



May 9, 2023 SLPHCPGB Public Meeting Minutes

Speech Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Governing Board

May 9, 2023 at 1:30 PM EDT

@ 7 Eagle Square, Concord, NH 03303

Attendance

Present:

Members: Meredith Bergeron, William Flanders, Ian McGarty, Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

Guests: Bethany Cottrell - OPLC Administration, Jessica Whelehan - Board Administrator, Vicki Chesterley, Liz Eaton - Board Counsel

I. Call to Order

Ian McGarty, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

II. Approval of Public Minutes

Motion:

Approve the April 18, 2023, public minutes as submitted.

Motion moved by Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja and motion seconded by William Flanders.

Motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

A. ASLP-IC Compact - SLP member needed

The Board discussed current Board vacancies pursuant to RSA 328-F:4. Liz Eaton and Jessica Whelehan explained that Jocelyn Lister has reached the end of her term, and faced with the decision to step down or take on the role of an alternate member, she chose to step down, wishing her former Board members well. Liz went on to explain that the Speech/Hearing RSA and the Compact Bylaws required that a licensed SLP/Board member sit on the compact, noting that there was the option to appoint OPLC staff to attend in place of the Board member(s). Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja stated she did not realize that attendance at Compact meetings could be remote, and said she would gladly volunteer to be the SLP delegate.

Motion:

Appoint Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja as the SLP member from NH to the ASLP-IC Compact.

Motion moved by Ian McGarty and motion seconded by Meredith Bergeron. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion:

Appoint a member of OPLC Staff to serve in place of a Board member if either Board member is unable to attend the Compact meeting(s).

Motion moved by Ian McGarty and motion seconded by Meredith Bergeron. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Memo regarding SLS to SLP legislative changes from Victoria Chesterley

The Board asked Vicki Chesterley to speak about the memo she had submitted. Vicki explained that the change in statute years ago meant that there were multiple Speech Language Specialists (SLS) who were not going to be able to continue in their current professional roles, and she was asking the Board to consider supporting changes to the practice act that would allow the 6 Speech Language Specialists to obtain a license as a Speech language Pathologist. The Board, sympathizing with the plight of these 6 people, also noted that these changes were a result of the Department of Education (Dept. of Ed.) statute changes, and that there had been an opportunity for people with the Dept. of Ed. SLS certification to obtain licensure through the Board, and that window had already closed. Ian McGarty stated that the remaining 6 would likely qualify as SLAs; Vicki countered that that would mean a large cut in pay, and would cause further issues for the school districts as SLAs needed to be supervised by SLPs. Meredith Bergeron said that she had not seen any applications from these 6 people since she has joined the Board. Vicki explained that at least one of them had submitted a completed application on the day that state employees were sent home due to COVID, and no sign of the application had been seen since then, either from OPLC, or from the applicant. Meredith went on to say that she would want to see applications, or even reports, for these 6 people, before she considered giving them an SLP license. She elaborated that she had concerns about creating a carve-out for these people that would ultimately mean they could then go and practice as an SLP anywhere else in the country, because NH had given them an SLP license; Vicki suggested that the Board change the RSA, but make rules or further statute changes that would prohibit those 6 from practicing anywhere else. Liz Eaton informed Vicki that it would be extremely unlikely that the legislature would change the practice act for 6 people. Ian noted, again, that no applications had been received, and that not one of these 6

people had come to the Board, instead having Vicki address the Board. Liz suggested the Board take the material that had been presented to them and consider their options moving forward. She also suggested that Vicki have the 6 people apply for an SLP license, otherwise the Board would not be able to review each case to determine what possible pathways were available. Vicki asked if there was a downloadable application or checklist available. Jessica Whelehan and Bethany Cottrell replied that they believed the current checklist was available online, however, they would confirm that and get back to Vicki. Ian reminded Vicki that the people needed to apply, and not just submit the documents in the hopes that the Board would review them and give them feedback.

V. OPLC and/or Board Administration Updates

A. Bethany Cotrell - Press Releases

Bethany Cottrell, Division Director of Licensing and Board Administration, introduced herself to the Board. She explained that OPLC would be increasing their communications with all stakeholders, an area that had been found lacking; to that end, a Public Information Officer had been hired who would assist with crafting communications when rules were changes, or processes affecting licensees changed. She said that OPLC now had social media as well. Bethany closed by stating she was excited to work on getting the ASLP-IC Compact up and running.

VI. Licensure Approval

A. Fast-Track Approvals

 [FT 3.3.23 through 5.1.23.pdf](#)

Motion:

Ratify the applications approved by Fast-Track from March 3, 2023, through May 1, 2023.

Motion moved by Ian McGarty and motion seconded by Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Speech-Language Applications

1. Madeline Manganello - P-SLP to full
2. Veronica Stearns - P-SLP to full

3. Arinn Polinsky - P-SLP to full
4. Sophia Palagas - P-SLP to full

Motion:

Approve the four (4) Provisional-SLP to full SLP application listed above.

Motion moved by Ian McGarty and motion seconded by Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Rules Review and other Legislative Topics

- A. Spe 602 and 607.01 Initial Proposal

Motion:

Approve the Initial Proposal, amending “supervisor” in 602.01 (b) to “supervisee”.

Motion moved by Ian McGarty and motion seconded by Meredith Bergeron. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Non-Public Session

Motion:

Conduct a Non-Public session for the purpose of discussing investigations of alleged licensee misconduct and other confidential Board business. Such a non-public session is authorized by RSA 91-A:3, II (c), RSA 91-A:3 II (e), RSA 91-A:5, IV, Lodge v. Knowlton, 119 N.H. 574 (1978), and the Board’s executive and deliberative privileges.

Motion moved by Ian McGarty and motion seconded by Meredith Bergeron. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote at 2:21 pm.

IX. Resume Public Session

Public session resumed at 2:26 pm.

X. Seal the Minutes of the Non-Public Session

Motion:

Seal the minutes of the non-public session to maintain the privacy of the items discussed in non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), on the grounds that public disclosure may adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a Board member or render the proposed action ineffective.

Motion moved by Ian McGarty and motion seconded by William Flanders. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjourn meeting

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.