

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: February 3, 2025 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 section 40 of chapter 2 of the acts of 2023, signed into law on March 29, 2023.

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
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Monique Brown, Board Staff
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff
Lisa Park, Board Intern

Board Members Not Present by video or phone:

None

Housekeeping

- Board chair called meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.
- Roll Call Vote for Attendance

Dr. Laffan established a quorum via calling attendance: Dr. Simone, Dr. Bresnahan, Ms. Young-Hong, Dr. Laffan. All members present participated remotely via Cisco Webex.

Board Business

- Review of Public Session Agenda: February 3, 2025

Dr. Laffan moved to accept the public session agenda as written. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes.”

- Public session minutes for November 15, 2024

Tabled.

- Department of Public Health recognition – Ms. Donna Noonan

Board members welcomed the former public member of the board, Donna Noonan, to the meeting. Dr. Laffan then read the citation bestowed on Ms. Noonan for her eight years of service to the Board and the residents of the Commonwealth. Ms. Noonan expressed her gratitude for the recognition and commended board members and staff for their hard work and support during her tenure on the board. Dr. Laffan and board members thanked Ms. Noonan for her dedication and commitment to protecting public health and safety.

- Board Counsel Report
 - Update on proposed changes to 260 CMR and 801 CMR 4.02 (260)

Ms. York informed the board members that the anticipated timeline for implementing provisional licensure for speech-language pathologists had been met and the new regulations will become effective on Friday, February 14, 2025. The executive director briefly explained the application procedures for provisional licensure and noted that current and prospective clinical fellows may apply for licensure on February 14, 2025.

After further discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to direct staff to allow current clinical fellows the option to apply for provisional licensure until December 31, 2025, and require individuals who apply on or after February 14, 2025, or current clinical fellows who do not complete their supervised practice by December 31, 2025, to apply for provisional licensure. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes.”

Correspondence

- ASHA letter of support for ASLP-IC

The Board reviewed a letter from the current president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) in support of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). The compact proposes to reduce administrative hurdles to licensed practice and expand services to underserved communities. Some board members expressed support for the compact for providers who work in states with similar requirements for licensure. Board counsel noted that participation in the interstate compact will likely require statutory changes. There was no further discussion.

Discussion

- National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) Self Queries for applicants

The Bureau of Health Professions Licensure asked whether the Board wants to require that all applicants submit a NPDB self-query. Board counsel reported that the NPDB allows applicants to initiate their own query for past or current disciplinary action and malpractice payments that may be sent to the Board in conjunction with their applications for licensure. She noted that the self-query option can close the loop by identifying out-of-state actions that the Board may review in a timely manner. The Board requested further information about the procedures for self-queries and related fees and costs for self-queries to be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

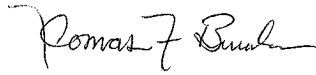
Adjourn Public Session

At 10:31 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes.”

Call Adjudicatory Session to Order

At 10:31 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to call the adjudicatory session to order. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the general session meeting:

- Speech Board General Session Agenda for February 3, 2025
- Speech Board Meeting General Session Minutes for November 15, 2024
- Change of residency letter for Donna Noonan
- Department of Public Health recognition citation for Donna Noonan
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) letter of support for the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).