

Minutes of the May 8, 2024  
Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Meeting

**1. ROLL CALL**

Dr. Rhonda Dick, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to order at 1:03 p.m. on May 8, 2024, 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 Licensure Unit on April 23, 2024.

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 in person.

Dr. Rhonda Dick, AuD, CCC-A Chairperson  
Dr. Michelle Leenerts, AuD, CCC-A Vice-Chairperson  
Katie Brennan, MS, CCC-SLP Member  
Samantha Penas, MS, CCC-SLP Member

**Members Absent:**

Robert F. Thornhill, Public Member

**Staff Present:**

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager  
Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Attorney  
Jeanne Burke, Assistant Attorney General  
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Board Coordinator  
Jeff Newman DHHS Investigation Department

**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**

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballots:

Approval of the November 8, 2023, board meeting minutes on November 27, 2023. Voting to approve: Anderson, Dick, Brennan, and Leenerts. Voting to abstain, Thornhill. Minutes were approved November 21, 2023.

Approval of the Letter of Opposition to LB 14 to expand the Scope of Practice of Hearing Instrument Specialists. Voting to approve the letter of opposition: Anderson, Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, and Thornhill. Letter of opposition was approved to submit on November 20, 2023.

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

Motion: Leenerts moved, seconded by Brennan, to move into closed session at 1:05 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Brennan, Penas, Leenerts, and Dick. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

**5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS**

The Board returned to open session at 1:50 p.m. No recommendations we made.

**6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Motion: Leenerts moved, seconded by Brennan to approve the following slate of officers for 2024. Voting Aye, Dick, Leeneerts, Penas. Voting Nay, None. Motion Carried.

Chair: Rhonda Dick

Vice-Chair: Michelle Leenerts

Secretary: Samantha Penas

Educational and Investigative Consultant: Katie Brennan

**7. PER DIEM**

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

**8. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION**

Motion: Moved by Leenerts, seconded by Penas to continue the Notice of Meeting Publication. with posting the physical agenda in the Nebraska State Office Building, posting a copy on the Department's website, and dissemination to a list of interested parties. Voting aye, Leenerts, Penas, Dick, and Brennan. Voting nay, none. Motion carried.

**9. ASLP COMPACT**

The Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Commission and all the subcommittees have been busy working towards operationalization of the Compact. The Audiology Speech-Language Pathology Compact has joined efforts with the Occupational Therapy Interstate Licensure Compact and the Professional Licensed Counselors Interstate Compact to request proposals for a database to be used in data sharing for compact purposes. There is not a set date for the database to be in place at this time. More information can be found at [aslpcompact.com](http://aslpcompact.com)

**10. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Covert-Bybee informed the board that LB 1417 and LB 430 were indefinitely postponed. She also informed the board of passage of LB 16, which will impact the ability to deny a license based on criminal conviction history. The Department is continuing to develop guidance on this bill, and she will keep the board updated.

**11. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT**

The application processing report was prepared for informational purposes only.

*These minutes have been approved by the  
Board of Audiology-Speech-Language Pathology  
on May 20, 2024*

**12. UPDATE ON NEW LICENSURE DATABASE**

The Department continues to work with the vendor on the new database and it is expected to be in operation in late 2024 or early 2025.

**13. TOPICS FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The following topics were identified for the next board meeting to be held November 13, 2024: Legislative Update, Licensure Database Update, Audiology Speech-Language Pathology Compact Update, and Application Processing Report.

**12 PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.