

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR LICENSING HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS**

**DATE:** January 28, 2022  
**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.  
**LOCATION:** Health Related Boards  
665 Mainstream Drive  
Nashville, TN 37243

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Amanda Yarnell, Hearing Instrument Specialist, Chairperson  
Dr. Bruce L. Fetterman, M.D  
Gary L. Kelly, Hearing Instrument Specialist, Sectary

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** Lordy D. Smith, Consumer Member  
Sammi J. Wyatt, Hearing Instrument Specialist

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Mrs. Diana Hunley, Regulatory Board Administrator Director II  
Doris VanOvermeiren, Board Administrator 1  
Ashley Fine, Associate General Counsel

Mrs. Diana Hunley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was present. The meeting was turned over to Board Chair Amanda Yarnell.

An election was conducted to vote for new Board Chairperson, Mrs. Amanda Yarnell was nominated.

Dr. Bruce Fetterman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Kelly to approve Mrs. Yarnell as Board Chairperson

A voice vote was conducted, motion carried

An election was conducted to vote for new Board Sectary. Mr. Gary Kelly was nominated.

Mrs. Yarnell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bruce Fetterman to approve Mr. Gary Kelly as Board Sectary

A voice vote was conducted, motion carried.

An Introductory was scheduled for Mrs. Sammi J. Wyatt that could not make the meeting and was moved to the next board meeting.

**Review/Approve Minutes**

Upon review of the October 22, 2021, minutes,

Mr. Fetterman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes. A voice vote was conducted. The motion carried.

### **Office of Investigations Report**

Ms. Jamie Byerly, Director of the office of Investigation for all Health Related Boards gave the following report: There are currently no monitored licensees under discipline. In the year 2021, Investigations has received one new complaint regarding unprofessional conduct. Closed one complaint with no findings. Currently there are three (3) open complaints that are being investigated and/or reviewed for the year 2022. The disciplinary coordinators have been moved to the Office of General Counsel. This report will be given by the board attorney Mrs. Fine.

### **Office of General Counsel**

Mrs. Fine read the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and the Open Meeting Act.

### **Conflict of Interest**

If you have a personal or financial interest in the outcome of any issue or matter before this Council which may suggest a bias on your part, you are asked to state that interest on the record so that a determination can be made as to whether there exists a need for recusal. You are reminded that it is the duty of this Council to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee and that the administration of this solemn responsibility is dependent upon avoiding even the appearance of impropriety.

### **Open Meetings Act**

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Board business may only be discussed by Board members during the meeting. Members should not discuss the Board's business at any time other than during the open meeting. The prohibition applies to phone calls, emails, and text messages. Board members should also ensure that all comments during the meeting are stated for all to hear; private conversations between or among members during the meeting are inappropriate.

### **Disciplinary Activity**

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) does not have any open cases at this time and currently not monitoring any licensees at this time.

### **Rule Activity**

Ms. Fine stated that the rules incorporating 2019 PC 323 regarding NBC-HIS National Board Certification for Licensure and removal of the requirement for applicants to submit documentation from a medical doctor are currently under review with the Attorney General's Office. She further stated that the rules incorporating the Practical Skills Examination Proctor Policy into Rule 1370-02-.08 are currently in internal review.

### **Administrative Report**

Ms. VanOvermeiren presented the following Administrator's report:

There is currently a total of 177 licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists, and 18 licensed Apprentices.

Ms. VanOvermeiren stated that from October 22, 2021, through January 28 there were five (5) newly licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists and eleven Three (3) newly licensed Apprentices. There were Eighteen (18) renewals with four (4) renewals completed online. None reinstated; One (1) retired; one (1) expired and two (2) deceased.

**Discuss and Ratify/Deny Newly Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist**

- 2838 Andrews Elsie C. Medina
- 2838 Cockerham Karissa Mallean
- 2838 Fish-Gilliam Mrs. Christine
- 2838 Fuller Kristin Sue Tallman
- 2838 Henehan Karina Miriam Kreishan

Mrs. Yarnell called for a motion to ratify the list of Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists. Upon review, Dr. Fetterman made a motion to ratify the October 22, 2021, through January 28, 2022 list of Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists, seconded by Mrs. Yarnell. A voice vote was conducted. The motion carried. The list of 5 newly licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists was approved to go before the Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences on February 22, 2022, to be ratified.

**Newly Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist Apprentices**

- 2838 Apprentice King Kimberly Danielle
- 2838 Apprentice Montague Mrs. Casey Jane
- 2838 Apprentice Osborne William

Mrs. Yarnell called for a motion to ratify the list of Apprentice Licenses. Upon review, Dr. Fetterman made a motion to ratify the October 22, 2021, through January 28, 2022, list of Apprentice Licenses, seconded by Ms. Yarnell. A voice vote was conducted. The motion carried. The list of 3 newly licensed Apprentices was approved to go before the Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences on February 22, 2022, to be ratified.

**Reinstated Licenses**

N/A

**Discuss and take action if needed regarding rulemaking, hearings, rule amendments, and policies**

The rulemaking activities rule changes from 2019, regarding Public Chapter 323 from the NBC-HIS national certification for licensure requiring the removal of the physician’s certification and the Practical Skills Examination for new Proctors policy were discussed under rule activities.

**Discuss legislation and take action if needed**

None at this time,

**Review Correspondence.**

Under this agenda item, the Council reviewed correspondence from Dr. Schumaier requesting the Council to waive its rules regarding licensure requirements, particularly Rule 1370-02-04(1)(b) requiring an education equivalent to two years of college level coursework, in order to grant a license to an individual with at least twenty (20) years of experience in the field including certification as an industrial hearing conservationist (CAOHC). Mrs. Fine explained to the Council that she spoke with Dr. Schumaier prior to the meeting and explained that legislative action was necessary to address his concerns. Ms. Fine advised the Council that since there is not a pending application before it that she would advise members to limit any discussion on the correspondence to the general issues presented in the letter regarding licensure qualifications. Additionally, Ms. Fine advised the Board that since the preliminary qualification at issue is required by Statute, under Tenn. Code. Ann. 63-17-207, the Council would be unable to consider any waiver of that provision. Ms. Fine explained to the Council that legislative action would be required to amend the statute. The Council did not take any action concerning this correspondence.

**New Business**

None at this time.

**Adjourn**

With no other Council business to conduct, Mrs. Yarnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Kelly. All voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17am

***Ratified by the Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists July 29, 2022***