

Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists

Virtual Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2026

1. Roll Call

Cameron Ellison, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order at 9:03 am on April 17, 2026, in the Otoe Conference Room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Pursuant to 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 April 8, 2026.

Ellison announced that this is an open meeting and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present

Cameron Ellison, HIS, COHC, Vice Chair (via Teams)
Tomeka Johnson, Secretary (left at 12:00 pm) (via Teams)
Dr. Nicole Kopetzky (via Teams)
Scott Jones, BC-HIS, CPD (via Teams)
Dr. Aaron Robinson (joined at 1:02 pm) (via Teams)

Staff Present

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator
Tyler Walvoord, DHHS Legal Attorney
Jeanne Burke, Assistant Attorney General

2. Adoption of Agenda

Kopetzky moved, Jones seconded to adopt the agenda with changes to the order of agenda items. Agenda item 9 will be after Agenda item 5. All other agenda items will remain in order. Voting aye: Jones, Kopetzky, Ellison, Johnson. Voting nay: none. Absent: Robinson. Motion carried.

3. Reaffirmation of Mail Ballot

The meeting minutes November 21, 2025, were approved by mail ballot December 15, 2025. Voting to approve the minutes as written: Jones, Ellison, Johnson, and Robinson. Abstain: Kopetzky.

4. Closed Session

Jones moved, seconded by Kopetzky, to move into closed session at 9:07 am to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Jones, Kopetzky, Ellison, Johnson. Voting nay: none. Absent: Robinson. Motion carried.

Board returned to open session at 9:36.

5. Board Recommendations

Kopetzky moved, Jones seconded the motion in the matter of the application of Zachary Schnegg the Board recommends to approve the application based on equivocal standards and reciprocity in other states.

Voting to approve, Kopetzky, Jones, Johnson, and Ellison. Voting nay: none. Absent: Robinson. Motion carried.

9. Regulation Revision

a. Cerumen Removal Course Requirements

b. Define Initial Licensure Requirements

(equivalent of a 2-year degree in hearing instrument sciences, define advanced credentials from HIS, outline foreign-trained requirements, define substantially equivalent licensure examination)

The Board discussed these matters, and a vote will be taken once a final draft of the regulations have been drafted.

A break was held for lunch from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm.

Dr Aaron Johnson joined the meeting at 1:02 pm.

6. Voting for Officers

Kopetzky moved, seconded by Robinson, to elect the following slate of officers and consultants to a one-year term pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-169 and Department request: Cameron Ellison, Chair; Scott Jones, Vice Chair; Tomeka Johnson, Secretary; Dr. Nicole Kopetzky, Educational Consultant; Dr. Nicole Kopetzky, Investigative Consultant. Voting aye: Jones, Kopetzky, Ellison, and Robinson. Voting nay: none. Absent: Johnson. Motion carried.

7. Per Diem

Jones moved, seconded by Kopetzky, that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-171, each member of the Board shall receive in 2026 a per diem of \$50.00 and that each Board meeting shall

include one day of preparation. Voting aye: Jones, Kopetzky, Ellison, and Robinson. Voting nay: none. Absent: Johnson. Motion carried.

8. Notice of Publication

Jones moved, seconded by Kopetzky, 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: Jones, Kopetzky, Ellison, and Robinson. Voting nay: none. Absent: Johnson. Motion carried.

11. Licensure Application Processing Report

The Application Processing Report is offered for informational purposes only. It is a snapshot of licensure activity.

12. Topics for Next Meeting

Regulation Revision, Application Processing Report, and Public Comments.

13. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
(signature on file)
Tomeka Johnson, Secretary