



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

**Hearing Instrument Dispenser
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2013**

Attendance

Members

Dale Thorstad
Maxwell Hall
Sarah Kahley
Cami Lawless

MDH Staff

Patti Fuller
Grace Rauchwarter

Guests

Absent

Richard Caruso

Minutes

I. Introductions

Fuller called the meeting to order.

II. Announcements

None.

III. Review and Approve Minutes from May 15, 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 July 31, 2013

- Audiologist Dispensers: 5
- Non Audiologist Dispensers: 200
- Total Dispensers: 205
- Trainees: 9

Fuller presented the June 27, 2013 Hearing Instrument Dispenser Exam report

- Exam results were mailed to examinees July 30, 2013
- Written Exam Results
3 new examinees took the written exam: 1 passed, 2 failed
4 retest for written exam: 2 passed and 2 failed
- Practical Exam Results
11 new examinees took the practical exam: 5 passed, 6 failed (2 audiologist and 4 non audiologists' examinees failed the practical exam)
- Practical Exam Retest Results
5 retests: 4 passed, 1 failed (3 audiologist examinees and 1 non audiologist examinee failed their practical retest. The non- audiologist practical exam retest failed ear mold impressions.)
- Discussion about the high number of examinees who are not passing the new IHS written exam

- Discussed the fact that IHS has created a new study guide for the written exam

B. Investigation and Enforcement Report

Fuller presented the FY 2013 I & E Report: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

- 76 Intakes (16 allegations, 26 inquiries for information, 5 inquiry/credential checks, 29 application intakes)
- 8 Investigations opened (6 allegation intakes, 1 application intake)
- 14 Investigations closed (8 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, - 2 investigation was referred for enforcement)

C. Budget and Expenditure Report

Fuller present the 4th quarter Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Report

- Fuller noted that Kukowski would provide the final Fiscal Year 2013 budget figures at the November 2013 Council Meeting

VI. Old Business

A. Medical Clearance

- Fuller presented Council Members with a handout regarding medical clearance updates from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- Lawless has concerns related to medical referrals. She is concerns that patients/clients are not being seen by ENTs.

B. Recruiting of Public Members

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

VII. New Business

A. 2014 Legislative Changes

- Fuller presented the Council with a document that contains the proposed 2014 Legislative changes for the Hearing Instrument Dispenser Certification program. Fuller noted that if Council Members had questions or concerns about the proposed legislation they should contact Kukowski.
- Council Members were also given a handout related to the background checks for practitioners that will be required beginning January 1, 2018.
- Lawless informed Council Members that some of her client/patients have been contacted by phone. The caller tells the patient/clients that their warranty is about to expire. She is concerned that this could be some kind of scam. Lawless also explained that she has seen advertisements that may be false or misleading. Fuller stated that anyone that sees these types of advertisement should forward a copy of the information to our investigation staff.

VIII. Next Meeting

November 20, 2013
 Concordia University
 Library and Technology Center, Room 216
 1282 Concordia Avenue
 Saint Paul MN 55104