

Minutes of the November 18, 2022 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 1:06 p.m. on Friday, November 18, 2022, in the Third Floor Conference Room, 3H, 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 November 9, 2022.

Granger announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

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

Members Absent:

Dr. Aaron Robinson, Vice-Chairperson

Others Present:

Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Attorney
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Amy Blinston, Health Licensing Coordinator

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballot approving the July 15, 2022, meeting minutes on August 3, 2022. Board members Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Robinson, and Pritchett voted to approve.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

There were no items to discuss in closed session. The Board did not make any recommendations.

5. UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE BILLS

Covert-ByBee indicated there are no legislative updates.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists via mail ballot on 12.8.22.

6. LICENSURE AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-05

Covert-ByBee advised with the issuance of EO 22-05, the Executive Orders to address healthcare workforce shortages are extended through December 31, 2022.

7. UPDATE ON THE NEW LICENSURE DATABASE- LANCE

Covert-ByBee advised that the Department is looking at other options for a new database as the LANCE project was discontinued.

8. SWITCHING TO HIS PRACTICAL EXAMINATION DISCUSSION

The Board discussed that the International Hearing Society (IHS) Practical Exam is very similar to what Nebraska developed. IHS does not provide proctors, nor do they contract with any agencies to provide that service. The Board is interested in finding out how many jurisdictions are using the IHS Practical Exam as it may provide more consistency across the country. Granger will obtain additional information from IHS. Covert-ByBee added that switching to the HIS Practical Exam would require opening the regulations for HIS. Other items to be considered include the cost of the exam in comparison to licensure fees.

9. ASLP COMPACT

Covert-ByBee provided documentation regarding the ASLP Compact for the Board's information. The compact is still in the beginning stages as rules and bylaws are being developed. Covert-ByBee indicated the Board is welcome to participate in the open meetings for the compact. Additional information may be found at ASLPCompact.Org.

10. OTC HEARING AIDS/FDA FINAL RULE

The Board briefly discussed the new regulations allowing for over-the-counter hearing aids. There had been a concern in some jurisdictions that the FDA would tighten restrictions for prescription hearing aids. This is not a concern at this time in Nebraska.

11. SET MEETING AND EXAM DATES FOR 2023

Board meetings were scheduled for February 24, June 30, and October 13, 2023. Locations to be determined.

12. APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Blinston presented the Licensure Application Processing Report. This was for informational purposes only.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists via mail ballot on 12.8.22.

13. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Suggested topics for next meeting include Legislative Update, Executive Orders (if any), Licensure Database Update (if any), IHS Practical Exam, and Application Processing Report.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Misti Lutt-Chmiel, Secretary