

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS
CONFERENCE CALL
FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Brennan called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, at 12:10 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Learning Center, 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.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENT

Sam White the former chairperson was not reappointed to the HIS Board and Dr. Miller, Vice-Chair was not available. Mark Brennan, Board Secretary, called the meeting to order and announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

ROLL CALL

The following HIS Board members and staff were present:

Mark Brennan, Professional Member
Michael Pierce, Public Member
Rene Tiedt, Program Manager
Ed Granger, Professional Member
Misti Lutt-Chimel, Professional Member

Britt Thedinger, Professional Member
Ed Vierk, Assistant Attorney General
Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing
Coordinator
Jeff Newman, Investigator

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Pierce moved, seconded by Dr. Thedinger to approve the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Brennan, Granger, Lutt-Chimel, Pierce and Thedinger. Voting nay: None Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Thedinger moved, seconded by Mr. Pierce to approve the October 3, 2014 meeting minutes. Voting aye: Brennan, Granger, Lutt-Chimel, Pierce and Thedinger. Voting nay: None Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Pierce moved, seconded by Dr. Thedinger to move into closed session at 12:15 p.m. for the purposes of discussing matters involving investigations. Voting aye: Brennan, Granger, Lutt-Chimel, Pierce and Thedinger. Voting nay: None Motion carried.

Dr. Miller joined the meeting at 12:30.p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Mr. Pierce moved, seconded by Dr. Thedinger to move into open session at 12:45 p.m. Voting aye: Brennan, Granger, Lutt-Chimel, Miller, Pierce and Thedinger. Voting nay: None Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Tiedt informed the Board that the Nebraska Board of Health approved the Hearing Instrument Specialist Regulations – 172 NAC 75. One minor clarification was added under 75-006, Licensure Examination. A number 3 was added that reads, “Successfully complete and pass the International Licensing Exam for Hearing Healthcare Professionals”. The Department believes that applicants who complete the computer based written examination first, will have greater success with the Nebraska Practical Examination. Mr. Pierce moved, seconded by Mr. Granger to approve the 172 NAC 75 with the noted addition. Voting aye: Brennan, Granger, Lutt-Chimel, Miller, Pierce and Thedinger. Voting nay: None Motion carried.

Lutt-Chimel provided the Board with a brief overview of the issues discussed at the 63rd annual International Hearing Society (IHS) conference. A written overview document was distributed at the board’s last meeting. Ms. Tiedt advised the board that the next International Hearing Society meeting will be September 10-12, 2015 in Orlando, Florida. Board members were asked to review their schedules and consider designating at least one member to attend.

Mr. Granger moved, seconded by Dr. Miller to accept the proposed slate of officers for 2015: Mark Brennan as Chairperson, Misti Lutt-Chimel for Vice Chair and Sandra Miller for Secretary. Voting aye: Brennan, Granger, Lutt-Chimel, Miller, Pierce and Thedinger Voting nay: None Motion carried.

Mr. Tiedt presented the Application Processing Report for information only. In addition, she stated that there were no mail ballots since the last meeting; this was listed on the agenda in error.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the June 19, 2015 practical examination and meeting will be rescheduled. Mr. Tiedt will notify the Board of the new date.

Mr. Tiedt provided a brief recap of the decisions made by the board during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*****signature available upon request*****

Sandra Miller, Secretary

Prepared by Rene’ Tiedt, Program Manager