



**FLORIDA BOARD OF  
HEARING AID SPECIALISTS  
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING  
FULL BOARD MINUTES  
April 9, 2020 @ 12:00 P.M.  
Telephone Conference Call**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 12:00 P.M. EST**

Janet Hartman conducted the roll call.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leanne E. Polhill, H.A.S., Chair  
Randy Ellsworth, H.A.S., Vice-Chair  
Douglas Moore, H.A.S.  
Robert Pickard, MD  
Pamela Dechmerowski, H.A.S.  
Thomas Hollern

**BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

Janet Hartman, Executive Director  
Eric Pottschmidt, Program Operations Administrator

**BOARD COUNSEL PRESENT:**

John B. Fricke, Jr., Assistant Attorney General

**AGENDA**

**EMERGENCY RULE - 64B6ER20-25** – To provide distance learning, for a 90-day period, as an alternative to in-person course completion for initial licensure and renewal as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Randy Ellsworth discussed his concerns about allowing required hours to be taken on-line for license renewals.

Pamela Dechmerowski inquired about those who had already scheduled in-person courses, yet their classes were cancelled.

Dr. Pickard noted that he doesn't have a problem if a licensee who has field contact experience to satisfy their continuing education requirements via distance learning methods, unless it interferes with the typical clinical processes that requires person-to-person contact.

Doug Moore inquired why the 90-day requirement is not mentioned in the emergency rule.

Pamela Dechmerowski asked if the rule can be changed to include only initial licensure, and not license renewal, and then review again at the end of the 90 days to consider license renewal.



After discussion, the Board took the following action:

**Motion:** by Leanne Polhill to approve Emergency Rule – 64B6ER20-25 as written.

**Second:** by Thomas Hollern

Leanne E. Polhill, H.A.S., Chair	Voted Yes
Randy Ellsworth, H.A.S., Vice-Chair	Voted No
Douglas Moore, H.A.S.	Voted Yes
Robert Pickard, MD	Voted Yes
Pamela Dechmerowski, H.A.S.	Voted No
Thomas Hollern	Voted Yes

**Vote:** Passed four “yes” votes to two “no” votes.

Will the proposed rule amendments have adverse impact on small business or will the proposed rule amendments be likely to directly or indirectly increase regulatory costs to any entity including government in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate in Florida within one year after implementation?

**Motion:** by Pamela Dechmerowski voted “NO”

**Second:** by Leanne Polhill

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Should a violation of this rule or any part of this rule be designated as a minor violation?

**Motion:** by Pamela Dechmerowski voted “NO”

**Second:** by Leanne Polhill

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – No comments. Mr. Jason D. Winn, Esq. acknowledged he was present.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 12:31 P.M.