

## Minutes of the October 13, 2023 Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists Meeting

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Chairperson, Ed Granger, called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order at 1:01 p.m. on October 13, 2023, in the Goldenrod Conference Room, Lower-Level, at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on September 29, 2023.

Granger announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

**Members Present:** The following members answered roll call:

Misti Lutt-Chmiel, Secretary  
Ed Granger, Chairperson  
Dr. Kelly Pritchett, Member  
Cameron Ellison, Member  
Tomeka Johnson, Member

**Members Absent:**

Dr. Aaron Robinson, Vice-Chairperson

**Others Present:**

Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Attorney (via Webex)  
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager  
Amy Blinston, Health Licensing Coordinator  
T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General

**Guests:**

Sierra Sharpe, International Hearing Society

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Pritchett moved, seconded by Lutt-Chmiel, to adopt the amended agenda. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Johnson, Ellison, and Pritchett. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

### **3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT**

Covert-ByBee stated that this is the opportunity for the Department to read into the minutes any votes that occurred by mail ballot in between regularly scheduled Board meetings. The following mail ballots occurred: Approval of the 6.30.2023 Board meeting minutes. Voting to approve: Lutt-Chmiel, Ellison, Granger, Pritchett, and Robinson. The minutes were approved on 7.18.2023.

#### **4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Pritchett moved, seconded by Ellison, to move into closed session at 1:04pm to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Ellison, Johnson, and Pritchett. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Lutt-Chmiel left the room at 1:05pm.

#### **5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS**

The Board returned to open session at 1:53pm. Lutt-Chmiel returned at 1:54pm.

**MOTION:** Pritchett moved, seconded by Johnson, to table the application of Stacy Beckman pending further information. Voting aye: Johnson, Pritchett, Ellison, and Granger. Voting nay: None. Voting to Abstain: Lutt-Chmiel. Motion carried.

#### **6. IHS PRACTICAL EXAM**

Sierra Sharpe, Director of Professional Development for the International Hearing Society, presented information regarding the new IHS practical examination, which was recently developed to modernize both the content and format. The updated exam has six sections which are based on entry level best practices and industry standards. The cost to the State is \$200.00 per test kit which includes a rubber ear for mold impressions. A score of 74.5% or higher is required to pass. A guide for proctors is also included with exam materials.

#### **7. UPDATE ON THE NEW LICENSURE DATABASE**

Covert-ByBee advised that the Licensure Unit completed the first leg of the project, requirements gathering. This means the team sorted through 1500 rows of data; examined 2713 codes across 50 worksheets; analyzed 120 reports; reviewed 2,430 templates. This was a tremendous amount of work. The project is on track to be completed on time.

#### **8. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT**

The Application Processing Report (APR) was provided for informational purposes only.

#### **9. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Topics identified for the next meeting include Application Processing Report, Election of Officers, Per Diem, Notice of Meeting Publication, Conviction Review Guidelines, IHS Practical Examination, and Public Comment. Meetings were scheduled for February 24, June 28, and November 15, 2024.

#### **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were made.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists via mail ballot on 10.24.2023.*

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Misti Lutt-Chmiel, Secretary