

FLORIDA BOARD OF HEARING AID SPECIALISTS RULES WORKSHOP HEARING

DRAFT MINUTES

**January 27, 2023
Immediately Concluding the
General Board Meeting**



**Leanne Polhill, H.A.S., Chair
Randy Ellsworth, H.A.S., Vice-Chair
Ashleigh K. Irving, Executive Director**



Please note that the meeting minutes reflect the actual order that agenda items were discussed during the meeting and may differ from the agenda outline.

I. CALL TO ORDER

(TS 00:45:00 Minutes) The meeting was called to order on January 27, 2023, at approximately 9:55 AM ET by Leanne E. Polhill, Chair.

Opening Remarks were read by Ashleigh Irving, Executive Director.

(TS 00:48:30 Minutes) Roll Call was conducted by Ms. Irving.

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.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Thomas Hollern

BOARD COUNSEL:

Kara Aikens, Assistant Attorney
General

STAFF PRESENT:

Ashleigh Irving, Executive Director
Eric Pottschmidt, MBA, Program
Operations Administrator
Kieran Compagnone, Regulatory
Specialist III

Other Persons Present:

Jason Winn
John Moore

II. RULES DISCUSSION

A. Chapter 64B6-5.001, F.A.C., Continuing Education as a Condition for Renewal

(TS 00:51:50 Minutes) Ms. Aikens presented the proposed language for Chapter 64B6-5.001, F.A.C. Ms. Polhill allowed public comment at which time Jason Winn spoke on behalf of the Florida Hearing Society and noted his appreciation for the proposed rule amendments that were voted to be approved during the general board meeting that preceded this rules hearing meeting.

B. Chapter 64B6-6.001, F.A.C., Thirty-Day Trial Period

(TS 00:53:45 Minutes) Ms. Aikens presented the proposed changes to Chapter 64B6-6.001(4), F.A.C., specifying the changes from the current rule language.

(TS 00:56:25 Minutes) Ms. Polhill allowed public comment at which time John Moore, a member of the public stated his concerns with the proposed amendments to Chapter 64B6-6.001(4), F.A.C., concerning consumer protection. Mr. Moore expressed his opinion that the Rule was sufficient as it was currently written.



(TS 01:01:50 Minutes) Mr. Winn noted his agreement with Mr. Moore's statements. Ms. Polhill acknowledged that these proposed rule changes were developed in consultation with the Florida Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology, and expressed that it was her opinion that if the Hearing Aid Specialists Board sought to change the presented language that was proposed at the joint meeting with the Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology, it would be appropriate to consult the Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology regarding any developments to the proposed rule language. Ms. Polhill stated that the goal that has been determined by discussions between the Florida Board of Hearing Aid Specialists and the Florida Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology was to ensure that hard costs are recouped for the professional and that services rendered which cannot be returned are also compensated.

(TS 01:05:00 Minutes) Mr. Ellsworth expressed his concerns shared by Mr. Moore, regarding consumer protection.

(TS 01:10:05 Minutes) Additional discussion took place between Mr. Easterwood and Mr. Moore involving the cap placed on the amount of a charge that may be retained in the event of cancellation within the 30-day trial period.

(TS 01:16:57 Minutes) Ms. Polhill commented that due to a shift in the industry for audiology and for hearing aid specialists nationwide, with a much greater emphasis on service and the value of the service provided by a licensed professional, the current rule language on fee structure and the 30-day return window does not necessarily consider the value of a professional's time spent with a patient or the hard costs of the services rendered.

(TS 01:23:15 Minutes) Mr. Ellsworth inquired the status of the Florida Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology with the development of rule language for this topic, to which Ms. Aikens responded that she had spoken with counsel for the Florida Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology earlier that morning, and stated that their rule has been tolled until the Florida Board of Hearing Aid Specialists reached a decision. Ms. Aikens added that the rule has been tolled on the end of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists as well.

(TS 01:24:25 Minutes) Ms. Polhill stated that the Board would thoughtfully consider the public comments made during this meeting, and hold another joint meeting with the Florida Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology where there would be additional discussion held regarding the development of rule language that is fair and equitable as well as protects the consumer.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(TS 01:27:15 Minutes) Mr. Winn expressed his appreciation for the Board's time and consideration of this matter. Mr. Moore thanked Ms. Polhill for the opportunity to participate.

IV. ADJOURNMENT @ 10:38 AM EST