

Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists  
1000 Washington Street 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Room 1C, Boston, MA 02118  
Date: April 19, 2019 Time: 10:00 am

Public Session Meeting Minutes

**Board Members Present:**

Eugene Antonell, Chair (EA)  
Stanley Zoll (SZ)  
Loleata Wigall, Secretary (LW)

**Staff Present:**

Michael Hawley, Executive Director  
Lynn Read, Board Counsel  
Anne Driscoll, Investigator Supervisor

**Board Members Absent:**

Camille Catalano (CC)  
Donald Gross, Jr. (DG)

**Member of the Public Present:**

Chris Miller

**Called To Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by EA.
- The Executive Director reviewed exit procedures in the case of a fire.

**Board Business:**

- Review of Minutes:
  - January 18, 2019  
**LW moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2019 meeting as written. SZ seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley  
Mr. Hawley reported changes within the agency and the Secretariat. Mike Kennealy is the new Secretary of Housing and Economic Development. Edward Palleschi is the new undersecretary of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulations, Charles Borstel has been promoted to deputy Undersecretary of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation. Dianne Symonds is the new Commissioner of the Division of Professional Licensure. Ron Cogliano is the new Chief Operations Officer for the Division of Professional Licensure, filling the role formerly held by Deputy Commissioner, Rob Fortes.  
  
Mr. Hawley also reported that there remains one vacancy on the Board, the public position and that the renewal period seems to have gone well. The Board is expected to convert to all paperless renewals for the 2021 renewal period.
- Report from Legal Counsel Lynn Read  
Attorney Read indicated that all her topics are listed in the Discussion portion of the agenda.

**Discussion:**

- ***Over-the-counter Hearing Aid Legislation***- Attorney Read reported that the FDA is still in the process of developing regulations to implement the over-the-counter hearing aid legislation and that the deadline for the federal regulations is in 2020. Until then it is hard to be certain what the

impact of the new regulations will be. She is continuing to research how other jurisdictions may be preparing for the new regulations and is seeking any information available on the FDA's process and progress in developing regulations. So far there is little information available.

- **International Hearing Society (IHS) Exam**- Mr. Hawley reported that the IHS exam contract is up for renewal and requested that the Board decide whether they wish to accept the IHS recommended passing score as the official passing score or to reserve the right to determine what score the Board will accept as passing. The Board discussed the exam and, in light of the fact that details about the questions are not available to the board, decided that it would be difficult to make an informed, principled decision about a particular score was sufficient to warrant the issuance of a license, especially if it was below the IHS recommended score. **LW moved to approve the exam contract accepting the IHS recommended score as the passing score. SZ seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Wall Certificates:** Wall Certificates were signed for the following licensees:

- Steven Lamothe
- Deanna Quarto
- Lorinda Rose
- Michael Nogueira
- Nina Poncia
- Paul Dole

**Open Session for Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:**

- None

**Cases, Investigative Conference [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C]:**

**10:59 LW moved to enter investigative conference [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C] to consider investigative matters. SZ seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

At the end of the closed session the open meeting resumed.

**11:17 a.m. Adjournment:**

**LW moved to adjourn the meeting. SZ seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



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Michael Hawley  
Executive Director

**Documents used in Public Session:**

- Agenda for April 19, 2019 Board meeting
- January 18, 2019 draft Board Meeting Minutes
- Wall Certificates