noonan (arrived at 9:45)  
Gabrielle Simone

**Staff Present by video or phone:**

Michael Hawley, Executive Director  
Lynn Read, Board Counsel  
Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro, Board Counsel

**Meeting called to order at 9:35**

**Board Business:**

- Approve Minutes
  - Minutes of 10/6/2020 meeting

The Board reviewed the draft of the minutes of the October board meeting. Initially Dr. Laffan moved to approve the minutes as written, Ms. Young-Hong seconded and the motion passed on a roll call vote Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; and Dr. Simone – “Yes.” However, after further discussion, the board agreed that the minutes should be amended to include additional details regarding changes that had been made to the telepractice policy. Board directed staff to add specifics regarding Graduate students and telepractice.

**Ms. Young-Hong moved to rescind the previous vote approving the minutes as written. Dr. Laffan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

**Dr. Laffan then moved to approve the minutes of the 10/6/2020 public meeting as amended. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
  - Mr. Hawley reported that Board staff are still experiencing an increase in telepractice related inquiries as well as increased complexity in handling application related documentation that is now being submitted electronically as well as via postal mail. Also, there is an increase in the number of renewals as licensees become aware that the temporary suspension of renewals has been rescinded. Because all renewals submitted after the license expiration date must be reviewed and approved by a manager, there is sometimes a short delay in processing of renewals.
- Introduction of new Board Counsel, Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro
  - The Board welcomed Ms. Romeo-Porcaro who introduced herself and indicated that she comes to the Division of Professional Licensure from her previous position with the Parole Board. Prior to that, she held a management position at the Division of Professional Licensure.
- Report from Board Counsels, Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro and Lynn Read
  - Legislative update – provisional licensing: Ms. Romeo-Porcaro indicated that S 137--an act providing for provisional licensure for speech-language pathologists was not enacted. There is a possibility that the language of the bill will be added to the budget legislation. Board counsel will update the board of any developments.
  - Updated Temporary Telepractice Policy – Ms. Read reviewed the updated Temporary Telepractice Policy that she had amended at the Board's instruction. After some discussion, the Board requested additional changes to the policy.  
**Dr. Laffan moved to direct Attorney Romeo-Porcaro to work with Board Member Ms. Young-Hong to update the policy with a new section added in. Dr. Bresnahan seconded.** The motion passed on a roll call vote: **Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

#### **Compliance Monitoring.**

- F.M. The Board agreed that the topic should be discussed in Executive session because the matter included confidential medical information

#### **Discussion**

- Covid-19 related issues: None.
- *Telepractice Policy review* – The Board briefly discussed the advisability of changes to the permanent telepractice policy. It was agreed that it would be better to hold off on the discussion until the COVID 19 situation stabilizes and the board has received more information about the implementation and problems of telepractice. Tabled for review at a future board meeting.

- Potential statutory changes: The Board deferred further discussion of statutory changes for a future Board meeting. Tabled.
- Review current regulations for potential changes: The Board deferred further discussion of regulatory changes for a future Board meeting. Tabled.

**At 11:15 Dr. Bresnahan and Dr. Laffan left the meeting.**

**Open Session for Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting.**

The Board discussed the following question that had been asked of Board counsel: “May a private firm bill clients for speech-language pathology services by students who are doing their practicum? This assumes that the students are receiving appropriate supervision and are not being compensated, in compliance with the Board’s rules.” After some discussion, the Board confirmed that the firm may only bill for the speech-language pathologist’s time (including the time spent supervising the student) but may not bill for the student’s time. The Board directed Board Counsel Lynn Read to respond to the inquiry.

**Motion to adjourn and enter Executive and Quasi-Judicial sessions. At 11:42, Ms. Young Hong moved to adjourn the meeting and enter Executive session to review a compliance monitoring matter that involved medical records; and subsequently to enter a quasi-judicial session to render a final decision and order regarding 2020-000398-IT-ENF. Ms. Noonan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

**During the quasi-judicial session the Board voted take the following actions:**

- **2020-000398-IT-ENF - issue a final decision and order**

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Hawley  
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes of 10/6/2020 board meeting
- Edited SP Sept 2020 Telepractice Temporary Policy