

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: April 4, 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.

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
Jenna Hentoff, Board Counsel

Board Members Not Present:

Gabrielle Simone

Meeting called to order at 9:35 am.

Board Business:

- Approve Public Session Minutes
 - Minutes of 2/7/22 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the February 7, 2022 Board meeting. **Dr. Laffan moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**
- Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke
 - Mr. Burke notified the Board that the proposed FY22 supplemental budget, H. 4345, extended authorization for remote public meetings until July 15, 2022.
- Report from Board Counsel, Jenna Hentoff
 - Ms. Hentoff notified the Board that a specific effective date for the proposed FDA rules on hearing aids has not been announced; however, the rules will become effective sixty days after the final version of the rules has been published. She will continue to keep the Board updated.

Correspondence

- Z. Freidman – Follow Up
 - The Board addressed a follow-up question regarding supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA) when performing screenings. The Board agreed that supervision of SLPAs must be conducted on-site by a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist and advised Board Counsel to send a response.

Discussion

- Telepractice Policy – Review

- Board chair opened discussion on review of the permanent telepractice policy. She noted that the temporary policy, which provides a sixty day waiver of the in-person evaluation requirement, remains in effect until August 31, 2022. Several members of the public were present and participated in the discussion about the current policies. Many expressed concern that access to care would be limited by requiring an in-person evaluation which may devalue telepractice services. They requested clarification of the term “evaluation” and how rules of the state or country that the patient is residing or being treated in would affect telepractice policy. Board Counsel reminded the public that licensed professionals must follow the rules and regulations where the patient is located. Board chair noted that best practice would include an in-person evaluation within sixty days to ensure appropriate diagnosis. The Board agreed that further discussion and research is required. A meeting was scheduled for Monday May 2, 2022 to discuss this policy exclusively. Board Counsel will research rules from other states and review ASHA guidelines.

Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting: No topics were addressed.

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

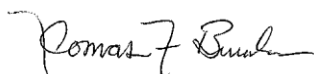
At 10:20 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to exit open session and enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences, pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C, and not return to the public meeting. Ms. Noonan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”

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

- 2021-000081-IT-ENF – Dismissed with Advisory.

At 12:11 pm, Ms. Young-Hong moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Noonan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Public Session Minutes of 2/7/2022 Board meeting
- Correspondences
- Permanent and Temporary Telepractice Policies