

These minutes were approved by the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists on June 8, 2018.

Minutes of the February 9, 2018 Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists Meeting

Ms. Lutt-Chmiel called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 1:05 p.m. in the Lower Level A Conference Room, 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.

Ms. Lutt-Chmiel announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

The following Board members and Department staff were present at the meeting: Ed Granger; Misti Lutt-Chmiel; Dr. Sandra Miller; Michael Pierce; Dr. Aaron Robinson; Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager; Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing Coordinator; and Ami Huff, Assistant Attorney General. Dr. Marc Brennan was not present at the meeting.

Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Granger to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, and Pierce. Voting nay: None. Absent: Brennan and Robinson. Motion carried.

Mr. Granger moved, seconded by Dr. Miller to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2017 meeting. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Brennan. Motion carried.

Mr. Granger moved, seconded by Dr. Miller to go into closed session at 1:08 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Brennan. Motion carried.

Mr. Pierce moved, seconded by Dr. Miller to return to open session at 1:32 p.m. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Brennan. Motion carried.

After discussion, Mr. Pierce moved, seconded by Dr. Miller that it is the opinion of the Board of Hearing Instruments Specialists that a license is not required of an individual to clean and replace existing parts of a hearing instrument with equivalent parts so long as it does not alter the function or acoustics of the hearing instrument. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Brennan. Motion carried.

After discussion, Dr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Pierce to name Dr. Marc Brennan as Chairperson, Misti Lutt-Chmiel as Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Sandra Miller as Secretary and Investigative Consultant. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Brennan. Motion carried.

Officer signatures remain the same.

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. After discussion, Dr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Pierce to continue with the current

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notification process. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Brennan. Motion carried.

Ms. Covert-ByBee shared information about the Licensee Assistance Program (LAP). It is a program that is available to all licensees who may be experiencing issues with alcohol or substance use. It is a free service for licensed individuals who wish to seek help with those issues. Best Care EAP is currently the company that is contracted to provide those services. It is important to note that if a licensee is practicing under the influence, counselors are subject to mandatory reporting laws. A quarterly report is provided to the Licensure Unit showing the number of licensed individuals by profession that have sought assistance. Going forward, those reports will be forwarded to the Board for informational purposes.

Ms. Covert-ByBee provided information to the Board regarding proposed legislation currently being considered by the Nebraska Unicameral.

After discussion, Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Pierce to allow the Department to make licensure decisions on applications for temporary licensure based on military spouses in the same way that is currently done with other applications. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Brennan. Motion carried.

The Board was provided a copy of the Application Processing Report for informational purposes only.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sandra Miller, Secretary