

**Minutes of the May 11, 2022
Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Video Conference
Meeting**

1. ROLL CALL

Dr. Rhonda Dick, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to order at 1:06 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 in Conference Room 5G at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on April 24, 2022.

Dick announced that this is an open meeting and the Open Meetings Act is posted.

Members Present: The following members answered roll call:

Dr. Rhonda Dick, Chairperson
Dr. Michelle Leenerts, Vice-Chairperson
Kathryn Anderson, Secretary
Katie Brennan, Member
Robert Thornhill, Member

Staff Present:

Joe Neuhaus, Assistant Attorney General
Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, DHHS Attorney
Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager
Siaw Hwa Tey, Health Licensing Coordinator

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Thornhill moved, seconded by Leenerts to adopt the agenda as posted. Voting aye: Dick, Leenerts, Anderson, Brennan, and Thornhill. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

3. REAFFIRMATION OF MAIL BALLOT

The Board reaffirmed the mail ballot approving the minutes from the February 9, 2022, Board Meeting. Dick, Lennerts, and Anderson voted to approve the minutes as written; Brennan and Thornhill did not vote. The minutes were approved on February 18, 2022.

4. INVESTIGATIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Anderson moved, seconded by Thornhill to move into closed session at 1:10 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Dick, Leenerts, Anderson, Brennan, and Thornhill. Voting nay: None. Motion carried.

5. BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS – OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: Anderson moved, seconded by Leenerts to elect Katie Brennan as educational consultant to review initial applications that are submitted for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Assistant in regards to educational equivalency.

MOTION: Regarding the two applications for Kinzey Cooper and Skylar Herrick, Leenerts moved, seconded by Anderson to recommend issuance of a credential once they successfully complete their education and have the primary source provide an official transcript to the Department.

6. LEGISLATION

Covert-ByBee provided updates on Legislative Bills 15, 436, 709, 742, 743, 752, 753, 824, 885, 901,908, and 963. LB436 is the Athletic Training's expansion of scope bill, which was passed and signed by Governor Ricketts on 04/18/2022. LB 709 would change requirements relating to preliminary applications under the Occupational Board Reform Act, and it was indefinitely postponed.

LB 742, 743, 908 were discussed as a lump in the previous meeting. These bills were introduced to modify the Open Meetings Act. LB 742 and 908 were passed and approved by the Governor on 04/18/2022, but LB 743 was indefinitely postponed. A meeting will be held internally with the Department to further discuss the implication of these bills.

LB 753 that would require health care practitioners to provide notification regarding stem cell therapy was amended into LB 752. Several other bills were also amended into LB 752, including LB 15, the Occupational Therapy Compact, which now joined the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact. Covert-ByBee emphasized that an important piece to note in LB 752 was the amendment to include language that would require criminal background checks by fingerprint for all applicants for ASLP licensure, beginning July 20, 2022.

LB 824 was passed and signed by the Governor on 04/18/2022. It includes bathing as an activity of daily living for health care credentialing provisions. Covert-ByBee indicated there has been no movement with LB 885, a bill that requires implicit bias training for certain applicants and credential holders under the Uniform Credentialing Act.

LB 901 provides for cytomegalovirus public education and prevention, which the ASLP Board voted to write a letter of support of, was amended into LB 741 via AM 2402 and was signed by the Governor on 04/18/2022. LB963, the adoption of Medical Ethics and Diversity Act, was indefinitely postponed.

7. LICENSURE AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Executive Order 22-02 was issued on March 15, 2022 by Governor Ricketts. It overtook EO 21-18 that was set to expire on March 30, 2022, and it extended the provisions of EO 21-12 and 21-15 through September 30, 2022. Executive Order 21-15 is the EO that primarily affects the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology licensure. Covert-ByBee stated that there will be a provision for ASLP licensure that would allow the Department to issue a credential pending the result of criminal background check as long as the applicant meets other requirements and has submitted payment and fingerprint to Nebraska State Patrol.

8. UPDATE ON LANCE

The Department is continuing to work with the contractor, Visual Vault, to develop this comprehensive database. The Department is hoping to go live soon, but a definite date has not been set. The launch date for LANCE was pushed back several times. Therefore, the Department decided to focus on ensuring all pieces are functioning and finalizing all components before setting a launch date.

9. ASLP COMPACT COMMISSION

Covert-ByBee mentioned that a tremendous amount of information can be found on the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact's website. A map is provided with all the states that have either passed or pending legislation. There are also links to the commission documents, including meetings, delegate information, committees, rulemaking, and governance documents. The rule's committees are meeting monthly to develop rules and bylaws. A commission meeting was held on May 2, 2022 to pass draft bylaws and rulemaking. Everyone is welcome to join the open session of those meetings and provide comments or recommendations on proposed rules.

10. APPLICATION PROCESSING REPORT

Covert-ByBee presented the Licensure Application Processing Report. This was for informational purposes only.

11. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Topics for next meeting include, Licensure and Executive Order, Update on LANCE, ASLP Compact Commission, and the Application Processing Report (APR).

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Anderson, Secretary