

*These minutes were approved via mail ballot by the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists on February 22, 2021.*

## Minutes of the February 12, 2021 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 1:01 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2021 in the First Floor Licensure Unit Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on February 3, 2021.

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  
Ed Granger, Member  
Dr. Kelly Pritchett, Member

**Members Absent:**

Dr. Aaron Robinson, Secretary

**Others Present:**

Natalee Hart, Assistant Attorney General  
Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Attorney  
Carla Cue, Investigator  
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager  
Antonio Carranza, Health Licensing Coordinator

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

### **3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT**

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballot approving the October 16, 2020 meeting minutes on October 28, 2020. Board members Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller and Pierce voted to approve. Pritchett and Robinson abstained.

### **4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Granger moved, seconded by Miller to go into closed session at 1:05 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named

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or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller and Pritchett. Voting nay: None. Absent: Robinson. Motion carried.

## **5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS – OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to open session at 1:50 p.m. There were no recommendations.

## **6. REGULATION UPDATE**

Covert-ByBee stated all regulations for the Rehabilitation and Community Services section have been promulgated. Lutt-Chmiel asked about the approval process now for continuing education courses and programs. Covert-ByBee advised that the language in the regulations now does not require the Board or Department to pre-approve continuing education. The licensees are required to make sure each program or course is acceptable and the documentation provided by those activities meets the requirements.

## **7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Covert-ByBee shared updates on a few bills from this session of interest to the Board. LB 14 would adopt the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. She stated the hearing before the Health and Human Services Committee took place but there has been no other movement since the hearing. LB 390 would establish an alternative pathway to licensure via reciprocity. It has been amended since introduced but the amended language has not been updated on the website. LB 416 would add language to the Uniform Credentialing Act and would require anti-bias training related to post-partum and maternal health. She stated so far it has not been set for hearing.

## **8. COVID-19 AND LICENSURE**

Covert-ByBee reviewed Executive Orders 20-10 and 20-27 which relate to licensure and affect Hearing Instrument Specialists. Executive Order 20-27 was rescinded and Executive Order 20-37 was signed which keeps the same language as 20-27 but now has an expiration date of thirty days after the lifting of the public health emergency declaration.

## **9. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT**

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

## **10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**MOTION:** After discussion, Granger moved, seconded by Pritchett to elect Miller as Chairperson, Granger as Vice-Chairperson, Pritchett as Secretary and Lutt-Chmiel as investigative consultant. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Miller and Pritchett. Voting nay: None. Absent: Robinson. Motion carried.

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## **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, email the agenda to the interested parties list, and post agendas on the Department's website.

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

## **12. UPDATE ON NEW LICENSURE DATABASE**

Covert-ByBee stated that the Licensure Unit has started the process of implementing a new licensure database. The Department has contracted with Visual Vault to build the licensure database, which will be called LANCE (Licensing And Credentialing Environment). The projected start date for LANCE is September 2021. The database is designed to be all electronic so licensees will be able to create a profile, complete their application, pay any fees and submit supporting documentation all online allowing the Department to review all applications through the same system. The Department and Visual Vault have begun going through reviews of all the license types processed by the licensure unit and determining what the system needs to be able to accomplish

## **13. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Suggested topics for the next meeting include a legislative update, update on new licensure database and COVID-19 and licensure.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kelly Pritchett, Secretary