



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

**Hearing Instrument Dispenser
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2014**

Attendance

Members

Richard Caruso
P. Jay Kiedrowski

MDH Staff

Anne Kukowski
Grace Rauchwarter
Bridget Woitas

Guests

Absent

Maxwell Hall
Eric Hedren
Dale Thorstad
Cami Lawless
Sarah Kahley

Minutes

I. Introductions

Kukowski called the meeting to order.

II. Review and Approve Minutes from May 14, 2014

Council Members mentioned that the May 14th minutes did not include that Gil Acevedo was introduced as the Manager of the Health Occupations Program. With this change noted the minutes were approved and seconded.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

Caruso requested that the Council discuss how HIPPA requirements effect Hearing Instrument Dispensers. With this addition the agenda was approved and seconded.

IV. Staff Updates

A. Credentialing and Exam Discussion

Credentialing report as of July 30, 2014

- Audiologist Dispensers: 4
- Non Audiologist Dispensers: 203
- Total Dispensers: 207
- Trainees: 19

June 27, 2014 Hearing Instrument Dispenser Exam report

- Exam results were mailed to examinees July 17, 2014
- Practical Exam Results

11 new examinees took the practical exam: 7 passed, 4 failed (4 non audiologist examinees failed the practical exam)

The non-audiologist failures consisted of: 1 failed earmold impressions and 1 failed ear mold impressions and audiometry and 2 failed audiometry

- Practical Exam Retest Results

9 retests: 6 passed, 3 failed (2 audiologist examinee and 1 non audiologist examinees failed their practical retest.

The non-audiologist failures consisted of: 1 failed audiometry

The next Hearing Instrument Dispenser Examination will be held on

November 7, 2014. The application deadline will be October 17, 2014.

B. Investigation and Enforcement Report

Kukowski presented the July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 Investigation and Enforcement report.

- 65 Intakes (7 allegations, 58 application intakes)
- 4 Investigations opened
- 20 Investigations closed
- 2 Enforcement opened
- 3 Enforcements closed

Kukowski stated that there are 20 pending investigations involving 12 practitioners. She also stated that there are 8 pending enforcements.

C. Budget and Expenditure Report

Kukowski presented the FY 2015 Projected Receipts and Expenditure Report and the 4th Quarter Budget and expenditure report. She noted that civil penalty fees collected are deposited in the Hearing Instrument Dispenser program funds. She noted that in some civil penalty cases the consumers are provided with restitution.

V. Old Business

A. Sound Generators

The Council discussed sound generators also known as tinnitus maskers. It was decided to discuss this issue further at the next Hearing Instrument Dispenser Advisory Council Meeting

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. Length of Time for Investigations

The Council discussed the length of time it takes for investigations. This item will also be discussed at the November Hearing Instrument Dispenser Advisory Council Meeting

B. Fee Review

Kukowski informed Council Members that the Department anticipated requesting the continuation of the surcharge that is scheduled to expire in 2015. She also noted that the program is requesting a proposal to charge \$250.00 as administrative cost for the Hearing Instrument Dispenser written exam.

C. Budget Reporting

Kukowski informed Council Members that budget discussions will occur at the August and February Hearing Instrument Dispenser Advisory Council Meetings

VII. Next Meeting

November 19, 2014