

Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists  
Meeting Held by Video/Telephone Conference  
Date: January 7, 2022 Time: 10:00 AM

Public Session Meeting Minutes

**Board Members Present by video or phone:**

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

**Staff Present by video or phone:**

Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel  
Lisa Guglietta, Executive Director  
Eboni Lewis, Associate Executive Director

**Members of the Public Present by video or phone:**

Eileen Buttrick  
Bradd Hilston  
Joseph Pereira  
Matthew Melo

**Called To Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by E.A. and attendance taken. All Board Members were present.

**Board Business:**

- Review of Minutes:
  - November 05, 2021  
**A MOTION was made by LW to approve the public session minutes of the November 5, 2021 board meeting as amended. SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**
- Report from Executive Director, Lisa Guglietta
  - Ms. Guglietta reported that the Board’s move to DPH may move faster than anticipated due to a new administration in 2022. The move could occur in late summer/early fall.
- Report from Legal Counsel Kristina Gasson
  - Ms. Gasson reported that virtual meetings will continue until April with the return to in-person meetings to resume if legislation extending it is not enacted. DOL will investigate ways to allow board members’ remote participation at meetings and the board will be updated of any changes.
  - Ms. Gasson reported that she has accepted a new position as Deputy General Counsel of Boards and Hearings and there will be a new Board Counsel at the next meeting.

**Apprenticeship Extension Requests**

- **Eileen Buttrick**- Ms. Buttrick met with the Board to request a formal extension of her hearing instrument apprenticeship. She stated she plans to retire in September of 2022 and has failed the IHS exam several times. She requested an extension to be able to re-take the exam before she retires. Ms. Buttrick’s mentor, Bradd Hilston, also attended the meeting and answered questions from the Board without Ms. Buttrick present. Ms. Guglietta confirmed that the licensee did not have past discipline. **A MOTION was made by LW to grant an 18-month extension of Ms.**

**Buttrick's apprenticeship. CC seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**

- **Joseph Pereira**- Mr. Pereira met with the Board to request a formal extension of his hearing instrument apprenticeship. He stated that he had taken the IHS exam once. **A MOTION was made by CC to grant an 18-month extension of Mr. Pereira's apprenticeship. LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**
- **Matthew Melo**- Mr. Melo met with the Board to request a formal extension of his hearing instrument apprenticeship. Mr. Melo reported that he had taken the IHS exam once. He stated that his military service delayed his ability to re-test. **A MOTION was made by CC to grant an 18-month extension of Mr. Pereira's apprenticeship. LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**

#### **Discussion:**

- **Changes in Competency Model**  
The Board reviewed the document "IHS Competency Model Changes Chart" which explained the minor changes to the scoring in the five domains of the IHS exam that began in January of 2022.
- **Over-the-counter Hearing Aid Update**  
Board members discussed the FDA's proposed changes to federal hearing aid regulations. Topics addressed included the FDA's need to remove the word "perceived" with regard to intended users being defined as "adults with perceived mild to moderate hearing loss". Also noted was the FDA's use of the terms "dispenser" and "dispensing" regarding OTC hearing aid products. These terms cause confusion as they are usually associated with professionally fit prescription hearing aids. Ms. Gasson suggested the Board use the guidance and suggestions of IHS for the Board's letter in response to the FDA's proposed rules. Ms. Gasson presented each of the ten main points suggested by IHS and the Board agreed to include these in its letter to the FDA. **A MOTION was made by CC to delegate authority to Board Counsel to submit a letter to the FDA with the Board's Recommendations after the Chair (EA) reviews it. LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**
- **Review of Board Regulations, 265 CMR 2.00-10:00**  
SZ stated that he sent comments with respect to his recommended edits to the Board's regulations to former Executive Director Thomas Burke that could be discussed at the next meeting. The Board tabled discussion about regulations until the next meeting.

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

- Due to unanticipated in-person apprenticeship extension requests, **a MOTION was made by LW to hear unanticipated business out of order of the set agenda. CC seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**

**At 11:37 a.m., a MOTION was made by LW to go into Closed Executive Session Per GL c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) and (3). CC seconded.**

**At 11:37 a.m., a MOTION was made by EA to go back to open session. LW seconded.**

**At 11:38 a.m., a MOTION was made by SZ to adjourn the open meeting. LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lisa M. Guglietta  
Executive Director

**Documents used in Public Session:**

- Agenda for January 7, 2022 Board meeting
- Minutes of November 5, 2021 Board meeting
- Apprenticeship Extension request from Eileen Buttrick
- IHS Competency Model Changes Chart
- IHS Guidance for Comments on FDA Proposed Hearing Aid Rules
- FDA News Release: FDA Issues Landmark Proposal to Improve Access to Hearing Aid Technology for Millions of Americans
- FDA: Regulatory Requirements for Hearing Aid Devices and Personal Sound Amplification Products
- 265 CMR 2.00-10.00.