

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: October 3, 2022 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
Jenna Hentoff, Board Counsel

Meeting called to order at 9:36 am.

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order
 - Mr. Burke advised members of the public to mute their volume and utilize the hand function to address the Board.

Board Business

- Approve Public Session Minutes
 - Minutes of 8/1/22 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the August 1, 2022 Board meeting. **Ms. Young-Hong moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Noonan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**
- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke**
 - Transfer to the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
Mr. Burke reminded the Board members that Board staff and resources will transfer to the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure within the Department of Public Health pursuant to the Article 87 legislation. The Board will transfer on November 6, 2022 to its new offices at 250 Washington Street in Boston.
- **Report from Board Counsel, Jenna Hentoff**
 - Attorney Hentoff noted that she will not transfer to the Department of Public Health on November 6, 2022. She thanked the Board for their guidance and support. Board members, in turn, thanked her for her service.
- **Board Elections**
 - **Dr. Simone made a motion to nominate Dr. Laffan as the Board Chair and Dr. Bresnahan as the Board Secretary. Ms. Noonan 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.”**

Correspondence

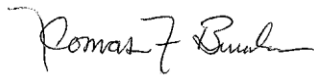
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 - The Board reviewed correspondence which asked for clarification on how the Board's telepractice policy applies to speech-language pathologists providing services in a school setting. **After discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to nominate herself to assist staff in drafting a response. Ms. Young-Hong 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."**

Discussion

- Board Meeting Dates
 - Mr. Burke presented the Board a list of meeting dates for the 2023 calendar year. In response to questions, Ms. Hentoff reminded the Board that they may continue to meet via electronic means through March 2023, and that after that date, the Board may be required to meet in person for the scheduled meeting in April.
- FDA rule on OTC Hearing Aids
 - Ms. Hentoff reported that the final rule from the Food and Drug Administration was published on August 17, 2022 and will become effective sixty (60) days following publication, which is on or about October 17, 2022. The rule permits the selling of hearing instruments over the counter to treat mild to moderate hearing loss for those over the age of 18. She noted that the rule will affect the practice of audiologists and will require a review of regulations. She acknowledged that this rule has also affected the Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists which is now with the Department of Public Health.

At 10:04 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 – "Yes."

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Public Session Minutes of 8/1/2022 Board meeting
- Correspondence from A. Wonkka on 9/27/2022
- Board Meeting Dates 2023