

**Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**

**Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone**

**DATE: February 2, 2021      TIME: 10:00 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

Sarah Young-Hong

Donna Noonan (arrived at 10:20 am)

Gabrielle Simone

**Staff Present by video or phone:**

Thomas Burke, Associate Executive Director

Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro, Board Counsel

**Members of the Public:**

Kathryn Boilard

**Meeting called to order at 10:06 am. The Associate Director noted that Board will continue to meet remotely via Microsoft Teams until further notice.**

**Board Business:**

- Approve Public Session Minutes
  - Minutes of 12/1/2020 meeting  
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the December board meeting. After discussion, the Board agreed that the introduction to Board Counsel report and the date of fall minutes should be amended to reflect correct title and date.  
**Dr. Laffan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Noonan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**
- Report from Associate Executive Director, Thomas Burke
  - Mr. Burke reported that the Executive Director, Michael Hawley, will retire from his position on February 5, 2021.
- Report from Board Counsel, Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro
  - Updated Temporary Telepractice Policy – The Board reviewed the additional section to the Temporary Telepractice Policy. After some discussion, the Board requested that Section 3 (f) be amended to state that licensees who supervise clinical fellows and graduate students should follow ASHA and CFCC guidelines and allowances. The Board agreed that Section 3 (c) (iii) be amended to read that

“an in-person evaluation *may* occur by the time of the annual review process or *must occur* at least 90 days from the end of the state of emergency.”

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

- Additionally, the Board directed Board Counsel to respond to a correspondence regarding the Temporary Telepractice policy.

### **Compliance Monitoring.**

- F.M. The Board received required documents associated with the consent agreement for case number 2019-000634-IT-ENF.

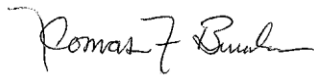
**Dr. Laffan moved to accept the reports. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

### **Discussion**

- Covid-19 related issues:
  - Audiogram Policy – **After brief discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to approve the temporary policy with the addition of the words “however, best practice is still within a 6 month period.” Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**
- Review current regulations for potential changes: The Board deferred further discussion of regulatory changes for a future Board meeting. Tabled.
- ETS Praxis Test Adoptions: Audiology – **Dr. Laffan moved to accept only the new praxis exam after August 31, 2021, and both exams will be accepted from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**
- Question from a speech-language pathology assistant (“SLPA”) regarding whether SLPAs may perform Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) – After some discussion, the Board encourages professional development, but for SPLAs the training lies outside their scope or practice. **Dr. Laffan moved to instruct Board counsel that diagnostics for autism spectrum disorder lie outside the scope of practice for licensed SLPAs. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

**At 11:18 am, Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

Respectfully Submitted,



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Thomas F. Burke  
Associate Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes of 12/1/2020 board meeting
- Edited Telepractice Temporary Policy
- Audiogram Policy
- Question re: SLPA perming Autism Diagnostic Observation