

**Minutes of the February 9, 2022  
Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Video Conference  
Meeting**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Dr. Rhonda Dick, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to order at 1:03p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 in Conference Room 5C 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 January 28, 2022.

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

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

Dr. Rhonda Dick, Chairperson  
Dr. Michelle Leenerts, Vice-Chairperson  
Katie Brennan, Member  
Robert Thornhill, Member

**Members Absent:**

Kathryn Anderson, Secretary

**Staff Present:**

Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Attorney  
Milissa Johnson-Wiles, Assistant Attorney General  
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager  
Siaw Hwa Tey, Health Licensing Coordinator

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Brennan moved, seconded by Dick to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill. Absent: Anderson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

**3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT**

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballot approving the November 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes. All board members voted to approve the minutes as written via mail ballot on December 16, 2021. Voting to approve: Anderson, Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill.

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

**MOTION:** Thornhill moved, seconded by Brennan to move into closed session at 1:07p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals

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named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill. Absent: Anderson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

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

The Board returned to open session at 1:25p.m.

**MOTION:** Brennan moved, seconded by Leenerts to recommend denial of Mackenzy Schreck's application for an ASLP Assistant registration based upon coursework presented does not meet the equivalency of a bachelor's or associates degree in Communication Disorders as outlined in 172 NAC 24. Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill. Absent: Anderson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

## **6. LEGISLATION AND BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

Covert-ByBee stated that it is the second legislative session of the biennium term, and it is a short session. She shared several bills that directly affected this Board. LB 709 would change requirements relating to preliminary applications under the Occupational Board Reform Act. It requires any board that issue occupational credentials to allow individuals who have a criminal history to preliminarily apply to the Board to determine if their criminal history would disqualify them from getting a license. LB 742, 743, and 908 would affect the Open Meetings Act and all Boards across the Licensure Unit where it allows minutes to be kept in an electronic record, changes provisions relating to when closed sessions may be held, and provides additional requirements for virtual conferencing.

Covert-ByBee relayed that LB 753 would require health care practitioners who utilize stem cell therapy to provide notification to patients. LB 824 would include bathing as an Activity of Daily Living (ADL) for health care credentialing provisions in which this new ADL language brings into line with Federal's definition. LB885 would mandate annual implicit bias training for a majority of applicants and credential holders under the Uniform Credentialing Act, including Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists. LB 963 is the adoption of Medical Ethics and Diversity Act. It would allow health care providers to not be discriminated, punished, or retaliated as a result of any instance of conscientious medical objection.

LB901 has to do with cytomegalovirus public education and prevention. This bill was brought before the Board as a topic for discussion, and it had its hearing on January 19, 2022. Dr. Rhonda Dick suggested to write a letter of support to mandate education on prevention during pregnancy regarding congenital cytomegalovirus.

**MOTION:** Leenerts moved, seconded by Dick to have Dick represent the Board in a communication in support of LB 901. Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill. Absent: Anderson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

## **7. LICENSURE AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

Covert-ByBee explained that Governor Ricketts declared a healthcare workforce shortage emergency in August last year and issued Executive Order 21-12, and subsequently EO 21-15.

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Both of these Executive Orders were originally set to expire on December 31, 2021. However, as it became evident that the workforce shortage would still be in effect past December 31, 2021, the Governor issued EO 21-18 which extended the provisions of EO 21-12 and 21-15 through March 31, 2022.

## **8. UPDATE ON LANCE**

LANCE is the new database that the Department is developing in conjunction with a contractor. Covert-ByBee mentioned that LANCE was initially set to go live in December, 2021, but many areas still needed fine-tuning, so the go-live date has been pushed back to April 4, 2022. LANCE will allow licensees to have more access of the information they need and it enables them to process everything online, including making a profile, completing their applications, making electronic payment, and printing off their licenses at a click of a button.

## **9. ASLP COMPACT COMMISSION**

Covert-ByBee stated that the first ASLP Compact Commission meeting was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021. She provided all of the meeting documentation to the Board, and the Department created a link for the Compact on the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology's profession website. Covert-ByBee also announced she was elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the ASLP Compact Commission Executive Committee.

## **10. CONVICTION REVIEW GUIDELINES**

All Board are required to review the conviction guidelines annually to stay aligned with the Department regarding application that should be reviewed by the Board.

**MOTION:** Leenerts moved, seconded by Thornhill to keep the conviction review guidelines as currently written. Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill. Absent: Anderson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

## **11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**MOTION:** After discussion, Thornhill moved, seconded by Brennan to elect same slate of officers that the Board had from last year, Dick as Chairperson, Leenerts as Vice-Chairperson, Anderson as Secretary, and Brennan as Investigative Consultant. Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill. Absent: Anderson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

## **12. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION**

The Board is required to inform the public each year of the method by which it will provide notice of meetings. In the past, the Board has elected to post meeting agendas at the Nebraska State Office Building, email the agenda to the interested parties list, and post agendas on the Department's website.

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**MOTION:** Leenerts moved, seconded by Dick to continue with the current notification process. Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill. Absent: Anderson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

### **13. PER DIEM DISCUSSION**

The department is required to review Per Diem procedures for all occupational boards annually. Currently, this Board receives Per Diem for Board meeting days, travel days if not the same day as Board meetings, and when representing the Board in an official capacity at the maximum rate of per diem allowed by Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-171, which is \$50.00 at the moment.

**MOTION:** Brennan moved, seconded by Leenerts to maintain the same per diem guidelines for 2021. Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill. Absent: Anderson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

### **14. APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT**

Covert-ByBee presented the Licensure Application Processing Report. This was for informational purposes only.

### **15. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Suggested topics for next meeting include Legislative Update, Update on LANCE, Licensure and Executive Order, ASLP Compact Commission, Letter of Support of LB901, and Application Processing Report.

### **16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Anderson, Secretary