

Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Virtual Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2025

1. ROLL CALL

Dr. Rhonda Dick, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to order at 1:02 p.m. on February 26, 2025, 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 11, 2015.

Dr. Rhonda Dick announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Dr. Rhonda Dick, AuD, CCC-A Chairperson (via Webex)
Dr. Michelle Leenerts, AuD, CCC-A (via Webex)
Katie Brennan, MS, CCC-SLP Member (via Webex)
Samantha Penas, MS, (via Webex)

Members Absent:

Linda Heiden

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Teresa Hampton, DHHS Attorney
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Board Coordinator
Jeannie Burke, Assistant Attorney General

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Penas. Voting Nay: none. Motion carried.

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

There was one mail ballot since the November 13, 2024, Board meeting. Voting to approve the November 13, 2024 meeting minutes: Dick, Leenerts, Penas, and Thornhill. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Brennan. Minutes approved November 26, 2025.

These minutes have been approved by the Board of Audiology-Speech-Language Pathology.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

Motion: Penas moved, seconded by Leenerts 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: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts and, Penas. Voting nay, none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:25 pm.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS

There were no recommendations from the Board.

6. ASLP COMPACT UPDATE

Covert-ByBee provided the first newsletter to the Board from the Audiology Speech-Language Pathology Compact. The compact has joined together with the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact and the Counseling Compact to become Joint Compact Commission. A copy of the newsletter is available in the public documents on the State of Nebraska website at DHHS.Nebraska.Gov.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion: Leenerts moved and seconded by Penas to elect the following slate of officers.

Chair: Dr Michelle Leenerts
Vice Chair: Dr. Rhonda Dick
Secretary: Samantha Penas
Education Consultant: Katie Brennan
Investigation Consultant: Katie Brennan

Voting aye, Brennan, Leenerts, Dick, and Penas. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

8. PER DIEM DISCUSSION

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

9. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION

Penas moved, seconded Leenerts, 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, Brennan, and Dick. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

These minutes have been approved by the Board of Audiology-Speech-Language Pathology.

10. UPDATE OF NEW LICENSURE DATABASE

Covert-ByBee informed the Board that the new system from Systems Automation called My License Office or MLO is now in operation. The Department is excited to be modernizing our license processing and database.

11. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LB 154 was introduced and is currently in the Health and Human Services Committee. This bill would change provisions for Hearing Instrument Specialist and affects Audiologists. The Department will keep the Board updated if there is any activity on this bill or if there is any other legislation that may be of interest to the Board.

12. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

This report is prepared for informational purposes to give the Board a snapshot of the licensing processing since the last meeting.

13. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Topics for next meeting scheduled for May 14, 2025 will include: Legislative Update, ASLP Compact Update and Fee discussion, Application Processing Report, Update on New Licensure Database, 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 1:34 pm.

Respectfully signed,

Samantha Penas, Secretary