

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: December 5, 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

Staff Present by video or phone:

Thomas Burke, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Monique Brown, Board Staff
Lauren Nelson, Acting Deputy Director
Lauren McShane, Chief Investigator

Board Members Not Present by video or phone:

Gabrielle Simone

Meeting called to order at 9:31 am.

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order
 - Board chair called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Mr. Burke initiated introductions and invited Board staff and members to do the same. 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 10/3/22 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the August 1, 2022 Board meeting. **Dr. Laffan 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 – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**
- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke**
 - Transfer to the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure within the Department of Public Health
Mr. Burke welcomed Board members and the public to the initial meeting at the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure within the Department of Public Health. Board members and staff offered introductions. Mr. Burke reminded the Board of the new electronic licensing system in effect for licensed providers.
- **Report from Board Counsel**
 - House Bill 5094: An Act providing for provisional licensure for speech-language pathologists
Sheila York and Lauren Nelson reviewed the status of new legislation for the provisional licensure of speech-language pathologists and discussed the timeline for implementation. The Board expressed its support for the legislation and implementation in Massachusetts. Ms. York thanked the Board for its input and

discussed the procedures needed. Board counsel and executive director will guide the Board on this topic at subsequent meetings.

Discussion

- Regulation Review - Advisory on FDA rule on Over the Counter Hearing Aids
 - Mr. Burke reminded the Board that the FDA rule permits the selling of hearing instruments over the counter to treat mild to moderate hearing loss for those over the age of 18. The Board noted that there are “gray areas” in matters of public safety that the Board should consider when implementing the law. Specifically, the Board raised a concern for maximizing consumer protections in the new regulations. The Board instructed staff to include this topic for further discussion.

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

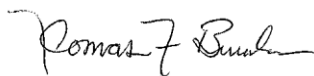
At 10:07 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to exit open session and enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences, pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C, and not return to the public meeting. Ms. Young-Hong seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present.”

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

- 2022-000457-IT-ENF – Referred to prosecutions

At 10:27 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 – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Public Session Minutes of 10/3/2022 Board meeting
- House Bill 5094