

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: February 6, 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 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 and amended July 16, 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
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Monique Brown, Board Staff
Lauren McShane, Chief Investigator

Meeting called to order at 9:31 am.

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order at 9:31 am.
- Roll Call Vote for Attendance

Board chair, Nicole Laffan, established a quorum via calling attendance: Nicole Laffan, Gabrielle Simone, Sarah Young-Hong, Kristin Bresnahan, and Donna Noonan. All members participated remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Mr. Burke advised members of the public to turn down their volume and camera and utilize the hand function to address the Board.

Board Business

- Approve Public Session Minutes
 - Minutes of 12/5/22 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the December 5, 2022 Board meeting. **Ms. Young-Hong 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 – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Abstain.”**
- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke**
 - COVID Extension bill Chapter 107 of the acts of 2022 (“An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations”)
Mr. Burke reminded the Board that Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022 granting permission to meet via videoconference and conference call will expire on March 31, 2023. Mr. Burke will advise the Board on meeting arrangements prior to the April Board meeting. Following query from Mr. Burke, the Board unanimously agreed that it would prefer to meet via electronic means.
 - Meetings DPH-250-4C
Mr. Burke announced that the Board will resume in-person meetings at 250 Washington Street in Room 4C if there is no further temporary extensions to meet via videoconference and conference call.
 - Implementing Webex for remote meetings

Mr. Burke stated that the next Board meeting will occur via the Webex virtual meeting format. Board members requested guidance on how to utilize the state email system for accessing Board files.

- **Report from Board Counsel**

No report.

Correspondence

- M. Hernandez

In response to applicant request to waive the requirement of an official transcript as part of the application process, Ms. York advised the Board that in this situation it has no discretion to accept a copy of a diploma or unofficial transcript in lieu of a registrar-delivered transcript from the college or university. The Board instructed Mr. Burke to follow up with the applicant on this matter.

Discussion

- Review of Chapter 263 of the acts of 2022 and Discussion of Provisional Licensure in Massachusetts

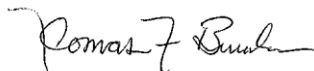
The Board discussed at length the legislation allowing for provisional licensure of speech-language pathologists in Massachusetts. The Board stated that provisional licensure does not apply to audiologists. The Board expressed an interest in implementing the legislation as quickly as possible and Ms. York agreed to present a regulatory framework for the Board to review. Mr. Burke noted that he has communicated with the American Speech–Language–Hearing Association (ASHA) on this topic and will consult with other Boards on licensure requirements. The Board noted that provisional licensure allows the clinical fellow to complete billing for work done under supervision. All agreed that there should be a seamless transition from provisional to full licensure.

The Board requested an additional meeting be held on March 6, 2023 to discuss implementation of provisional licensure in Massachusetts.

- Regulation Review - Advisory on FDA rule on Over the Counter Hearing Aids
 - Tabled.

At 10:44 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bresnahan 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 12/5/2022 Board meeting
- Correspondence – M. Hernandez
- Session Law – Acts of 2022 Chapter 263