

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: March 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
Gabrielle Simone

Staff Present by video or phone:

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

Board Members Not Present by video or phone:

Donna Noonan

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order at 9:36 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. Donna Noonan was not present. All members present participated remotely via Cisco Webex.

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 2/6/23 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the December 5, 2022 Board meeting. **Dr. Laffan requested that the second line of Board discussion on provisional licensure be amended to read: “The Board stated that provisional licensure does not apply to audiologists.” She 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”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Not Present.”**
- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke**
Mr. Burke stated that the April Board meeting will occur in-person at 250 Washington Street unless there is an extension of the Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022 granting permission to meet via videoconference and conference. He noted that any future meetings via videoconference and conference call will occur in the Cisco Webex platform.
- **Report from Board Counsel**
No report.

Discussion

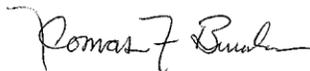
- Proposed Regulation Changes for Provisional Licensure

Ms. York presented the Board a redlined version of 260 CMR 2.03 with changes to include provisional licensure. The Board discussed the application procedures in 2.01 and whether there should be one fee for provisional licensure and an additional fee for full licensure and if a new license number and card will be issued. Mr. Burke responded that the fee structure is under review but affirmed that a new license card will be issued for full licensure. Ms. York advised the Board that application requirements for Speech-Language Pathologists in 2.03 (1) and Audiologists in 2.03 (2) be revised to incorporate the most recent American Speech–Language–Hearing Association (ASHA) and the American Board of Audiology (ABA) standards respectively and updated links to these standards. The Board stated that 2.03 (3) should maintain the bachelor’s degree as appropriate educational training for individuals applying to be either Speech Language Pathology or Audiology assistants. Mr. Burke presented a draft application for provisional licensure and the Board discussed whether Speech-Language Pathologists should complete two separate applications for provisional and full licensure respectively. Mr. Burke will present further revisions at a subsequent meeting. Finally, Ms. York presented the Board an overview of the regulation revision process and possible timeline for promulgation.

After discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to initiate regulation changes and 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 – “Not Present.”

At 11:24 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 2/6/2023 Board meeting
- 260 CMR 2.00