

Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists Meeting Minutes June 27, 2025

1. Roll Call

Cameron Ellison, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order at 1:10 p.m. on June 27, 2025, in the Goldenrod 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 June 13, 2025.

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

Members Present

Cameron Ellison, HIS, COHC, Chair
Scott Jones, BC-HIS, CPD Vice-Chair
Tomeka Johnson, Secretary
Dr. Nicole Kopetzky

Members Absent

Dr. Aaron Robinson

Staff Present

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Board Coordinator
Ellie Rohr, DHHS Legal

2. Adoption of Agenda

Kopetzky moved, seconded by Jones, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Jones, Kopetzky, Ellison, Johnson. Voting nay: none. Absent: Robinson. Motion carried.

3. Reaffirmation of Mail Ballot

The meeting minutes of February 21, 2025, were approved February 25, 2025. Voting to approve the minutes as written: Johnson, Kopetzky, Robinson, and Jones. Voting nay: none.

4. Closed Session

Kopetzky moved, seconded by Johnson, to move into closed session at 1:15 p.m. 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 1:27 p.m.

5. Board Recommendations

No recommendations were made.

6. Legislative Update

Covert-ByBee reported that LB 332 passed and will go into effect September 3, 2025. The bill will impact the practice of Hearing Instrument Specialist. More discussion was held in agenda item 7.

7. LB 332 Implementation Planning

LB 332 was passed and will go into effect September 3, 2025. This bill will require that the Chapter of Regulations to be opened and changes made to the regulations to meet the requirements of the bill before practitioners will be allowed to perform those duties.

The Board has been tasked with gathering information about two of the requirements that will need to be addressed. Those are cerumen removal and creation of a jurisprudence exam. This bill requires the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to consult with the Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology and the Medical Board of Health and Surgery during the process of changing the regulations.

The Board of Hearing Instrument Specialties will need to schedule additional meetings to discuss educational components, and those dates will be published in advance at the public website [Licensing Board Meeting Agendas & Minutes](#). The public is welcome to attend any scheduled Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists meetings and make comments during the Open Session of the meeting under the agenda item Public Comment. The public may also submit recommendations or comments to the Department of Health and Human Services at DHHS.Rehaboffice@Nebraska.Gov.

8. Update on New Licensure Database

Covert-ByBee reported that the new licensure database or MLO has gone into effect with a few small hiccups. The Department is planning more updates to our computer processes in the next few years.

9. Licensure Application Processing Report

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

13. Topic for Next Meeting

Topics identified for the next meeting include, Regulation Updates, Recommendations for courses to cerumen, Licensure database update, Public Comment, Presentation by the International Hearing Society for Practical Exams, and the Licensure Application Processing Report.

14. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomeka Johnson, Secretary