



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

**Hearing Instrument Dispenser
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2014**

Attendance

Members

Dale Thorstad
Sarah Kahley
Cami Lawless
Richard Caruso
P. Jay Kiedrowski

MDH Staff

Anne Kukowski
Grace Rauchwarter
Bridget Woitas

Guests

Maryann Campo

Absent

Maxwell Hall
Eric Hedren

Minutes

I. Introductions

Kukowski called the meeting to order.

II. Review and Approve Minutes from February 19, 2014

The date on the Minutes should be February 19, 2014. The Minutes that were reviewed and approved were from August 7, 2013. With these changes noted the minutes were approved.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

Approved as written.

IV. Staff Updates

A. Credentialing and Exam Discussion

Credentialing report as of April 30, 2014

- Audiologist Dispensers: 4
- Non Audiologist Dispensers: 202
- Total Dispensers: 206
- Trainees: 15

February 28, 2014 Hearing Instrument Dispenser Exam report

- Exam results were mailed to examinees March 26, 2014
- Written Exam Results
4 new examinees took the written exam: 3 passed, 1 failed
3 retested for written exam: 3 failed their retest
- Practical Exam Results
11 new examinees took the practical exam: 6 passed, 5 failed (3 audiologist and 2 non audiologists examinees failed the practical exam)
The non-audiologist failures consisted of: 1 failed earmold impression and audiometry and one failed audiometry
- Practical Exam Retest Results
4 retests: 1 passed, 3 failed (1 audiologist examinee and 2 non audiologist

examinees failed their practical retest.

The non-audiologist failures consisted of: 2 failed audiometry

The next Hearing Instrument Dispenser Examination will be held on June 27, 2014. The application deadline will be June 6, 2014.

B. Investigation and Enforcement Report

Kukowski presented the July 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014 Investigation and Enforcement report.

- 64 Intakes (7 allegations, 57 application intakes)
- 4 Investigations opened
- 4 Investigations closed
- 1 Enforcement opened
- 3 Enforcements closed

Kukowski stated that there are 32 pending investigations involving 20 practitioners. She also stated that there are 15 pending enforcements.

Council Member asked how long it takes to complete investigations.

Kukowski stated she will research this information and provide information regarding this at the next meeting.

C. Budget and Expenditure Report

Kukowski presented the FY 2014 Budget report

FY 2014 total cost for certification was \$103,526

FY 2014 total cost for the examination was \$126,838

The total receipts were \$178,272

Campo asked if there is a plan to decrease the cost of the Hearing Instrument Dispenser Program.

Kukowski stated that she would like adjust the allocations for the Hearing Instrument Dispenser Program.

Kukowski noted that the cost for Information and Technology (IT) for the Hearing Instrument Dispenser program as well as the other programs that the Health Occupations Program regulates will be increasing.

Council discussed the need to increase the number of dispensers.

Council members asked for a Profit & Loss statement for the years 2013 -2015.

V. Old Business

A. Examination Discussion

1. Survey questions

Council discussed the fact that a new question was added to the practical examination application.

This additional question is for audiologist trained students. The Department trying to determine where students are in their education training when they take the practical exam. This question was added to assess the failure rate among audiology students taking the practical exam and whether more advanced students were more successful.

Kahley expressed concerns that audiology students are not getting training needed to work with babies and children.

2. Age demographics

The Council discussed the demographics regarding the age of dispensers. There is some concern that the number of younger practitioners is not growing and that dispensers are an older population. There is concern that the number of practitioners may not be able to meet the need of aging boomers who need hearing aids.

B. Review of draft of simplified consumer brochure

The Council was given a draft of the proposed revisions to the hearing aid consumer brochure. Kukowski asked members to contact her if they notice errors or would like changes to the draft.

VI. New Business

A. Fines and Penalties

Kukowski informed Council Members that civil penalty fees are credited to the Hearing Instrument Dispenser Certification Program.

B. Sound Generators

The Council had a discussion about sound generators. It was decided that the Council would discuss sound generators again at the next Hearing Instrument Dispenser Advisory Council Meeting

C. 2015 Legislation

The Council Members were presented with the Proposed Legislation 2015 Legislative Session. This handout contained proposed changes regarding:

- The Hearing Instrument Dispenser written examination
- Corrective Actions
- Serving of notice of disciplinary action by certified mail

VII. Next Meeting

November 19, 2014