

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

**DATE:** July 17, 2020

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M., CT

**LOCATION:** Health Related Boards  
WebEx Virtual Meeting  
665 Mainstream Dr.  
Nashville, TN 37243

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Jackie Miller, Hearing Instrument Specialist, Chair  
Dr. Bruce L. Fetterman, M.D  
Gary L. Kelly, Hearing instrument Specialist  
Lordy D. Smith, Consumer Member

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** Vacant position

**STAFF**

**PRESENT** Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director  
Doris VanOvermeiren, Administrative Assistant 1  
Ashley Fine, Assistant General Counsel

Ms. Wilkins read an opening statement. Due to gathering restrictions imposed by the Covid – 19 virus, it was necessary to conduct this meeting telephonically. Ms. Wilkins read the required script into the record, noting all votes must be conducted by roll call. Ms. Wilkins called a roll call vote to establish a quorum. Another preliminary vote was taken to establish all members were able to hear each other and also that they had received meeting documents prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Fetterman seconded by Mr. Kelly to proceed with the meeting via WebEx. A roll call vote was taken all present voted in favor; the motion carried. The meeting was turned over to Jackie Miller, Board Chair.

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Minutes**

The Council reviewed the minutes from the September 20, 2019, meeting. Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to accept the minutes as presented. A roll call voted was conducted and all voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

**Investigative Report**

Lori Leonard, Disciplinary Coordinator for all Non-nursing Boards gave the following report:

There are currently no monitored practitioners. Currently there are three (3) open complaints that are being investigated and/or reviewed. In 2020 Investigations has received no new complaints. Ms. Leonard stated Ms. Jamie Byerly, has been hired as the new Office of Investigations Director.

### **Financial Report**

Maria McCormick stated the mid-year report was given at the last meeting and that the year-end report will be given at the next meeting. She further the council should close in the black for FY2020. Ms. McCormick read the statement regarding fee decreases and how they are calculated. When the year-end report is completed the council should have a good idea whether or not a fee decrease should be considered or not.

### **Office of General Counsel**

Ms. Ashley Fine presented the following OGC report:

Ms. Fine read aloud the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Open Meetings Act.

#### ***Disciplinary Activity***

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) does not have any open case files.

#### ***Rule Activity***

Ms. Fine stated the rules implementing Public Chapter 323 are in internal review as of July 17, 2020.

### **Administrative Report**

Ms. Wilkins stated to the board Ms. Tamayo is no longer with the state and that she has taken over the administrator's duties.

Ms. Wilkins presented the following Administrator's report:

There are currently a total of 174 licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists, and 17 licensed Apprentices.

Ms. Wilkins stated that from February 16, 2020 through July 13, 2020 there was one (1) newly licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists and three (3) newly licensed Apprentices. During the same time frame there were twenty-two (22) renewals with nineteen (19) renewals completed online for a percentage of 82%. Further zero (0) reinstated; no (0) retired; one (1) expired.

Ms. Wilkins stated there had been numerous questions about continuing education requirements in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Wilkins read the Commissioner's statement regarding continuing education.

**“Policy:** The Commissioner has been designated the authority through Executive Order 50 to waive the in-person/live continuing education requirements from March 12, 2020, through 11:59 p.m., Central Daylight Time, until August 29, 2020. For the Commissioner's audit of continuing education credits/hours required to be obtained in any period that encompasses the calendar year of 2020, all continuing education credits/hours that are obtained through in-person/live methods will be accepted as proof of completing any continuing education requirements that are a condition of renewing and reinstating a license, certification, or registration. The Commissioner will not audit the in-person or live event component for hours obtained during this time. The audit process will otherwise remain unchanged.”

Mr. Kelly questioned whether or not the Tennessee Hearing Society meeting should be held on August 1, 2020. Ms. Wilkins stated that is up to the THS. Dr. Fetterman felt the meeting should be cancelled. Mr. Miller stated his personal opinion was that the meeting should be cancelled. Ms. Wilkins read a statement sent to members of the THS stating the proposed the meeting would be in a virtual format.

## **New Licensees**

Upon review Dr. Fetterman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to approve the new licensees. A roll call voted was conducted and all voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Christopher Ryan Gonzales

## **Apprentice Licenses**

Upon review Dr. Fetterman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to approve the new apprentices. A roll call voted was conducted and all voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Mia Newsome

Linsea Parker

Emad Sharif

## **Legislative Report**

Patrick Powell presented the new legislation passed.

### **[Public Chapter 594](#)**

This act was the Department of Health's Licensure Accountability Act. The bill allows all health related boards to take action against a licensee that has been disciplined by another state for any acts or omissions that would constitute grounds for discipline in Tennessee. The law also expands available emergency actions, allowing actions beyond simply a summary suspension. Finally, the act establishes that the notification of law changes to health practitioners can be satisfied by the online posting of law changes by the respective boards. Notice must be maintained online for at least 2 years following the change.

This act took effect March 20, 2020.

### **[Public Chapter 738](#)**

This act prohibits a governmental entity from authorizing destruction of public records if the governmental entity knows the records are subject to a pending public record request. Prior to authorizing destruction of public records an entity must contact the public record request coordinator to ensure the records are not subject to any pending public record requests. Records may still be disposed of in accordance with an established records retention schedule/policy as part of an ordinary course of business as long as the records custodian is without knowledge the records are subject to a pending request.

This act took effect on June 22, 2020.

## **New Business**

There was no new business to discuss. Ms. Wilkins introduced Doris VanOvermeiren, Administrative Assistant 1, and stated to the council how much Ms. VanOvermeiren had contributed to the council in the way of working applications and helping to prepare for this meeting.

## **Adjourn**

With no other Council business to conduct, Dr. Fetterman made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Kelly. A roll call voted was conducted and all voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

*Ratified by the Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists on October 6, 2020*