

MEETING MINUTES
TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR LICENSING HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

DATE: November 5, 2020
TIME: 5:00 P.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
Amanda Yarnell, Hearing instrument Specialist

STAFF

PRESENT Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director
Ashley Fine, Assistant General Counsel

Ms. Wilkins read the 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 to establish a quorum and the board members are able to hear each other and to introduce them self’s before speaking. Mrs. Wilkins to proceed with the meeting via WebEx. A roll call was taken all present. Ms. Wilkins ask the board chair, Mr. Miller for Ms. Ashley Fine, Assistant General Counsel to proceed with the meeting.

Office of General Counsel

Ashley Fine advised the Council to consider repealing the vote from the October 16, 2020 meeting regarding the practical skills examination due to additional legal research of Counsel concerning the current and changing law surrounding COVID. At the October meeting, the Council voted to require proof of a negative COVID test via an attestation from the applicant before entering the building. After researching COVID law and the issues that have risen due to the pandemic, Counsel determined that the main issue is whether or not the requirements are being fairly applied to everyone entering the building because everyone entering the building, including other applicants, would not be required to provide a similar attestation. Counsel recommended that the Council repeal the prior vote and discuss a new vote to adopt standard COVID protocols and other necessary PPE according to the current CDC guidelines and the use of PPE in professional practice. Mrs. Yarnell gave the Council a description of how her office handles CDC guidelines for patients in her office. Based upon the recommendation of Counsel and information from Ms. Yarnell, the Council voted to repeal the October vote and to require standard COVID protocols and other necessary PPE.

Mr. Fetterman made a motion, and Mrs. Yarnell seconded the motions. The roll was called, and the motion passed.

The Council then specifically voted on what additional PPE it should require. After discussion, Mr. Fetterman made a motion for the candidate to wear the lab coat, mask, and face shield. Mr. Miller encouraged the Council to go with CDC protocols. Mr. Fetterman made a motion to require the following: the test subject and the candidate to wear a mask, face shield, gloves, and lab coat; the proctor and board staff to be at least 6-feet apart and wear a mask; and the candidate to be responsible for supplying PPE for the candidate and the volunteer. Ms. Fine then asked the Council to further state for the record what sanitary action(s) should take place before and after the exam. Dr. Fetterman recommended sanitizing between each exam including, wiping down all surfaces with disinfecting wipes with 70% greater ethanol and spraying the rooms with disinfecting spray.

Dr. Fetterman made a motion for the above, and the vote was seconded by Mr. Kelly. A roll call vote was conducted, and all members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Miller suggested sending a letter to the candidate to give notice about the requirements of testing. Ms. Wilkins stated that is something staff will do.

Dr. Fetterman made the motion seconded by Mr. Kelly. A roll call vote was conducted, and all voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Adjourn

With no other Council business to conduct, Mr. Miller 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 7:00 PM.

Ratified by the Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists February 19, 2021