

**Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**

**1000 Washington Street 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Room 1C, Boston, MA 02118**

**DATE: April 6, 2018 TIME: 9:30 a.m.**

**Public Session Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members Present:**

Nicole Laffan (NL)

Aixa Borrero Sanchez (ABS)

Lauren Woller Mummolo (LWM)

Dona Noonan (DN)

**Staff Present:**

Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Lynn Read, Board Counsel

Anne Driscoll, Investigator Supervisor

Deborah Tata, Investigator

**Housekeeping**

- Meeting Called to Order: At 9:38 a.m., NL called meeting to order.
- Facility Briefing (fire drill instructions & location of exits and restrooms): Procedures reviewed by Michael Hawley, Executive Director

**Board Business**

- Introduce New Board Member:
  - Donna Noonan: The Board welcomed Donna Noonan as the new public member.
- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
  - E-Licensing Update: The Department of Professional Licensure is proceeding with plans to go paperless. The process will begin with renewals and some decisions will have to be made with regard to documentation that we generally require in a paper form (transcripts, verification letters, etc.) Many schools and states are beginning to provide paperless alternatives. So the questions may be resolved by that.
- Report from Board Counsel, Lynn Read
  - No report.
- Approve Minutes
  - Minutes of 12/1/2017 meeting. **Tabled for a future meeting.**

**Discussion**

- Telepractice by speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Board staff distributed a policy on telepractice enacted by the Psychology Board for comparison with the draft Speech Board policy created by Board Counsel. The Board discussed some changes made to the policy for the sake of brevity.  
**ABS moved to direct Board Counsel to make changes as discussed and in consultation with ABS. NL seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**
- FDA discontinues enforcement of medical evaluation for hearing aid purchasers – Attorney Read reported that the FDA has announced its intention to discontinue

enforcement of medical evaluation requirement for hearing aid users. The Board directed Attorney read to draft an announcement regarding this change for presentation and review at the next board meeting.

- Applications for Speech-Language Pathology Assistant licensure by former Speech-Language Pathologists (expired licenses). The Board has received at least one application from a former SLP who wishes to be re-licensed as an SLPA and contends that her experience and original qualifications for licensure as an SLP should meet the requirement for observation hours detailed in the SLPA application. The Board agreed that this is normally the case and directed staff to require such applicants to submit a letter explaining how they meet the observation hour requirements.

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

There were no unanticipated topics

**Executive Session to consider the character, rather than competence of licensure applicants [Closed Session Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A § 21(a)(1)]:**

**11:04: NL moved to enter executive session to consider the character rather than competence of two applicants for licensure. ABS seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: NL: “Yes”; ABS: “Yes”; LWM: “Yes”; DN: “Yes”**

**The Board Chair estimated that the Board would resume open session in approximately 30 minutes.**

**At the end of the executive session, the open meeting resumed.**

**Cases [closed session pursuant to G.L. C. 112 §65C]:**

**11:14 NL moved to enter investigative session [closed session pursuant to G.L. C. 112 §65C] to consider discipline in the following cases: 20160825SP005-IT-ENF, 2017-001098-IT-ENF, 2017-000993-IT-ENF and to determine the sample size for the next CE audit. ABS seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**At 12:27 p.m., NL recused from discussion of 2017-000993-IT-ENF and left the meeting.**

At the end of the closed session, the open meeting resumed.

During the investigative session, the Board voted to take the following action:

- 20160825SP005-IT-ENF Forward to the Office of Prosecutions
- 2017-001098-IT-ENF Dismiss
- 2017-000993-IT-ENF Forward to the Office of Prosecutions
- Determined Audit Sample size for next CE audit

**Motion to adjourn. At 12:35, ABS moved to adjourn the meeting. LWM seconded. Motion passed unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Hawley  
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Draft of Board's Telepractice Policy
- Copy of Psychology Board's Telepractice Policy