

Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists
Meeting Held by Video/Telephone Conference
Date: July 30, 2021 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
Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Members of the Public Present by video or phone:

Michele Kanan
Charles Margossian

Called To Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. by EA.

Board Business:

- Review of Minutes:
 - April 16, 2021
A MOTION was made by LW to approve the public session minutes of the January 15, 2021 board meeting as amended. CC seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.
- Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke
 - Mr. Burke provided an update on the Commonwealth’s Public Health Mask order on requirement to wear masks while in a healthcare facility or office.
- Report from Legal Counsel Kristina Gasson
 - Ms. Gasson reported that the Board may continue to meet via electronic means due to legislation that extends the waiver to the open meeting law until April 1, 2022. She notified the Board that the passage of Article 87 legislation became effective on July 18, 2021. As a result, the Hearing Instruments Board and twelve other Boards will transfer resources and staff to the Department of Public Health over the next eighteen months. In addition, the agency name has been changed to the Division of Occupational Licensure (“DOL”).

Apprenticeship Extension Requests

- **Michele Kanan**- Ms. Kanan met with the Board to request a formal extension of her hearing instrument apprenticeship. This is her first formal request to the Board for an extension. **A MOTION was made by LW to grant an 18-month extension of Ms. Kanan’s apprenticeship. SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**

Discussion:

- **Over the Counter Hearing Aids Update**
Ms. Gasson updated the Board on the recent executive order requiring Health and Human Services (“HHS”) to publish federal regulations permitting over-the-counter purchase of hearing aids. She expects the regulations to be available by November 2021. Mr. Zoll noted that pending

legislation before Congress will expand coverage of hearing aids for individuals on Medicare.

- **Review of Board Regulations, 265 CMR 2.00 – 10.00**

Ms. Gasson noted that a review of the Board's regulations will commence following the publication of federal regulations on over-the-counter hearing aids. She requested that this topic remain as a standing agenda item so that she may provide the Board with updates on federal regulations or convey information to the Board from the Executive Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.

- **Application Review, Charles Margossian**

Hearing Instrument apprentice Charles Margossian met with the Board to review his apprentice application and IHS score report. Mr. Margossian did not achieve a passing score by one percentage point and requested a review of his application. **After discussion, a MOTION was made by LW to allow Mr. Margossian to proceed with licensure. CC seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “No”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**

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

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

At 11:05 a.m., a MOTION was made by LW to adjourn the open meeting and enter investigative conference [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C] to consider investigative matters. SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.

During the investigative session the Board voted to take the following actions:

- HE 2019-001468-IT-ENF – Dismissed.
- HE 2019-000447-IT-ENF – Dismissed with Advisory.

At 11:51 a.m., a MOTION was made by LW to adjourn the open meeting. CC seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Burke

Thomas Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in Public Session:

- Agenda for July 30, 2021 Board meeting
- Minutes of April 16, 2021 Board meeting
- Apprenticeship Extension request from Michel Kanan
- Apprentice Application for Charles Margossian