



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

**Hearing Instrument Dispenser
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2013**

Attendance

Members

Dale Thorstad
Maxwell Hall
Sarah Kahley

MDH Staff

Anne Kukowski
Patti Fuller
Grace Rauchwarter

Guests

Maryann Campo

Absent

Richard Caruso
Cami Lawless

Minutes

I. Introductions

Maxwell Hall was introduced as the new Public Member for the Hearing Instrument Dispenser Advisory Council.

II. Announcements

None.

III. Review and Approve Minutes from February 20, 2013

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 April 30, 2013

- Audiologist Dispensers: 5
- Non-audiologist Dispensers: 201
- Total Dispensers: 206
- Trainees: 7

Fuller presented the February 7, 2013 Hearing Instrument Dispenser Exam report

- Exam results were mailed to examinees March 18, 2013
- Written Exam Results
3 new examinees took the written exam: 1 passed, 2 failed
2 retest for written exam: 2 failed
- Practical Exam Results
9 new examinees took the practical exam: 7 passed, 2 failed (two audiologist examinees failed the practical exam)
- Practical Exam Retest Results
5 retests: 3 passed, 2 failed (One audiologist examinee and one non-audiologist examinee failed their practical retest. The non-audiologist practical exam retest failed audiometry.)

- Discussion regarding the International Hearing Society (IHS) schedule for the online written 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: July 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013

- 69 Intakes (12 allegations, 23 inquiries for information, 5 inquiry/credential checks, 29 application intakes)
- 7 Investigations opened (6 allegation intakes, 1 application intake)
- 12 Investigations closed (7 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 - 1 closed because practitioner is deceased, - 1 investigation was referred for enforcement)
- 1 Enforcement Opened
- 1 Enforcement Closed

Kukowski informed Council Members that a new investigator has been hired and will start on Monday, May 20, 2013.

C. Budget and Expenditure Report

Kukowski present the 1st through 3rd quarter Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Report

- The Council asked if a handout showing the projected expenditures and revenues is available. Kukowski stated she will work to provide the Council with a projected expenditures and revenue report.
- Total costs for Certification and Exam: \$82,717
- Total receipts for Certification and Exam: \$182,028
- The staff cost is lower than expected due to the vacant HOP Director position and only one investigator. The staff cost is also lower because Patti is working on the credentialing of the Occupational Therapy Assistants along with her Hearing Instrument Dispenser exam and certification responsibilities.
- Kukowski stated that the receipts were slightly higher than the expenditures. This balance will go to pay down the programs deficit.
- Campo asked if there is a plan to reduce the certification fee. Kukowski stated that the program currently has a deficit and the receipts will be needed to pay down the deficit.

VI. Old Business

A. 2012 Legislation

- Kukowski stated the criminal background checks that the Health Licensing Board is in favor of has not been passed as of today.
- Kukowski stated that as proposed, the background checks would not be required for hearing instrument dispensers unless the Sunset Commission was repealed. Kukowski further stated that a decision has not been made as to whether to repeal the Sunset Commission.
- The Hearing Instrument Dispenser program is scheduled begin criminal background checks 2017 unless changes are made to Legislation.

- The cost of the background check would be charged to the dispensers.

B. Recruiting of Public Members

The Council was provided with a handout created to recruit more public members for the Hearing Instrument Dispenser Advisory Council.

- The Council Members requested that a copy of the handout be emailed to Council Members and Workgroup members.
- This handout could be distributed to Senior Centers in the area.
- Practitioners could distribute this handout to clients and family members.
- This handout could be placed on the Hearing Instrument Dispenser website.

VII. New Business

A. Medical Clearance

- Kukowski stated there is confusion as to whether a physician assistant or nurse practitioner is authorized to sign a medical clearance
- Kukowski stated she is currently researching this issue to obtain clarification regarding who is authorized to sign a medical clearance
- Medical clearance is necessary for children and medical assistant patients.
- Parents cannot waive the medical clearance for children

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 pm

VIII. Next Meeting

August 7, 2013