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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: August 15, 2022, Time: 2:00 PM

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
Lisa Guglietta, Executive Director
Eboni Lewis, Associate Executive Director

Members of the Public Present by video or phone:

Called To Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by E.A. and attendance taken. All Board Members were present.

Board Business:

- Review of Minutes:
 - April 15, 2022
A MOTION was made by CC to approve the public session minutes of the April 15, 2022 Board meeting as drafted, 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 will be under the Department of Public Health (DPH) as of 9/26/22. Board members will no longer use their private emails and will be assigned @mass.gov emails by DPH. There will be a new licensing system at DPH.
- Report from Legal Counsel, Kristina Gasson
 - Deputy General Counsel Gasson reported that this would be her last meeting with the Board as she is not transitioning to DPH. Remote meetings were extended until March 31, 2023. The Board will know more about in-person, remote, and hybrid meeting options after moving to DPH.

Apprenticeship Extension Requests

- **Nicholas Andreozzi** – Mr. Andreozzi requested an 18-month extension of his apprentice license so that he could continue to work and re-take the IHS exam. **A MOTION was made by LW to approve the extension, SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**



- **Ronald Urnetta** – Mr. Urnetta requested an 18-month extension of his apprentice license so that he could continue to work and take the IHS exam. **A MOTION was made by CC to approve the extension, SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**
- **Rodney Webster** – Mr. Webster requested an 18- month extension of his apprentice license so that he could continue to work and re-take the IHS exam. **A MOTION was made by LW to approve the extension, CC seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Abstain”; LW – “Yes”.**
- **Ashley Rodrigues** – Ms. Rodrigues requested an 18- month extension of her apprentice license so that she could continue to work and, if needed, re-take the IHS exam. **A MOTION was made by CC to approve the extension, SZ seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**

Apprentice Application Review

- **Ashley Caswell** – Applicant lives in Connecticut and has a sponsor who is licensed in both CT and MA. The Board discussed the regulations and the appropriateness of applicant living in and being trained in CT for a MA Hearing Instrument Specialist Apprentice license. **A MOTION was made by CC to require the applicant to become licensed in her own state. The motion was not seconded and failed.**
A MOTION was made by LW to approve the processing of the application, EA seconded. The motion failed on a roll call vote: CC – “Abstain”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Abstain”; LW – “Yes”.
- **A MOTION was made by CC to have Board staff get more information on the circumstances and why applicant was applying in MA and not CT before processing the application, LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**

Discussion:

- **Executive Order No. 600: Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Care Services in the Commonwealth**
Attorney Gasson discussed Governor Baker’s executive order and subsequent legislation to protect reproductive health care services in the Commonwealth and the steps the agency was taking to carry out the Governor’s and legislature’s objectives.
- **Remote Meeting Options**
As discussed earlier in the meeting, remote meetings are available until March 31, 2023. The Board will receive more information about in-person and hybrid options once it has transitioned to DPH.
- **OTC Hearing Aids Update**
Attorney Gasson reported that the deadline for publication of the FDA rule on over-the-counter hearing aids was 7/18/22, that the FDA received final approval on the rule in July, and that the new rule would be published shortly.
- **Review of Board Regulations, 265 CMR 2.00-10:00**

The Board took no action on the regulations and indicated that it wanted to wait until the FDA rule was published and the Board transferred to DPH.

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

- **CT Licensee Question**

A licensed hearing aid dispenser from CT indicated he would like to apply for a MA Hearing Instrument Specialist license. He was originally licensed in MD in 1980 and has been licensed in CT since 1982. He stated he is unable to obtain the state regulations from the time he was licensed nor documentation of his passing the exam which is required for the application. The Board was asked to determine whether he was approved to apply for HIS licensure via reciprocity.

A MOTION was made by CC to allow the licensee to apply on the condition that he provide the Board with letters of good standing for his MD and CT licenses, LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.

Public Comment: None

- **At 3:39 p.m., a MOTION was made by EA to move into Closed Investigative Conference per GL c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) and not to return to the public session, CC seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**

The Board took the following actions while in closed Investigative Conference:

- **A MOTION was made by CC to withdraw the complaint brought by the Board to investigate an online company’s over-counter-hearing aids, LW seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Abstain”; LW – “Yes”.**

Adjournment

- **At 3:44 p.m. A MOTION was made by LW to adjourn the meeting, CC seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: CC – “Yes”; EA – “Yes”; SZ – “Yes”; LW – “Yes”.**

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Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Guglietta
Executive Director

Documents used in Public Session:

- Agenda for August 15, 2022 Board Meeting
- Minutes of April 15, 2022 Board Meeting
- Apprenticeship Extension Requests - documents for N.A., R.U., R.W., and A.R
- Executive Order No. 600: Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Care Services in the Commonwealth
- 265 CMR 2.00-10.00.