

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

February 8, 2019

The meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists was called to order by the Vice-Chair, Misti Lutt-Chmiel, at 1:02 p.m. in Lower Level Conference Room B, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was duly publicized by distribution of the Notice of Meeting and Agenda at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and posting the agenda at the entrance of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Lutt-Chmiel announced that it was a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law was posted.

**The following members answered roll call:**

Kelly Pritchett, member  
Edward Granger, member  
Misti Lutt-Chmiel, Vice-Chair  
Aaron Robinson, member  
Michael Pierce, member

**Members Absent:**

Sandra Miller, Secretary

**Others Present:**

Ami Huff, Assistant Attorney General  
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager, Licensure Unit  
Antonio Carranza, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit

A quorum was present and the meeting convened.

The Board welcomed new Board Member Kelly Pritchett and exchanged introductions.

Pierce moved, seconded by Robinson, to adopt the agenda. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Pierce, Pritchett, Robinson (5). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Miller (1). Motion carried.

Granger moved, seconded by Lutt-Chmiel, to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2018 Board Meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Pierce, Pritchett, Robinson (5). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Miller (1). Motion carried.

There were no items to discuss in closed session.

There were no recommendations

The Board reaffirmed the Mail Ballot regarding the approval of Roxann Ellison's continuing education partial waiver. Miller, Pierce, Pritchett and Robinson voted to approve the waiver. Granger voted to defer to discuss at the meeting and Lutt-Chmiel voted to deny. Roxann Ellison's waiver was approved with four votes.

Lutt-Chmiel and Granger volunteered to administer the HIS Practical Exam on June 14, 2019. Lutt-Chmiel, Granger and Pritchett volunteered to administer the HIS Practical Exam on October 11, 2019.

Covert-ByBee provided information on LB 15, also known as the "Children's Hearing Aid of Nebraska Act." Pritchett advised the hearing is set for March 4, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. The Board discussed the bill which requests that private insurance cover costs of hearing aids for children up to the age of 19. The bill as currently written mentions hearing aids purchased from licensed audiologists but there's no mention of hearing instrument specialists in the bill. Robinson moved, seconded by Pierce for Lutt-Chmiel to represent the Board in opposition of LB 15 to clarify the role of Hearing Instrument Specialists and include them in LB 15. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Pierce, Pritchett, Robinson (5). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Miller (1). Motion carried.

Covert-ByBee advised that Hearing Instrument Specialists regulations have not been updated since 2004. She continued that there had been direction that all regulations be promulgated in the previously reported Executive Order format by the end of summer 2019. The Department is currently in the process of submitting regulations to be implemented. Covert-ByBee requested that the Board focus on a few items including how the Practical Exam is administered, updating the Continuing Education requirements to account for updated technology options, guidelines for supervision, and update unprofessional conduct regulations. Huff provided guidance on the unprofessional conduct update. The Board decided to do more individual review and schedule another meeting to discuss and finalize regulation language.

After discussion, Pierce moved, seconded by Pritchett, to name Lutt-Chmiel as Chairperson, Miller as Vice-Chairperson, Robinson as Secretary and Granger as Investigative Consultant. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Pierce, Pritchett, Robinson (5). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Miller (1). Motion carried.

The Board is required to inform the public each year the method by which it will provide notice of meetings. In the past, the Board has chosen to post meeting agendas at the Nebraska State Office Building, to email agendas to the interested parties list, and to post agendas on the Department's website. Robinson moved, seconded by Granger to continue with the current notification process. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Pierce, Pritchett, Robinson (5). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Miller (1). Motion carried.

The board scheduled a next meeting for April 5, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. The topic for the next meeting will be Regulations.

There being no other business, Lutt-Chmiel declared the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sandra Miller, Secretary  
Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists

Summarized by Antonio Carranza, Health Licensing Coordinator