

Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists Minutes for the September 5, 2025, Virtual Meeting

1. Roll Call

Cameron Ellison, Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order at 1:03 p.m. on September 5, 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 August 22, 2025.

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

Members Present

Cameron Ellison, HIS, COHC, Chair (via Webex)
Scott Jones, BC-HIS, CPD Vice-Chair (via Webex and phone)
Tomeka Johnson, Secretary (via Webex)
Dr. Nicole Kopetzky (via Webex)

Members Absent

Dr. Aaron Robinson

Staff Present

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator
Ellie Rohr, DHHS Legal (left the meeting at 2:46 pm)
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Legal (joined the meeting at 2:46 pm)
Jeanne Burke, AAG

Guests

Douglas Vander Broek, DC, State Board of Health Liaison dougvanderbroek@gmail.com
Sierra Sharpe, MBA, PMP ssharpe@ihsinfo.org Director of Professional Development,
International Hearing Society (IHS) (via Webex)

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. SharePoint Partners - Jen Wolf

This presentation will be held at a later date.

4. Closed Session

Purpose: To hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions.

The Board did not move into closed session.

5. Board Recommendations

There were no Board recommendations.

6. Sierra Sharpe- IHS Presentation

Sierra Sharpe from IHS presented information to the Board on the IHS practical exam process. IHS would provide the materials for the practical exam, training for the proctors, and ongoing development of the exam. There would be an additional fee for examinees. The Board requested additional information from the IHS.

7. Regulation Revision

The Board will be holding Regulation Review during the next year on the items that need to be addressed for the new statutes. All of the recommendations will be voted on when the Regulation Review is complete.

a. (8) Cerumen removal

The Board and Department staff are continuing the search for course work that will meet the new statute.

b. (9) Jurisprudence Examination

The Board requested that the Department develop an open book test and present it to the Board for their consideration.

c. (10) Minimum Qualifications for Licensure

The Board recommends that the number of minimum hours a Hearing Instrument Specialist Supervisor should meet with the Temporary Hearing Instrument Specialist will be 6 months with a minimum 20 hours per week for a total of 480 hours of practicum experience.

The Board recommends that each application for foreign trained Hearing Instrument Specialists application be reviewed by the Board.

11. Legislative Update

LB 660 passed and will require all State agencies to do a regulation review every five years and submit a report to the Clerk of the Legislature. The report shall indicate whether: the rule or regulation is essential to the health, safety, or welfare of the public; the costs of the rule or regulation outweigh the benefits; the agency has a process in place to measure the effectiveness of the rules and regulations; a less restrictive alternative has been considered, and the rule or regulation was promulgated as the result of a state statutory requirement, federal mandate, or a court decision.

12. Licensure Application Processing Report

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

13. Schedule meetings for 2026.

This item was tabled until the November 21, 2025, meeting.

14. Topics for Next Meeting

Topics identified for the next meeting include, Regulation Revision, Update on Practical Exam Information, Schedule Meetings for 2026, Public Comment, ASLP Scope of Practice, Continuing Education Requirements, and the Licensure Application Processing Report. The next meeting will be held November 21, 2025. The meeting will be in-person for Board members.

15. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature on file)

Tomeka Johnson, Secretary