

## Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Virtual Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2026

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Michelle Leenerts, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to order at 1:02 p.m. on February 18, 2026, in the Goldenrod 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 Nebraska State Office Building East Vestibule on February 4, 2026.

Michelle Leenerts announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

**Members Present:** The following members answered roll call:

Michelle Leenerts, AuD, CCC-A (via Webex)  
Samantha Penas, MS, (via Webex)  
Noel Griffith, AuD. (via Webex)  
Melissa Bradley-Potter, MA, CCC-SLP (via Webex)

### **Staff Present:**

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager  
Kat Amyot, DHHS Attorney (via Webex)  
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator  
Jeanne Burke, Assistant Attorney General

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

**Motion:** Penas moved, seconded by Leenerts, to adopt the agenda.

Voting aye: Bradley-Potter, Griffith, Leenerts, and Penas. Voting Nay: none. Motion carried.

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

There was one mail ballot to vote on the minutes for the November 12, 2025, meeting. Voting to approve the November 12, 2025, meeting minutes: Dick, Leenerts, Heiden, and Penas. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Bradley-Potter. Minutes approved November 24, 2025.

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

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Audiology-Speech-Language Pathology on 3/9/2026*

**Motion:** Bradley-Potter moved, seconded by Penas to move into closed session at 1:03 pm to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Leenerts, Bradley-Potter, Griffith, and Penas. Voting nay, none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:37 pm.

## **5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS**

Motion made by Penas, seconded by Griffith for the recommendation by the board as follows: The Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology approves the education submitted by Mathugamage Modani Hiranthi Karunarathna and recommends the Department issue a Temporary Speech-Language Pathology license to her. Voting aye: Penas, Leenerts, Griffith, and Bradley-Potter. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

## **6. ASLP COMPACT UPDATE**

Covert-ByBee presented the newsletter to the board. The compact is now live. Nebraska is not active; there are still a few pieces that need to be completed. We do not have a time frame for when we will go live but it should be soon. Three states are active in the compact: Ohio, West Virginia, and Louisiana. You may visit the website at [ASLPCompact.com](http://ASLPCompact.com).

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Motion:** Penas moved and seconded by Bradley-Potter to elect the following slate of officers.

Chair: Michelle Leenerts  
Vice Chair: Samantha Penas  
Secretary: Noel Griffith  
Education Consultant: Melissa Bradley-Potter  
Investigation Consultant: Noel Griffith

Voting aye, Bradley-Potter, Leenerts, Griffith, and Penas. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

## **8. PER DIEM DISCUSSION**

**Motion:** Griffith moved, seconded by Penas to continue with the Per Diem amount of \$50 per day. Voting aye: Penas, Leenerts, Bradley-Potter, and Griffith. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

## **9. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION**

Penas moved, seconded by Griffith, that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Open Meetings Act, the notice of meetings of this Board be posted virtually on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Licensure Board Meeting Agenda page, posted physically on the Board Meeting Agenda billboard in the lobby of the Nebraska State Office Building, and disseminated to a list of stakeholders and interested parties. Voting aye: Penas, Leenerts, Bradley-Potter, and Griffith. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Audiology-Speech-Language Pathology on 3/9/2026*

#### **10. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

There are no bills that directly impact Audiology Speech-Language Pathology at this time.

#### **11. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT**

This report is prepared for informational purposes to give the Board a snapshot of licensure activity.

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

Topics for next meeting scheduled for May 13, 2026, will include Legislative Update, ASLP Compact Update, Application Processing Report, and Public Comment. The meeting will be an in person meeting for all Board members.

#### **14. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was not any public comment.

#### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.

Respectfully signed,

Noel Griffith, Secretary  
(signature on file)