



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans*

**Hearing Instrument Dispenser  
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2013**

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**Attendance**

<b><u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>MDH Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Guests</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Richard Caruso	Anne Kukowski	Dan Campo	Dale Thorstad
Sarah Kahley	Patti Fuller		
Cami Lawless	Grace Rauchwarter		

**Minutes**

- I. Introductions**  
Fuller called the meeting to order.
- II. Announcements**  
None
- III. Review and Approve Minutes from November 14, 2012**  
Approved as written.
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda**  
Approved as written.
- V. Staff Updates**
  - A. Credentialing and Exam Discussion**

Fuller presented the Credentialing report as of January 31, 2013

    - Audiologist Dispensers: 5
    - Non-audiologist Dispensers: 198
    - Total Dispensers: 203
    - Trainees: 4

Fuller presented the Hearing Instrument Dispenser Exam report

    - Exam results were mailed to examinees December 27, 2012
    - Written Exam Results:  
9 new examinees took the written exam: 6 passed, 3 failed  
1 retest for written exam: 1 failed
    - Practical Exam Results:  
14 new examinees took the practical exam: 7 passed, 7 failed (two audiologist examinees failed the practical exam, five non-audiologists failed the practical exam). Non-audiologist practical exam failures consisted of: one failed audiometry, two failed ear mold impressions, one failed audiometry and Minnesota law and one failed audiometry and earmold impressions.
    - Practical Exam Retests Results:  
8 retests: 5 passed, 3 failed (Two audiologist examinees failed their retest, one

non-audiologist failed their retest). Non-audiologist practical exam retest failure consisted of: one failed Audiometry.

- Discussion regarding the International Hearing Society (IHS) schedule for the online written exam. The online written exam may be available by June 27, 2013 exam.
- Discussion about the high number of examinees who are not passing the new IHS written exam.

## **B. Investigation and Enforcement Report**

Kukowski presented the FY 2013 I & E Report: October 1 – December 31<sup>st</sup>

- 29 Intakes (2 allegations, 8 inquiries for information, one inquiry/credential check, 18 application intakes)
- 1 Investigations opened (1 allegation intake)
- 7 Investigations closed (4 closed due to insufficient evidence to show a violation – 2 closed due to uncooperative witness/client – 1 closed due to inability to locate consumer/client)
- No Enforcements Opened
- No Enforcements Closed

Kukowski Updated the Council on current I & E Staffing

- There is currently only one investigator in the Health Occupations Program due to the retirement of Kyle Renell.
- The vacant investigator position will be posted soon.

## **C. Budget and Expenditure Report**

Kukowski present the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Report

- Attorney General expenditures for exam appeals: \$2,780.00
- Total costs for Certification and Exam: \$68,247
- The staff cost is lower than expected due to the vacant HOP Director position.
- Total receipts for Certification and Exam: \$164,091
- Kukowski stated that a majority of the receipts were received during the October 31, 2013 Hearing Instrument Dispenser renewal.
- Kukowski stated that the trainee fees were lower than expected.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. 2012 Legislation**

Kukowski presented the Criminal Background Checks (CBC), Hearing Instrument Dispenser Data Snap Shot.

- Kukowski explained the history on the criminal background checks legislation.
- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Health Licensing Board (HLB) came up with joint recommendations for how the CBC procedure should be done, and then MDH separately recommended that the legislature delay any decision about mandating CBCs for MDH until:
  - (1) MDH undergoes Sunset review in 2014;
  - (2) the procedures have been implemented, tested, and worked out by HLB;

and

(3) the CBC that happens at licensing can be combined with the CBC that many people undergo at the time of employment.

- Council discussed the possibility of changing Question 25 of the Hearing Instrument Dispenser application but no decision was made at this time. Question 25, currently asks: Have you been convicted, within last five years, of a felony, gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor which relates to hearing instrument dispensing or which involved an essential element of which was dishonesty? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**B. Recruiting of Public Members**

The Council discussed ways to recruit public members for the Council. The following ideas were discussed:

- Place notices about the public member Council vacancies in Senior Centers in the area.
- Practitioners could contact current or previous clients.
- Vacancy notices on the Health Occupations Program website.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Meeting Locations/Directions**

Council Members were informed that the next Hearing Instrument Dispenser Advisory Council Meeting will be held in the President's Conference Room on the Concordia University St Paul Campus. The Members were given a map of the campus and instructions to park in Lot B. Campo expressed concerns about the availability of parking. Rauchwarter stated she would look into the availability of parking and provide parking information when she emails members the Agenda for the May 15, 2013 Advisory Council Meeting.

**VIII. Next Meeting**

May 15, 2013

Concordia University

Saint Paul MN

Presidents Conference Room