

Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology

Virtual Meeting Minutes of the July 16, 2025

1. ROLL CALL:

Dr Leenerts, called the virtual meeting of the Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology to order at 12:59 pm on July 16, 2025, in the Lower Level, Goldenrod Conference Room, of 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 emailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Nebraska State Office Building East Vestibule on July 1, 2025.

Dr Leenerts announced this is an Open Meeting and that the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present:

Dr. Michelle Leenerts, AuD, CCC-A Chair
Dr. Rhonda Dick, AuD, CCC-A Vice Chair
Samantha Penas, MS, Secretary
Katie Brennan, MS, CCC-SLP Member
Linda Heiden, Member

Staff Present:

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Board Coordinator
Jeanne Burke, AAG via Webex 1:15 pm
TJ O'Neill, via Webex 1:20 pm
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Legal Attorney

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion:

Dick moved and seconded by Brennan, to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Brennan, Dick, Leenerts, Heiden, and Penas. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

3. CLOSED SESSION:

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

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:34 pm.

4. BOARD RECOMENDATION

In the matter of reinstatement application for Paige Hitchens the Board recommends for the Department of Health and Human Services to issue the license.

Motion: Penas moved, and Leenerts seconded the motion. Voting aye: Leenerts, Heiden, Penas, Brennan, and Dick. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paige Hitchens, prhitchens@gmail.com "Thank you all so much."

The entire Board and all staff thanked Katie Brennan for her service to the Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology and wishes her well in her future endeavors.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 1:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Penas, MS, Secretary