

**Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**  
**Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone**  
**DATE: February 7, 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 20 of the Acts of 2021: An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency signed into law on June 16, 2021.**

**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 9:33 am.**

**Board Business:**

- Approve Public Session Minutes
  - Minutes of 12/7/21 meeting  
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the December 7, 2021 board meeting. Dr. Laffan moved to amend minutes to indicate the correct month and Dr. Bresnahan requested that the correct prefix precede her name. **Dr. Laffan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Young-Hong 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
  - Mr. Burke reported that the Board will continue to meet remotely via electronic means through April 1, 2022. He will keep Board members apprised of any changes to the authorization for remote public meetings.
- Report from Board Counsel, Jenna Hentoff
  - Ms. Hentoff notified the Board that the proposed FDA rules on hearing aids will create a new category of “over the counter” purchases for mild to moderate hearing loss while maintaining prescription requirements for individuals with severe hearing loss as dispensed by licensed hearing instrument specialists and audiologists. Board counsel reported that Board statutes and regulations will be affected by the FDA rules and will be amended in the future. Ms. Hentoff will inform the Board when the proposed rules have become effective.

**Compliance Monitoring**

- F.M. The Board reviewed request for probation termination. **After discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to terminate probation. 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 – “Yes.”**

## Correspondence

- E. Newman
  - The Board reviewed a query regarding whether Speech-Language Pathologists (“SLPs”) can diagnose and treat dyslexia. The Board agreed that this treatment falls within the scope of practice for SLPs who receive appropriate training. The Board noted that school systems place treatment within the context of reading, not speech, and therefore additional training is needed.
  
- Z. Freidman
  - The Board reviewed a query regarding whether Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (“SLPAs”) may receive offsite or indirect supervision. Although the supervisor may not be in the same room as the SLPA, the Board agreed that the regulations require the SLP supervisor to be on-site and available to address questions or concerns. The supervisor need not be physically present in the same room to address questions and determine pass/fail but must be on the premises and available to the SLPA.

## Discussion

- Telepractice Policy – Review
  - Tabled.
  
- Academy of Doctors of Audiology
  - Board Counsel presented a draft response to the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (“ADA”) for Board review. Board instructed Counsel to submit the response to ADA.

## Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting

- Licensee request guidance on how to submit continuing education certificates with license renewal application. The Executive Director instructed the licensee to maintain certificates on file and complete renewal online.

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

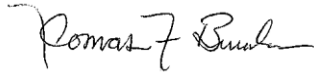
**At 10:15 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to exit open session and enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences, pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C, and not return to the public meeting. Ms. Noonan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

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

- 2020-000195-IT-ENF – Provided guidance to the prosecutor.

**At 10:58 am, 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 – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

Respectfully Submitted,



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Thomas F. Burke  
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Public Session Minutes of 12/7/2021 Board meeting
- FM probation termination request
- Correspondences
- Draft ADA response