

Minutes of the February 24, 2023 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 1:10 p.m. on February 24, 2023, in the Fifth Floor Conference Room, 5G, 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 Licensure Unit on February 13, 2023.

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

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Misti Lutt-Chmiel, Secretary
Ed Granger, Chairperson
Cameron Ellison, Member
Dr. Kelly Pritchett, Member

Members Absent:

Dr. Aaron Robinson, Vice-Chairperson

Others Present:

Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Attorney
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Amy Blinston, Health Licensing Coordinator
T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General
Mark Meyerson, DHHS Investigations

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Pritchett moved, seconded by Lutt-Chmiel to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Ellison, and Pritchett. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballot approving the November 18, 2022, meeting minutes on December 8, 2022. Board members Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Robinson, Ellison, and Pritchett voted to approve.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Lutt-Chmiel moved, seconded by Pritchett, to move into closed session at 1:13p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Ellison, and Pritchett. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS

The Board returned to open session at 1:37p.m. No recommendations were made.

6. HIS PRACTICAL EXAM

The Board tabled this discussion.

7. UPDATE ON THE NEW LICENSURE DATABASE

Covert-ByBee reported that the Department is adopting the expanded licensure database product offered by the existing vendor. The Department is awaiting final approval to proceed.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: After discussion, Pritchett moved, seconded by Lutt-Chmiel, to keep the same slate of officers with Granger as Chairperson, Robinson as Vice-Chairperson, and Lutt-Chmiel as Secretary. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Ellison, and Pritchett. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

9. CONVICTION REVIEW GUIDELINES

MOTION: After discussion, Lutt-Chmiel moved, seconded by Granger, to keep the conviction review guidelines as currently written. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Ellison, and Pritchett. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

10. PER DIEM DISCUSSION

The Board discussed retaining the current per diem amount of \$50/day for Board business with one additional day for meeting preparation.

MOTION: Pritchett moved, seconded by Lutt-Chmiel, to keep the current per diem rate. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Ellison, and Pritchett. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

11. NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLICATION

Covert-ByBee advised that per the Open Meetings Act, this board designates the method of notice of meeting. Currently, the meetings for this Board are currently posted on the DHHS – Licensure Board Meeting Agenda page, physically posted on the Board Meeting Agenda

These minutes were approved by the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists during the 6.30.2023 Board meeting.

billboard outside of the Licensure Unit and disseminated to a list of stakeholders and interested parties. The Department is requesting that the Board continue with this process.

MOTION: Pritchett moved, seconded by Granger, to continue with the current notification process. Voting aye: Granger, Lutt-Chmiel, Ellison, and Pritchett. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

12. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Covert-ByBee presented the Board with information regarding the following legislative bills: LB16, LB256, LB430, LB637, LB810, LB271, LB291, LB422, LB431, LB513, LB593, LB637, and LB795. These bills may be viewed on the Nebraska Legislature website: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov>.

13. LICENSURE AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-08

Covert-ByBee advised Executive Order 22-08 allows for provisional licenses to be issued while waiting exam results, and remote supervision when the supervisor deems appropriate. This EO does not impact the current requirements to obtain CE for the purposes of renewal/reinstatement as outlined in the chapter of regulations. Licensees will continue to have the option to select a waiver for circumstances beyond their control that lasted 30 continuous days or longer. This Executive Order expires June 30, 2023.

14. LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Blinston stated the report is for informational purposes only.

15. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Topics identified for the next meeting include APR, IHS Practical Examination, Legislative Update, and Executive Orders.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:42p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Misti Lutt-Chmiel, Secretary