

Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Virtual Meeting Minutes for May 13, 2026

1. ROLL CALL

Michelle Leenerts, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to order at 1:17 p.m. on May 13, 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 April 29, 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
Samantha Penas, MS, CCC-SLP
Noel Griffith, AuD
Melissa Bradley-Potter, MA, CCC-SLP (Webex)

Staff Present:

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Griffith moved, seconded by Penas, 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 for the February 18, 23026, meeting. Voting to approve February 18, 2026, meeting minutes: Leenerts, Brasley-Potter, Griffith, and Penas. Voting nay: none. Minutes approved March 9, 2026.

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 Griffith to move into closed session at 1:19 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 2:18 pm.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS

In the matter of the application for reinstatement of Abbie Zoucha's Speech-Language Pathology Assistant license the Board recommends reinstatement of Abbie Zoucha's license with censure under the grounds for failure to maintain the requirements necessary to obtain a credential. Penas moved, Griffith seconded. Voting aye: Griffith, Penas, Bradley-Potter, Leenerts. Voting nay: none. Motion passed.

6. ASLP COMPACT UPDATE

The Compact is live. Three member states are active with more states almost ready to go live, including Nebraska.

There are proposed Rules that are open to public comments. Those Proposed Rules are on the DHHS Website on the Audiology Speech-Language Pathology webpage at [Audiology and Speech Language Pathology](#) or it can also be accessed at the Compact website at <https://aslpcompact.com>.

There will be a Compact Commission Special Meeting on June 29, 2026.

7. 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 August 12, 2026, at 1:30 pm will include ASLP Compact Update, Hearing Instrument Specialists Regulations, Application Processing Report, and Public Comment. The meeting will be an in-person meeting for all Board members.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were not any public comments.

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

15. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm.

Respectfully signed,

Noel Griffith, Secretary
(signature on file)