

# **FLORIDA BOARD OF HEARING AID SPECIALISTS GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**February 25, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. ET**



**Leanne Polhill, Chair**

**Kimberly Marshall, Executive Director**



Florida Board of Hearing Aid Specialists  
General Board Meeting  
February 25, 2022

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 9:00 a.m.** by Leanne Polhill, Chair.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leanne E. Polhill, H.A.S., Chair  
Randy Ellsworth, H.A.S., Vice-Chair  
Pamela Dechmerowski, H.A.S.  
Dean Easterwood, H.A.S.  
Thomas Hollern

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Robert Pickard, MD – Unexcused Absence

**BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

Kimberly Marshall, Executive Director  
Eric Pottschmidt, Program Operations Administrator  
John B. Fricke, Jr., Assistant Attorney General

## **AGENDA**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 9:00 a.m.** by Leanne Polhill, Chair.

**WELCOMED NEW BOARD MEMBER –** Dean Easterwood, H.A.S.

**WELCOMED AND APPROVED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR –** Kimberly Marshall

**Motion:** by Randy Ellsworth to approve new Executive Director, Kimberly Marshall

**Second:** by Pamela Dechmerowski

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES –** December 2, 2021

**Motion:** by Randy Ellsworth to approve the meeting minutes.

**Second:** by Thomas Hollern

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously.



## PROSECUTOR'S REPORT

| <u>Case Status</u>  | <u>Report<br/>Date 11/16/21</u> | <u>Report<br/>Date 2/16/22</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total cases open/active in Prosecution Services:          | <b>3</b>                        | <b>3</b>                       |
| Cases in Emergency Action Unit:                           | 0                               | 0                              |
| Cases under legal review:                                 | 1                               | 0                              |
| Cases awaiting supplemental investigation/expert opinion: | 0                               | 1                              |
| Cases with PCP recommendation:                            | 0                               | 1                              |
| Cases where probable cause has been found:                | 1                               | 1                              |
| Cases where DOAH has been requested:                      | 0                               | 0                              |
| Cases pending before DOAH:                                | 0                               | 0                              |
| Cases on Board meeting agendas:                           | 1                               | 0                              |
| Cases on appeal:  | 0                               | 0                              |
| <b>Cases older than one year: *</b>                       | <b>2</b>                        | <b>1</b>                       |

The Department requested that the Board authorize the continued prosecution of the year and older cases.

- Motion:** by Pamela Dechmerowski to allow PSU to continue to prosecute 1 year and older cases.
- Second:** by Thomas Hollern
- Vote:** Passed Unanimously

## APPLICATION REVIEW (TS – 00:09:10 Minutes)

Stephanie Peacock, Hearing Aid Specialist Trainee, was present and did not have legal counsel present. Board was required to review her application due to answering affirmative to health history question 6.D. under the category of "Substance-Related Disorders Impacting Ability to Practice".

Stephanie Peacock presented her case. Ms. Peacock has attended personal and voluntary therapy, and an AA program, which she continues to attend voluntarily. Her therapy has never been court ordered and continues to attend with no expected completion date as she considers her therapy, as well as her AA program, a part of her life in order to ensure abstinence and continued growth.

Pamela Dechmerowski requested Ms. Peacock be evaluated by Professionals Resource Network (PRN).



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Alexis Polles, M.D., Medical Director at PRN explained the process and services available for an evaluation.

Leanne Polhill suggested the board may also request letters of recommendations from personal and professional acquaintances, including from her sponsor, as noted by Dean Easterwood.

After further discussion, the Board took the following action:

- Motion:** by Pamela Dechmerowski to table the application review until PRN evaluation and references are received.  
**Second:** by Thomas Hollern  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

## REPORTS

### Chair's Report - Leanne E. Polhill

FDA rules for OTC hearing aids are still in progress, but may be ready to discuss at our May 20, 2022, or July 15, 2022 meetings. Nothing more to report.

### Vice Chair's Report - Randy Ellsworth

Nothing to report.

### Executive Director's Report – Kimberly Marshall

Legislative Update – Nothing to report that would directly affect the hearing aid profession.

### 2023 Proposed Meeting Dates

Dates were presented and considered by the Board.

### Board Counsel's Report - John B. Fricke, Jr.

64B6-2.003 Licensure by Examination. John Fricke, Jr. updated the Board on the resubmission to JAPC of this proposed rule language change.

Rules Report – nothing to report.

## RATIFICATIONS

### Licenses Issued

- Motion:** by Dean Easterwood to accept the ratification lists for Hearing Aid Specialist and Hearing Aid Specialist Trainee.  
**Second:** by Randy Ellsworth  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS** – No old or new business

**NEXT MEETING DATE** – May 20, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. – GoToMeeting



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**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – No public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT @ 9:37 A.M.**