

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

1000 Washington Street 1st Floor Room 1C, Boston, MA 02118

DATE: August 3, 2018

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

Public Session Minutes

Board Members Present:

Nicole Laffan (NL)

Lauren Woller Mummolo (LWM)

Donna Noonan (DN)

Staff Present:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Lynn Read, Board Counsel

Anne Driscoll, Investigator Supervisor

Board Members Absent:

Aixa Borrero Sanchez

Members of the Public Present:

Thomas Dixon

Robert Kemper

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order: At 9:40 a.m., NL called meeting to order.
- Facility Briefing (fire drill instructions & location of exits and restrooms): Procedures reviewed by Michael, Executive Director

Board Business

- Approve Minutes
 - Minutes of 6/1/2018 meeting. **DN moved to accept the minutes of the 6/1/2018 meeting as amended. LWM seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
 - Mr. Hawley reported on the number of applications received and issued in June. He also discussed the license applications that are outstanding and gave a brief description of the processing of applications. He noted that many applications remain open for a relatively long period of time because they are submitted at the start of the applicant's fellowship or externship and licenses cannot be issued until documentation of completion of the fellowship/externship has been submitted. Mr. Hawley also reported that the conversion of the expiration of licenses from January 6 of even numbered years to a birthday based system is mostly complete.
- Report from Board Counsel, Lynn Read
 - Ms. Read said her reports will be made during the later parts of the meeting.

Discussion

- Medical Waivers – The Board discussed the language of a notice addressing the FDA announcement of its intention to discontinue enforcement of medical evaluation requirement for hearing aid users. In reviewing the notice for final approval to post to the Board web site, Kevin Scanlon, the agency's deputy commissioner and general counsel questioned the inclusion of the following statement: "However, the Board continues to believe that best practice for audiologists includes requiring medical examinations of hearing before dispensing hearing aids to any person, in order to accurately evaluate hearing loss, manage the symptoms, and recommend appropriate amplification."

NL moved to remove the above statement from the notice. LWN seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Application Review:

- Thomas Dixon – Mr. Dixon submitted an application for licensure as speech-language pathology assistant. Mr. Dixon does not hold a bachelor or associate degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Neither does he hold a certificate from a board-approved certificate program. He does hold a Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences. Board staff asked the Board to review Mr. Dixon's education to determine whether his education qualified him for licensure as a Speech-Language Pathology assistant. The Board agreed that the courses he had taken in degree program corresponded to the course requirements of a bachelor's degree program in speech-language pathology. Mr. Dixon's undergraduate training along with his supplemental course work in speech disorders qualify him for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant.

NL moved to allow Mr. Dixon to continue with the licensing process, in light of his undergraduate training and supplemental courses. LWM seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:

- Telepractice Policy – Ms. Read reported that the agency's general counsel raised some questions regarding the policy. The Board discussed whether the policy was consistent with ASHA standards. The Board also discussed whether technical training for telepractice and its tools is available and, if so, who offers it. Board members NL and LWM agreed to research the availability of training. Also discussed was whether the requirement that the initial evaluation be done in person by a licensee creates an unreasonable barrier to practice. Board Counsel will review the policy, seeking input as needed, and present an updated policy for review at a future board meeting.

Motion to adjourn. At 11:04, NL moved to adjourn the meeting. DN seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Hawley
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Draft of Public Meeting Minutes from June 1, 2018 meeting
- Draft of Board's Telepractice Policy, Policy #2018-001
- Draft of Board Notice entitled "Hearing Aids – Conditions of Sale"
- Application of Thomas Dixon, initially received August 14, 2017