

**Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**  
**Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone**  
**DATE: August 5, 2024 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:**

Sarah Young-Hong  
Kristin Bresnahan  
Gabrielle Simone  
Nicole Laffan

**Board Members Not Present:**

Donna Noonan

**Staff Present by video or phone:**

Thomas Burke, Executive Director  
Sheila York, Board Counsel  
Monique Brown, Board Staff  
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff  
Isaac Badner, Intern  
Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy  
Lauren Nelson, Deputy Director  
Edmond Taglieri, Pharmacist, Nursing Home Administrator  
Mark Waksmonski, SARP Coordinator, Board of Registration in Nursing  
Gillian Coffey, Health Communications Manager  
Sophia Emidy, Regulatory Affairs Intern

**Housekeeping**

- Board chair called meeting to order at 9:35 am.
- Roll Call Vote for Attendance  
Dr. Laffan established a quorum via calling attendance: Dr. Laffan, Dr. Bresnahan, Ms. Young-Hong, and Dr. Simone. All members present participated remotely via Cisco Webex.

**Board Business**

- Review of Public Session Agenda: August 5, 2024  
**Dr. Laffan moved to accept the public session agenda as written. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Ms. Noonan – “Not Present”; Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes.”**
- Public session minutes for June 5, 2024  
**Dr. Simone moved to accept the public session minutes as written. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Ms. Noonan – “Not Present”; Dr. Laffan – “Abstains”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

- Presentation on URAMP, alternative-to-discipline monitoring program for all licensed healthcare professionals in Massachusetts

Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy, and other advisory committee members met with the Board to discuss implementation of the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) at the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL). Mr. Dillon explained how URAMP allows licensed professionals, when referred by licensing boards, to voluntarily enter the program as an alternative to discipline through a supervised monitoring program as they address substance use disorder (SUD) and/or mental health care recovery goals. URAMP monitors the individual's compliance with recovery and restoration activities so that licensed professionals who successfully complete the program may return to their professional practice. Upon rollout of the program, URAMP will be available to licensees of all 21 BHPL boards. Mr. Dillon asked the board members to consider specific return-to-practice conditions they would recommend for their licensees and encouraged them to discuss suitable practice conditions at subsequent board meetings.

## **Board Discussion**

- **Proposal for an Audiology Assistant Certificate Program at MGH Institute of Health Professions**

The Board reviewed a proposal from the Institute of Health Professions to create an audiology assistant program. The program would be designed for undergraduates who want to work in the field of audiology who may not pursue the doctor of audiology degree. In discussion, there was general agreement that training certificate programs should meet the standards established by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). The Board noted that ASHA offers an audiology assistant program and recommended that the Institute determine if the program meets ASHA standards and approval. The Board instructed the director to follow up with the representative of the MGH Institute of Health Professions. The topic was tabled for further discussion and no vote was taken.

- **The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between American Speech Language Hearing Associations (ASHA) and International Associations**

The Board discussed ASHA's mutual agreement for the recognition of professional association credentials established in 2022 (MRA). The agreement between ASHA and certain international associations extends the certificate of clinical competence (CCC) to those applicants who meet ASHA standards. Additionally, the MRA acknowledges that signatory associations have met educational, academic, and clinical requirements of each other's certificate holders. Thus, state boards that issue licenses to applicants who provide evidence of the CCC would issue licenses to individuals who gained their CCC through the MRA. The Board generally agreed that if an applicant for licensure in Massachusetts possesses the CCC, and is approved by ASHA, the applicant will have satisfied this requirement for licensure. The Board instructed the director to follow up with the executive director of ASHA. No vote was taken.

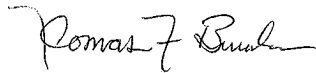
## **Executive Session**

At 10:57 a.m., Ms. Young-Hong moved to exit open session and enter executive session under G. L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) and (3), to comply with the provisions of the public record law, G. L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7), ¶ 26(a) and to preserve the confidentiality of information pursuant to G. L. c. 6, § 172, and not return to the public meeting. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Ms. Noonan “Not Present”; Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes.”

### Adjournment

At 11:24 am, Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Not Present” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,



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Thomas F. Burke  
Executive Director

### Documents used in the general session meeting:

- Speech-Board-Agenda-August-5-2024
- Speech-Board-Meeting-Minutes-June-3-2024
- URAMP Introduction to the Board Presentation
- ASHA Mutual Recognition Agreement 2022
- ASHA Mutual Recognition Agreement Email from Director
- MGH IHP Audiology Assistant Certificate Proposal