

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: August 1, 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
Jenna Hentoff, Board Counsel

Board Members Not Present by video or phone:

Gabrielle Simone

Meeting called to order at 9:33 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 6/6/22 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the June 6, 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 – “Abstain.”**
- Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke
 - Wall Certificates
Mr. Burke notified the Board that, in light of the transfer of the Board and staff to the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure, wall certificates will be distributed to licensed providers via electronic means. **After further discussion, Ms. Noonan moved to instruct Board staff to collect electronic signatures from the Board chair and secretary so that they may be used on new wall certificates. Ms. Young-Hong seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**
 - COVID Extension bill, S. 2985
Mr. Burke reported that the that the COVID Extension bill, S. 2985 (“An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations”) was signed by the Governor in July and is now in effect. The bill extends certain COVID-19 related measures until March 31, 2023, including allowing public bodies to hold

meetings remotely. Mr. Burke announced that the Board will transfer to the Department of Public Health in November 2022. He will continue to provide updates to the Board.

- **Report from Board Counsel, Jenna Hentoff**

- Adopt remote meeting procedures

Attorney Hentoff informed the Board that under the Open Meeting Law, if the Board members chose to meet in person, remote participation in the meeting would be permitted as long as a quorum is physically present in the meeting location, including the person chairing the meeting. In such instance, a Board member may attend a meeting remotely if physical attendance would be unreasonably difficult. **After discussion, Dr. Bresnahan moved to adopt the remote meeting procedures for in-person meetings. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

- Executive Order No. 600: Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Care Services in the Commonwealth

Attorney Hentoff advised the Board that Governor Baker’s recent Executive Order prohibits any executive department, employee, or officer from aiding or abetting an out-of-state investigation of any person who seeks, provides or assists with reproductive healthcare services which are legal in Massachusetts in another state. Further, the Board may not deny or prohibit licensure to or impose any discipline on any person who has sought, provided or assisted with reproductive healthcare services in another state or who has professional discipline or a criminal conviction in connection with such conduct in another state.

Correspondence

- CAA Notification of Accreditation Actions

Mr. Burke notified the Board that he will report future concerns or issues regarding specific action taken against a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist.

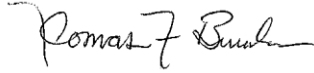
Discussion

- Permanent Telepractice Policy – Final Review of Draft Proposal

- Attorney Hentoff reviewed the recent Board-approved changes to the draft policy, specifically in paragraph six. The Board chair, in turn, opened the review to discussion. Board members discussed additional changes to paragraph six. **After discussion, Dr. Laffan moved adopt the draft policy as amended. Ms. Young-Hong seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes.”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

At 10:25 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.”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Public Session Minutes of 6/6/2022 Board meeting
- Correspondence
- Revised Permanent Telepractice Policy Draft