

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology by mail ballot on 11/21/2023.*

Minutes of the November 8, 2023  
Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Meeting

**1. ROLL CALL**

Dr. Rhonda Dick, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to order at 1:08 p.m. on November 8, 2023, in the Goldenrod Conference Room 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-andMinutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on November 5, 2023. Dr. Rhonda Dick announced that this is an open meeting, and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

**Members Present:** The following members answered roll call in person and via Webex  
Dr. Rhonda Dick, AuD, CCC-A Chairperson  
Dr. Michelle Leenerts, AuD, CCC-A Vice-Chairperson  
Katie Brennan, MS, CCC-SLP Member  
Kathryn Anderson, MA, CCC-SLP, Secretary

**Members Absent:**  
Robert. F. Thornhill

**Staff Present:**  
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager  
Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Attorney  
TJ O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General  
Kim Hitzel, Health Licensing Specialist  
Jeff Newman DHHS Investigation Department  
Anna Harrison, DHHS Compliance Monitor

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Brennan moved, seconded by Dick, to adopt the agenda  
Motion carried.

**3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT**

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballot approving the May 10, 2023, meeting minutes on June 16, 2023. Voting to approve: Anderson, Thornhill, and Leenerts. Voting to abstain Dick. Not voting.

**4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

MOTION: Leenerts moved, seconded by Brennan, to move into closed session at 1:06 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals

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named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Brennan, Anderson, Leenerts, and Dick. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

## **5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS**

The Board returned to open session at 1:23 p.m. No recommendations we made.

## **6. ASLP COMPACT**

The Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Commission and all the subcommittees have been busy working towards operationalization of the Compact. The Compact Commission had its annual meeting on October 7, 2023. At that meeting, the Commission reviewed and voted on the Budget, Bylaws revisions, and Rules. Leading up to that meeting, the Executive Committee was busy reviewing applications and holding interviews for the ASLP-IC Executive Director. A person has been offered the position and contract negotiations have been entered. The Executive Committee is also moving forward with an RFP to find vendors to create/manage a database for Compact Data Set reporting and Compact Privilege tracking. As always, everyone is welcome to attend any scheduled meetings of the commission or its committees. More information can be found at [aslpcompact.com](http://aslpcompact.com)

## **7. Temporary Licensure**

Covert-Bybee gave a report on the average time to issue a temporary license; from receipt to review and issuance. On average it is 21 days. Discussion was held to address notification of when temporary licenses expire and when a full license is needed to avoid unlicensed practice. The ASLP Practice Act specifies that a temporary license is valid only until the sooner of completion of {sic} the professional experience or eighteen months and shall not be renewed. There have been concerns that there has been practice after completion of the clinical fellowship and prior to a permanent license being issued.

## **8. Set meeting dates for 2024.**

The following meeting dates were established for 2024: February 14<sup>th</sup> (virtual), May 8<sup>th</sup> (in person), and November 13<sup>th</sup> (in person).

## **9. UPDATE ON NEW LICENSURE DATABASE**

The Licensure Unit has just completed the first leg of the project, requirements gathering. This means the team sorted through 1500 rows of data; examined 2713 codes across 50 worksheets; analyzed 120 reports; reviewed 2,430 templates. This was a tremendous amount of work, and it means the Department is on track.

## **10. Licensure Application Processing Report**

The application processing report was prepared for informational purposes only.

## **11. Topics for next meeting**

The following topics were identified for the next meeting: Legislative Update, Election of Officers, Per Diem, Notice of Meeting Publication, Licensure Database Update, Audiology Speech-Language Pathology Compact Update, Application Processing Report.

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**12 Public Comment**

No comments

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.