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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Occupational Licensure
Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists
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Public Session Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held by Video/Telephone Conference
Date: April 15, 2022 Time: 10:00 AM

Board Members Present by video or phone:

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

Staff Present by video or phone:

Kristina Gasson, Deputy General Counsel
Seth Henderson, Board Counsel
Lisa Guglietta, Executive Director
Ebony Lewis, Associate Executive Director

Members of the Public Present by video or phone:

Called To Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by E.A. and attendance taken. All Board Members were present.

Board Business:

- Review of Minutes:
 - January 7, 2022
A MOTION was made by CC to approve the public session minutes of the January 7, 2022 Board meeting as drafted, LW 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 remote meetings are tentatively scheduled to end on June 30, 2022, therefore the next meeting in July is tentatively scheduled as in-person. The Board members expressed attendance concerns for in-person meetings and a preference to keep meeting remotely.
- Report from Legal Counsel Kristina Gasson
 - Deputy General Counsel Gasson introduced Seth Henderson as the new Board Counsel. She explained that the Board’s transition to DPH may affect the current staff assignments moving forward in 2023.

Reciprocity Application

- **Brittany Hampp** - Ms. Hampp was originally licensed in New Jersey and applied for a MA license through reciprocity. **A MOTION was made by CC to grant licensure based on substantial equivalency, LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**



Discussion:

- **Over-the-counter Hearing Aid Update**
Deputy General Counsel Gasson reported that there was recent legislation from Grassley and Warren to make the FDA submit a final ruling on OTC hearing aids. Attorney Gasson discussed the Board's response letter to the FDA's proposed rules. The letter was also disseminated to the Board members by Attorney Henderson for review of what was sent.
- **Review of Board Regulations, 265 CMR 2.00-10:00**
The review was tabled for the July meeting. Board Staff will provide a Word version of the regulations for redlining at the next meeting.

Apprenticeship Extension Requests

- **Brittany Pereira** – License #471-HE-A. Ms. Pereira submitted a request to the Board for a formal extension of her Hearing Instrument Specialist apprenticeship. She was scheduled to take the IHS exam on 4/15/2022. **A MOTION was made by LW to grant an 18-month extension of Ms. Pereira's apprenticeship, CC seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**

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

- SZ mentioned a personal acquaintance who received an OTC hearing aid and noted the quality was generic and not as good quality as prescription hearing aids from a provider.
- **At 10:34 a.m., a MOTION was made by LW to go into Closed Session per GL c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1), SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**

The Board made the following decisions while in closed session:

Complaint:

- **A MOTION was made by LW to open a complaint to investigate an online company's hearing aid advertising as it may violate MA state regulations, SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**
- **At 10:41 a.m., The Board returned to open session and A MOTION was made by CC to adjourn the meeting, LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – "Yes"; EA – "Yes"; SZ – "Yes"; LW – "Yes".**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Guglietta
Executive Director

Documents used in Public Session:

- Agenda for April 15, 2022 Board Meeting
- Minutes of January 7, 2022 Board Meeting
- Reciprocity Application documents from Brittany Hampp
- Grassley Warren Introduce Bill to Incr. 04.08.2022
- MA Board Letter to FDA: Regulatory Requirements for Hearing Aid Devices and Personal Sound Amplification Products
- 265 CMR 2.00-10.00.