

Minutes of the November 15, 2024 Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Chairperson, Ed Granger, called the meeting of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists to order at 1:08 p.m. on November 15, 2024, in the Goldenrod Conference Room, Lower-Level, 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 October 30, 2024.

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

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Ed Granger, Chairperson
Cameron Ellison HIS, COHC, Vice-Chair
Tomeka Johnson, Secretary
Dr. Nicole Kopetzky, Member

Members Absent:

Dr. Aaron Robinson, Member
Scott Jones, BC-HIS, CPD, Member

Others Present:

Teresa Hampton, DHHS Attorney
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Coordinator
T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General (via Webex)

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Ellison moved, seconded by Kopetzky to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Granger, Kopetzky, Johnson, and Ellison. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

Covert-ByBee stated that this is the opportunity for the Department to read into the minutes any votes that occurred by mail ballot in between regularly scheduled Board meetings.

The following mail ballot occurred:

1. Approval of the June 28, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Voting to approve: Granger, Johnson, Jones, Kopetzky, and Robinson. Minutes approved July 3, 2024.

4. CLOSED SESSION

Closed session was not held.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS

The Board did not have any recommendations.

6. NEW IHS TEST SCORES RELEASE UPDATE

The Department has entered into International Hearing Society test score system and has not encountered any issues. There have not been any comments in favor or against.

7. UPDATE ON NEW LICENSURE DATABASE

The Department is working with the contractor testing the new database to find any issues within the system. The database is expected to go live in early 2025.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There are no updates currently. The Department will keep the Board informed when the Legislature goes into session next year if there are any bills that may need to be addressed by the Board.

9. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

The Application Processing Report was provided for informational purposes only. It is a snapshot of licensure activities since the last Board meeting. It is the renewal season for all Hearing Instrument Licensees. Renewals can be done online at the website [License Renewals](#).

10. SCHEDULE MEETING DATES FOR 2025

The Board agreed to the following meeting dates for 2025; February 21, June 27, and November 21, 2025. Practical exams will be given in the morning of those Board meeting dates, if needed.

11. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

The following topics for the next board meeting are: Update on the New Licensure Database, Legislative Update, Per Diem, Notice of Publication, Election of Officers, ASLP Compact Update, Public Comment, and Application Processing Report.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

The entire Board and the Department thanked Ed Granger for his years of service to the Board. He is leaving the Board after 10 years of service.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomeka Johnson, Secretary