

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: April 3, 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
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:

Kristin Bresnahan
Donna Noonan

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order at 9:32 am. Board chair called meeting to order.
- 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 were 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 are addressing the Board. They were encouraged utilize the hand function to address the Board.

- Introductions – James G. Lavery, Director of Bureau of Health Professions Licensure Tabled.

Board Business

- Approve Public Session Minutes
 - Minutes of 3/6/23 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the March 6 2023 Board meeting. **Dr. Laffan 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 – “Not Present”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Not Present.”**
- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke**
Mr. Burke reported that the emergency order granting permission to meet via videoconference and conference call was extended through early 2025. Future Board meetings may occur via videoconference and conference call on the Cisco Webex platform.
- **Report from Board Counsel**
No report.

Discussion

- Proposed Regulation Changes for Provisional Licensure

Ms. York asked the Board a few clarifying questions regarding the content of the Board-approved amendments to 260 CMR 2.03, including terminology to be used and whether the Board intended for a new fee to be set for the provisional licensure. She noted that if a new fee needs to be set for the provisional license then the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (“ANF”) must approve that new fee and amendments will need to be made to 801 CMR 4.00 in addition to the Board regulation changes. Ms. York will work with senior staff to determine if the provisional licensure will require a new fee. Once that issue is resolved, Ms. York will need to complete the regulation amendment review package and submit the package to senior leadership at the Department of Public Health for review and approval.

Mr. Burke reported that there will be two separate applications – one for provisional and one for full licensure. He is currently reviewing with senior administrative staff whether provisionally licensed speech-language pathologists will maintain their provisional license number when they seek full licensure. The Board noted that the Massachusetts Speech-Language Hearing Association (MSHA) has endorsed and approved provisional licensure for speech-language pathologists. Following discussion, the Board requested to meet on May 1 2023 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss developments in the implementation of provisional licensure for Massachusetts Speech-Language Pathologists.

No Executive Session was held.

Closed Session: Investigatory Conferences, pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C.

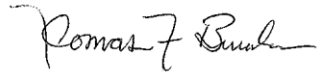
At 9:55 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to exit open session and enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences, pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C, and not return to the public meeting. Ms. Young-Hong seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Not Present”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Not Present.”

During the closed session, the Board took the following actions:

- Application/SPARA100002 – Referred to investigations.

At 10:11 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Young-Hong seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Not Present”; 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 3/6/2023 Board meeting