

**Minutes of the February 28, 2020
Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists Meeting**

1. ROLL CALL

Misti Lutt-Chmiel, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order at 1:06 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020 in the First Floor Licensure Unit Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 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 this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Misti Lutt-Chmiel, Chairperson
Dr. Sandra Miller, Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Aaron Robinson, Secretary
Ed Granger, Member
Mick Pierce, Member
Dr. Kelly Pritchett, Member

Others Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Antonio Carranza, Health Licensing Coordinator

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 8, 2019 MINUTES

MOTION: Robinson moved, seconded by Granger to approve the November 8, 2019 minutes as presented. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, Pritchett and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Granger moved, seconded by Pierce to go into closed session at 1:09 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, Pritchett and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS – OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 1:43 p.m.

MOTION: Pritchett moved, seconded by Lutt-Chmiel to approve the Practical Exam administered for licensure in the State of Texas as an acceptable equivalent to the Nebraska Practical Exam. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, Pritchett and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

6. 172 NAC 75 PROMULGATION UPDATE

Covert-ByBee stated the regulations have been sent to the Attorney General's office for review. If they are approved by the Attorney General's office they will be sent to the Governor's office for approval and if approved will be sent to the Secretary of State for filing.

7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Covert-ByBee started with LB 753 which was introduced to establish an Interstate Compact for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists. The compact would allow for licensees from Nebraska to work in other states more easily and vice versa. She stated that there are a few professions that already have a compact including Nursing and Physical Therapy. No other states have passed the legislation yet and there currently has not been much movement.

LB 1167 addresses open meetings and would mandate that every meeting subject to the Open Meetings Law would be required to provide a time for public comment. LB 1187 is related to the Occupational Board Reform Act focusing on creating reciprocity for individuals working in other states.

8. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Carranza presented an application processing report, this was for informational purposes only.

9. PER DIEM DISCUSSION

Covert-ByBee stated the Department has been reaching out to each Board to determine how they'd like to be compensated for per diem. The Uniform Credentialing Act, specifically section 38-171, provides that "each member of a board shall receive a per diem... for each day actually engaged in the discharge of his or her duties." The maximum per diem amount is \$50, however, it can be provided for more than just the day of the meeting. The Department has the authority to provide per diem to Board members for attending a board meeting in person or conference call, any extra days traveling for board meetings, days spent preparing for any board meeting or other function where the member would be representing the board and days spent attending any conference, hearing etc. where the member is representing the Board.

The Board discussed many factors including recruiting and retention purposes, the fact most Board members are sacrificing income to attend the meetings and other activities on behalf of the Board and consistency with other boards.

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

MOTION: Pierce moved, seconded by Pritchett to provide a per diem for travel days, a day of preparation, the day of Board meetings and days spent representing the Board in an official capacity at conferences, hearings and other functions. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, Pritchett and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: After discussion, Pritchett moved, seconded by Miller to name Lutt-Chmiel as Chairperson, Miller as Vice-Chairperson, Robinson as Secretary and Miller as Investigative Consultant. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, Pritchett and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

11. 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, to email the agenda to the interested parties list, and to post agendas on the Department's website. The Department would like to continue with these methods.

MOTION: Miller moved, seconded by Robinson to continue with the current notification process. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller, Pierce, Pritchett and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

12. MAIL BALLOT APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Carranza stated that in an effort to continue to improve communication with stakeholders and provide information to the public as quickly as possible the Department is changing the approval of meeting minutes to a mail ballot approval process. Once the minutes are prepared by the Department, they will be emailed to the Board members to approve via mail ballot and posted to the website as soon as they are approved. If there are corrections to be made, the Board can defer to discuss at the next meeting and approve an amended version at that time.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

14. VOLUNTEERS TO ADMINISTER PRACTICAL EXAMS FOR JUNE AND OCTOBER MEETINGS

Pritchett volunteered to administer practical exams in June with Lutt-Chmiel and Granger as alternates. Miller volunteered to administer practical exams in October with Lutt-Chmiel and Granger as alternates.

15. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Suggested topics for the next meeting include the International Hearing Society Practical Exam and Nebraska Practical Exam, legislative update and regulation update.

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16. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Aaron Robinson, Secretary