

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS PROGRAM

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Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Hearing Instrument Dispensers

February 10, 2016

The Wellstone Center, Ecolab Fireside Room

179 Robie Street East, St. Paul, MN 55107

IN ATTENDANCE:

Present Members:

Richard Caruso
Sarah Kahley
P.J. Kiedrowski
Robert McLachlan
Dale Thorstad

MDH Staff Members:

Amanda Hirsch
Anne Kukowski
Catherine Lloyd
Kevin Reinke
Gloria Rudolph

Guests:

None

Absent Members:

None

AGENDA:

1. **Convene and Introductions.** Done by those in attendance.
2. **Announcements** – New Member. Daniel Rochel introduced himself as a certified dispenser advisory council member. Gloria Rudolph has replaced Grace Rauchwarter.
3. **Review and Approval of Minutes.** Approved as written.
4. **Additions/Adoptions of Agenda.** Approved as written.
5. **Staff Updates**
 - - A. **Staff Updates – Credentialing Report.** Rudolph presented HID credentialing stats, as of January 31, 2016.

HID Trainees:	Non Audiologist:	Audiologist:	Total Certified:
17	202	3	205

- B. **Staff Updates – HID Exam Report.** Rudolph also presented HID Practical Exam results from the November 6, 2015 exam. HID candidates only.

To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-3731.

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New Candidates:	Retest Candidates:	Total Candidates:
5 Passed	5 Passed	10 Passed
<u>5</u> Failed	<u>4</u> Failed	<u>9</u> Failed
10 Total	9 Total	19 Total

- C. Staff Updates – Investigations and Enforcements Reports.** Kukowski presented HID Investigation and Enforcement Reports through 2nd quarter of Fiscal Year 2016.

Intake:	Investigations:	Enforcements:	Pending:
58	Opened: 9 Closed: 6	Opened: 3 Closed: 0	Investigations: 26 Enforcements: 6

- D. Staff Updates – Budget Report.** Kukowski presented HID budget reports through 2nd quarter of Fiscal Year 2016.

6. Old Business

- A. Old Business -- Proposed Legislation for 2016.** Kukowski announced that the Department will be bringing forth some minor proposals for consideration during the 2016 legislative session.
- B. Old Business -- Apprenticeship Standards for Hearing Aid Specialists.** Lloyd reported that U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, has recognized hearing aid specialists as an occupation amenable to an apprenticeship program. Lloyd briefly reviewed the New National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards for the International Hearing Society and Appendix A of Bulletin 2015-23. Lloyd led a discussion about whether sponsors, or a group of employers can develop voluntary apprenticeship programs, through the MN Department of Labor and Industry, for hearing instrument dispensers based on U.S. Department of Labor National Guidelines without violating or opening Minnesota Statute, Chapter 153.A.

7. New Business

- A. New Business -- Go-Hear FDA Response.** Reinke reported that because the hearing aids and test and software were in a physician's office the company was exempt from pre-market notifications. Due to this, the FDA has closed the investigation with no further action.
- B. New Business -- Historical Earnings Report.** Kukowski presented HID Certification and Exam Earnings Report from Fiscal Year 2004 to Fiscal Year 2016.
- C. New Business -- PSA Update.** Kukowski reported that the Department will draft a letter that will be sent to businesses that are selling hearing aids through ads. The letter will advise that their ad does not comply with Minnesota state laws.
- D. New Business -- What are other states doing about the apprenticeship guidelines?** The council members discussed the possibility of starting a HID apprenticeship in Minnesota.

8. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned.

HID ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, May 11, 2016