

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

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

DATE: October 5, 2018

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

Public Session Minutes

Board Members Present:

Nicole Laffan (NL)

Aixa Borrero Sanchez (ABS)

Donna Noonan (DN)

Staff Present:

Michael Hawley, Executive Director

Lynn Read, Board Counsel

Anne Driscoll, Investigator Supervisor

Thomas F. Burke, Associate Exec. Director

Board Members Absent:

Lauren Woller Mummolo

Housekeeping

- Meeting Called to Order: At 9:46 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 8/3/2018 meeting. **DN moved to accept the minutes of the 8/3/2018. ABS seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Announcement
 - Ms. Borrero Sanchez announced her resignation from the board due to her appointment as Assistant Director for Related Services in the Boston Public School system. The Board members and staff congratulated her on her appointment and expressed disappointment about losing her as a member of the Board.
- Election of Board officers
 - **DN moved to table election for a future meeting with NL continuing as chairperson. NL seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Approval of Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2019
 - **NL moved to approve the proposed schedule below with meetings held the first Friday of even numbered months. DN seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
 - Mr. Hawley spoke in praise of the Board's administrative staff person, Monique Brown. He informed the Board that Ms. Brown alone handles most of the duties associated with administering the Board and does so with great effectiveness. She regularly earns praise for applicants and licensees who contact the board. Attorney Read produced an email recently forwarded by a licensee expressing praise and gratitude. The Board members wished to convey appreciation to Ms. Brown and Ms. Noonan agreed to write a letter of appreciation to be signed by the Board at a future meeting. Mr. Hawley also reported on the number of licenses

issued in August and September and reported that the computer system appears to be correctly calculating the expiration dates for licensees.

- Report from Board Counsel, Lynn Read
 - Ms. Read said her reports will be made during the later parts of the meeting.

Discussion

- **Telepractice Policy:**

The Board discussed a draft of the Board's Policy regarding telepractice. The Board addressed concerns expressed by the DPL administration. One concern was the Board's requirement that the initial evaluation be performed in person by a licensee, and not remotely. The administration's concern was that the requirement might create an unnecessary barrier to the receipt of services. The Board opined that the initial evaluation must address conditions such as aphasia and swallowing difficulty that cannot be evaluated remotely. The Board also indicated that, in Massachusetts, obtaining an initial in-person evaluation should not cause hardship, as schools, hospitals and early intervention programs all provide such evaluations. In addition, the tests used for initial evaluation are not normalized for on-line use.

Board members reported, in response to inquiries from DPL administration, that training is available in the provision of telepractice services from ASHA as well as from vendors. Therefore licensees who wish to engage in telepractice should have no difficulty in meeting the ten hour initial training requirement. With regard to continuing education requirements, the Board reported that ASHA requires two hours of training per certification cycle for certificants wishing to supervise tele-practitioners. With that in mind, the Board agreed to reduce the CE requirement for licensees engaged in telepractice to two hours per license renewal cycle.

The Board discussed other changes to the draft policy. Board counsel agreed to revise the policy with the changes agreed upon and present the revised policy to DPL administration for approval.

- **Tele-supervision:**

The Board received an email inquiry regarding whether tele-supervision by speech-language pathologists is permissible or whether regulatory changes regarding tele-supervision are being planned. The inquiry did not make it clear which individuals are being supervised. The Board agreed that, if the supervised individuals are students in a graduate program or individuals in their clinical fellowship year, the board defers to ASHA standards of supervision. If the supervised individuals are licensed speech-language pathology assistants, then the Board's regulations apply and tele-supervision would not meet supervision requirements. The Board directed staff to respond accordingly and to indicate that no regulatory change is contemplated at this time.

Correspondence

- Brochure for 2019 Annual Conference of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (“NCSB”): Read and filed.

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

- None.

Motion to adjourn. At 11:30, ABS 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 August 3, 2018 meeting
- Draft of 2019 Board Meeting Calendar
- Email from licensee praising Board administrator Monique Brown
- Draft of Board’s Telepractice Policy, Policy #2018-001
- Email dated 12/13/2018, regarding tele-supervision along with information about ASHA supervision requirements.
- Brochure for 2019 Annual Conference of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, not dated.