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**Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists**

Public Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2025

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists (the Board) was held remotely with video and audio conference as an alternate means of public access.

Lisa Guglietta, Executive Director, informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

Rony Soto, Chair, noted a quorum of members present via video or phone and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rony Soto, Board Chair
Elizabeth Adebayo
Paul Beckner
Heather Hanley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Dana Mario

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Guglietta, Board Executive Director
Katie Goldrick, Board Associate Executive Director
Heather Engman, Esq., Chief Board Counsel
Emily Yslas, Esq., Board Counsel

ATTENDANCE:

Rony Soto, Chair, took attendance by roll call and a quorum of board members was recorded with the following members present via video conference: *Soto, Adebayo, Beckner, Hanley*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Rony Soto, Chair, made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Paul Beckner and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the July 18, 2025 agenda as drafted.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Beckner, Hanley

opposed: none

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Rony Soto, Chair, made a motion to approve the public meeting minutes of 4/25/25, seconded by Heather Hanley and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the public meeting minutes of April 25, 2025 as drafted.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Beckner, Hanley

opposed: none

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Rony Soto, Chair, made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of 4/25/25, seconded by Elizabeth Adebayo and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the executive session minutes of April 25, 2025 as drafted.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Beckner

opposed: none

abstain: Hanley

APPRENTICESHIP EXTENSION REQUESTS

Louise Boyd, License HEA504, requested a second extension of her apprenticeship to be able to work, apply for hearing instrument specialist licensure, and take the International Hearing Society (IHS) exam. The licensee was unable to attend the meeting and was represented by Kerry Dunphy, Practice Administrator at Tobias & Battite Hearing Wellness, who attended on her behalf. The second extension request was due to medical reasons. The Board discussed the request. Thereafter a motion was made by Elizabeth Adebayo, seconded by Heather Hanley and VOTED (roll call); **to approve a 12-month extension of her apprenticeship.**

in-favor: Beckner, Hanley, Adebayo, Soto

opposed: none

Kimberly Senra, License HEA500, requested a second extension of her apprenticeship to be able to work and retake the IHS exam. Her license expired on 7/1/25 and she took the exam one time. The second extension request was partly due to family medical reasons. The licensee stated she was very confident going into the exam and thought she would have received a passing score. The Board discussed the request. Thereafter a motion was made by Elizabeth Adebayo, seconded by Rony Soto and VOTED (roll call); **to approve a 6-month extension of her apprenticeship.**

in-favor: Beckner, Hanley, Adebayo, Soto

opposed: none

UNIFIED RECOVERY AND MONITORING PROGRAM (URAMP)

The URAMP presentation and discussion of Program Conditions and Staff Action Procedure was deferred until the October meeting due to the public meeting beginning an hour late.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Eunice Appea-Korang HESNE100088

The applicant is applying via reciprocity. She has a Master of Science degree in audiology from the University of Ghana which exceeds the regulatory education requirement of a high school diploma. A university transcript and World Education Services evaluation report was received by the Board as well as a verification of the applicant's audiology license in Ghana. The applicant completed the IHS Distance Learning course.

The applicant completed a one-year internship and passed an exam for licensure as an audiologist in Ghana. The Board requested a signed letter from the applicant's internship supervisor detailing the practicum requirements, number of hours of direct supervision, and total internship hours completed. In addition, the Board requested information on the examination the applicant took for licensure. This information was not received prior to the meeting. The Board discussed the need to determine whether the applicant's internship and exam were substantially equivalent to the apprenticeship and exam requirements in the regulations. Authority could be delegated to the Chair by the Board to review new information received by the applicant in between quarterly board meetings. Thereafter a motion was made by Elizabeth Adebayo, seconded by Rony Soto and VOTED (roll call); **to delegate authority to the Chair to review internship and exam information provided by the applicant to determine equivalency with Board regulations and to determine whether the applicant would be required to complete an apprenticeship and/or take the IHS exam for licensure.**

in-favor: Beckner, Hanley, Adebayo, Soto

opposed: none

DISCUSSION

265 CMR 2.00 THROUGH 10.00 REGULATION REVIEW

The Executive Director reminded the Board that Attorney York and another board counsel were working on recommending updates to the regulations and statute based on the FDA final rule change which allowed over the counter (OTC) hearing aids to be sold without a prescription. As Attorney York was not present at the meeting the Board could defer discussion of the regulations until the October meeting. Thereafter a motion was made by Rony Soto, seconded by Heather Hanley and VOTED (roll call); **to defer discussion of the regulations to the October meeting.**

in-favor: Beckner, Hanley, Adebayo, Soto

opposed: none

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:42 a.m. a motion was made by Rony Soto, seconded by Elizabeth Adebayo and VOTED (roll call); **to end the public session and go into closed session per M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C.**

in-favor: Soto, Adebayo, Hanley, Beckner

opposed: none

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Guglietta, Executive Director

Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists

Documents used by the Board during open session:

- *Posted agenda 7/18/2025*
- *Draft public meeting minutes of 4/25/25*
- *Draft executive session minutes of 4/25/25*
- *Apprenticeship Extension Requests for HEA504 and HEA500*
- *Application HESNE100088 - Eunice Appea-Korang*