



TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR LICENSING HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

February 24, 2023

MINUTES

The regular Council meeting of the Tennessee Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists was called to order at 9:11 a.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Ms. Amanda Yarnell, Council Chair.

Board members present: Amanda Yarnell, Hearing Instrument Specialist, Chairperson
Gary L. Kelly, Hearing Instrument Specialist, Secretary
Sammi J. Wyatt, Hearing Instrument Specialist
Lordy D. Smith, Consumer Member
Dr. Bruce L. Fetterman, M.D (By Phone)

Staff present: Candyce Wilson, Unit 1 Director
LaTonya Shelton, Administrative Services Assistant 3
Kristen Moon, Associate General Counsel

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Ms. Moon reminded the Council of the Conflict-of-Interest Policy as well as 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, Council business may only be discussed by Council members during the meeting. Members should not discuss the Council's business at any time other than during the open meeting. The prohibition applies to phone calls, emails, and text messages. Council 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Sammie Wyatt nominated Ms. Amanda Yarnell as chairperson and Dr. Bruce Fetterman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Amanda Yarnell nominated Ms. Sammie Wyatt as secretary and Mr. Gary Kelly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CODE WORD

ANNOUNCE 1ST Code word for Continuing Education Credit (Reciprocity)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon review of the October 31, 2022, minutes, Dr. Fetterman made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelly and the motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. Roger Knowlton reviewed the complaint statistics report for the year 2022 and what has been received thus far in 2023. Mr. Knowlton informed the Council there were three (3) opened complaints and three (3) closed complaints for the year 2022. Mr. Knowlton also informed the Council there are no new complaints as of today. The Council did not have any questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REPORT

The Council reviewed the statistical licensing report.

There are currently a total of 176 licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists, and 20 licensed Apprentices. Ms. Shelton stated that from October 31, 2022, through February 23, 2023, there was four (4) newly licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists and zero (0) newly licensed Apprentices. There were twenty-three (23) renewals with five (5) renewals completed online. None reinstated; one (1) retired; three (3) expired and none deceased. The Councils projected 2023 meeting date are as following: July 20, 2023, and October 26, 2023. These dates were changed to July 28, 2023, and October 20, 2023

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Ms. Moon provided the report from the Office of General Counsel which included the following updates: Ms. Moon reminded the Council of the Conflict-of-Interest Policy as well as the Open Meetings Act. She also reported that under Disciplinary Activity, the Office of General Counsel (OGC) does not have any open cases at this time and are not currently monitoring any licensees. She also reported that under Rule Activity there are currently no rules being promulgated.

CODE WORD

ANNOUNCE 2nd Code word for Continuing Education Credit (Telehealth)

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of New Licensees

The Council read allowed the newly licensed individuals since the last meeting. Dr. Fetterman motioned to ratify the following names on the list below. Ms. Lordy Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Michele Fiscus
Danielle Anne Borchard Glover
Casey Jane Montague
William Osbourne

Policy Statement

The Council reviewed and discussed the new policy to receive continuing education credit for remote attendance of Council Meetings. Ms. Wyatt made a motion to accept the policy as written and Ms. Wyatt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Tennessee Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists requires each licensee to successfully complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education during the two (2) calendar years (January 1 – December 31) that precede the licensure renewal year. Two (2) of the twenty (20) hour requirement shall pertain to Tennessee statutes and rules concerning hearing instrument specialists. Licensees are allowed to receive continuing education credit for attending Council meetings.

Licensees may receive continuing education credit for attending Council Meetings in either of the following ways:

In Person: Licensees that attend the Council Meeting in person must sign the sign in sheet provided by the Council Administrative staff to receive continuing education credit.

Remote: Licensees that attend the Council Meeting remotely must send an email to board administration within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the Council Meeting. The email must contain the three (3) passwords provided during that Council Meeting.

CODE WORD

ANNOUNCE 3rd Code word for Continuing Education Credit (Apprentice)

The meeting adjourned at 9:37am.

These minutes were ratified at the July 28, 2023, Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists.