

Minutes of the September 18, 2026 Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists Meeting

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Roll Call

Cameron Ellison, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order at 9:07 am on September 18, 2026, in the Morrill 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 September 2, 2026.

Ellison announced that this is an Open Meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Aaron Robinson, MD

Staff Present

Amy Blinston, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator
Tyler Walvoord, DHHS Legal Attorney
TJ O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General
Katherine Amyot, DHHS Legal Attorney left at 9:35 am
Ellie Rohr, DHHS Legal Attorney joined at 9:36 am

Members of the Public:

Marion Kuil, MarionKuil1979@gmail.com.
Stacy Beckman, Beckmanstacy@yahoo.com

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Review of the Meeting Minutes

A mail ballot was sent to Board members August 21, 2026, to review the minutes from meeting. Voting to approve Jones, Ellison, Johnson, Robinson, and Kopetzky. Voting nay: None. Minutes were approved September 9, 2026.

4. Closed Session

Kopetzky moved, seconded by Johnson, to move into closed session at 9:12 am 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. Motion carried.

5. Board Recommendations

Board returned to open session at 10:09 am.

Kopetzky moved, seconded by Jones to approve the plan of study for Stacy Beckman. Voting to approve: Jones, Johnson, Ellison, and Kopetzky.

Johnson moved, Jones seconded for that the Board approve the plan of study pursuant to the guidance previously provided to Marion Kuil. Voting to approve, Kopetzky, Jones, Johnson, and Ellison. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

6. Regulation Revision

Walvoord stated that at the last Board meeting the Board approved the draft regulations to move forward and are in internal processes by the DHHS Legal Department. When that is complete, they will move to the next step.

7. Topics for Next Meeting

Blinston informed the Board that an in-person meeting needs to be scheduled. The next meeting will be October 23, 2026, there will not be any exams on this day.

Ellison asked if there are any vacancies and if any interest has been expressed in joining the board. Jones agreed to send a letter to the Nebraska Hearing Society to ask someone to apply.

Kopetzky would like to discuss the practical exam and if the examiners can give feedback to the examinees.

Topics for the next meeting include the Application Processing Report, and Public Comments.

8. Public Comment

Marion Kuil spoke. I like the idea of giving feedback to applicants taking the practical exam, so they know what they did incorrectly and what they need to study.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(signature on file)

Tomeka Johnson, Secretary

DRAFT