

These minutes were approved by the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists on September 11, 2019.

Minutes of the April 5, 2019
Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists Meeting

Dr. Sandra Miller, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order on Friday, April 5th, 2019 at 1:03 p.m. in the Lower Level B 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.

Miller 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. Kelly Pritchett; Dr. Aaron Robinson; Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager; Antonio Carranza, Health Licensing Coordinator; and Ami Huff, Assistant Attorney General. Lutt-Chmiel and Pritchett arrived after the meeting started.

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

Robinson moved, seconded by Granger to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2019 meeting. Voting aye: Granger, Pierce and Robinson. Voting nay: None. Absent: Lutt-Chmiel and Pritchett. Motion carried. Abstaining: Miller.

Covert-ByBee started the discussion on regulation review and revision. She stated in 2017 the department reviewed all regulations and created a report illustrating how they could be less restrictive. This included removing duplicative language and creating 172 NAC 10, a chapter of regulations that applies to all professions under the Uniform Credentialing Act. It also included removing duplicative language that is in the Hearing Instrument Specialists Practice Act. Additionally it was requested that any regulations that are considered overly burdensome be removed as well. The department has now been tasked with implementing those changes. Covert-ByBee advises the main focuses for the Board should be initial licensure, continuing education requirements and unprofessional conduct. She added that the main focus should be on the concepts rather than specific wording as it will be reviewed and revised by Department legal after it is submitted.

(Lutt-Chmiel arrived at 1:12 p.m. Pritchett arrived at 1:19 p.m.)

The Board started with the definitions. They removed "Modified Nedelsky Method" and "Verified" and edited "Licensure Examination" to reflect the updated name of the organization. Covert-ByBee suggested adding a definition for "Supervisors" as "Supervision" is defined but "Supervisors" is not. The Board recommended "Supervisor – an individual that holds an active, non-disciplined license as an audiologist or hearing instrument specialist in Nebraska."

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The Board continued with Initial Licensure. The Board recommended replacing licensure examination to reflect passing both the written exam and the practical exam. They also recommended under Examination Eligibility to make clear that an applicant must pass the written exam before they will be eligible to take the practical exam.

The Board discussed Standards for Supervision for Temporary Licensees. The Board recommended that instead of requiring a supervisor to meet with a temporary license holder twice a month, the supervisor should be required to spend at least 80 hours supervising the temporary licensee during the 90 day period. Those hours can be distributed however the supervisor and temporary licensee prefer during the first 90 days of the initial training session.

The Board continued with Continuing Education. The Board recommended that webinars be considered formal education courses and have no limitation set on how many hours a licensee can be credited for. The Board also recommended adding supervision as a way for a licensee to get continuing education credit. They suggested 1 hour of continuing education credit for every 10 hour of supervision with a limit of 12 continuing education hours per 24 months from supervision.

Huff started the discussion on unprofessional conduct. Huff and the Board recommended removing all language that was repeated elsewhere regarding unprofessional conduct.

Covert-ByBee and Lutt-Chmiel gave a brief recap of the legislation affecting Hearing Instrument Specialists.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Aaron Robinson, Secretary