

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: June 6, 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
Gabrielle Simone

Staff Present by video or phone:

Thomas Burke, Executive Director
Jenna Hentoff, Board Counsel

Board Members Not Present by video or phone:

Donna Noonan

Meeting called to order at 9:35 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 5/2/22 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the May 2, 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.”; Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**
- Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke
 - In-Person Meetings
Mr. Burke reminded the Board that the extended authorization for remote public meetings in FY22 supplemental budget, H. 4345, now enacted as Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, will end on July 15, 2022. He and Board Counsel will advise the Board of any further extensions or changes to allow remote public meetings.
- Report from Board Counsel, Jenna Hentoff
 - Conflict of Interest
Ms. Hentoff reviewed the conflict of interest law with the Board. She reminded Board members that they must recuse themselves from involvement in cases or discussion topics that present a conflict of interest, including close personal relationships or financial interests, or sign disclosures to ensure their participation in such cases. She encouraged Board members to contact her or the Executive Director with questions.

Correspondence

- J. Rich – ASHA Comments on Telepractice Policy – Read and Filed.
- P. Gallagher – AAA Comments on Telepractice Policy – Read and Filed.
- N. Wylonis – Read and Filed.
- B. Wilson Arboleda – BIDMC Correspondence – Read and Filed.
- D. Stiles – Boston Children's Hospital Correspondence – Read and Filed.
- K. Armbrust – Massachusetts Academy of Audiology Correspondence – Read and Filed.

Discussion

- Permanent Telepractice Policy – Discussion and Review of Draft Proposal
 - The Board reviewed a draft of the permanent telepractice policy with changes based on the Board's discussion at the previous meeting. The Board agreed that licensees (both SLPs and Audiologists) must use their best clinical judgment to determine if telepractice is an appropriate mode for assessment and treatment. The Board instructed staff to remove the requirement for those providing telepractice services to obtain a minimum of two (2) hours of continuing education in telepractice during every renewal period but to keep the requirement for ten (10) hours of training in telepractice before providing telepractice services. The Board requested that language from the temporary policy regarding graduate students and assistants also be included in this draft policy. **After discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to approve the changes to the draft policy to be finalized during the next Board 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.”**

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

At 10:09 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 – “Yes.”**

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

- NC – Review – Forward to the Office of Investigations
- 2020-000194-IT-ENF – Dismissed.
- 2021-001120-IT-ENF – Dismissed with Advisory.

At 11:07 a.m., Dr. Simone moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Laffan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Dr. Simone – “Yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Public Session Minutes of 5/2/2022 Board meeting
- Correspondences
- Permanent Telepractice Policy Draft Proposal