

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS PROGRAM

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Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Hearing Instrument Dispenser

November 4, 2015

The Wellstone Center, Ecolab Fireside Room

179 Robie Street East, St. Paul, MN 55107

IN ATTENDANCE:

Present Members:

Richard Caruso
Sarah Kahley
P.J. Kiedrowski
Robert McLachlan
Dale Thorstad

MDH Staff Members:

Anne Kukowski
Grace Rauchwarter
Laurie Studer
Kevin Reinke

Guests:

Mary Ann Campo
Rich Davies
Paul Newton

Absent Members:

None

AGENDA:

- 1. Convene and Introductions.** Done by those in attendance.
- 2. Announcements – Expiring Council Members.** Council member Carusso has re-applied.
- 3. Announcements – Convenience Fee.** Licensees will be charged approximately 2.5% of their payment if they pay their license renewal fee online using a credit card.
- 4. Announcements – HID Exam Status.** Required by statute to offer twice a year. MDH offers 3-4 times a year. We had to turn away about 8 people this past time. We need to find more examiners. Looking into an audiometry test online. Test now takes 45 minutes. Looking into getting dummies to make ear mold on. Video tape exam and send to examiner so the applicant could take the test at different times. Would also eliminate testers bringing their own equipment. Eliminate liability issues of using real people. Eliminate long testing hours.
- 5. Announcements – 2016 Meeting Dates.** Handed out to council members.
- 6. Review and Approval of Minutes.** Approved as written.
- 7. Additions/Adoptions of Agenda.** The agenda was reviewed and approved with a change in the order of topics.

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HID ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

8. **Staff Updates – Credentialing Report.** Rauchwarter presented HID credentialing stats, as of November 1, 2015.

HID Trainees:	Non Audiologist:	Audiologist:	Total Certified:
20	192	2	194

Rauchwarter also presented the results of the July 10, 2015 HID Exam Report. She noted a typo on the report. She will send updated report to members by email.

New Candidates: 17	Retest Candidates: 3	Non Audiologist Failures: 9
Audiologist* (9 Pass, 1 Fail)	Audiologist*: (1 Pass, 0 Fail)	Audiometry: 5
Non-Audiologist (4 Pass, 7 Fail)	Non-Audiologist (2 Pass, 0 Fail)	Earmold Impressions: 4
Totals: 13 Pass, 8 Fail	Totals: 3 Pass, 0 Fail	

*The term “audiologist” means persons who stated that they were in or had completed an audiology master’s or doctoral training program on their exam application, and they are not authorized to practice audiology or to dispense hearing instruments until licensed.

9. **Staff Updates – Investigations and Enforcements Reports.** Kukowski presented HID Investigation and Enforcement Reports through 3rd quarter of Fiscal Year 2016.

Intake:	Investigations:	Enforcements:	Pending:
28	Opened: 2 Closed: 1	Opened: 1 Closed: 0	Investigations: 24 Enforcements: 4

10. **Staff Updates – Budget Report.** Kukowski presented budget report for the end of FY15 and the beginning of Fiscal Year 2016.

11. **Old Business – Update onGoHear.** Submitted request, asked for response in April, Anne Kukowski has left 2 more messages, has raised awareness. Hoping to hear back soon. FDA attempted to buy a device, we found they were not following statute. Company was found to be in Alaska. So we can send a violation notice for now. Cannot send cease and desist because we could not follow through. Dale Thorstad would like Alaska address.

12. **Old Business – Trainee List.** Handed out to council members.

13. **Old Business – Insurer Contracting.** No law to make insurers have a contract with hearing dispensers.

14. **New Business – Proposed Legislation for 2016.** Everything is at the executive office at this time. Are the audiologist having a legislation session? Do we notify this council if so? If we move to another form of exam should reduce examiner complaints. And the question/complaint of audiologist not taking the exam.

15. **New Business - Report: President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.** Addressing elderly person with mild forms of hearing loss. Costs \$5000/pair, components \$100, discrepancies of the cost of making a hearing aid. Manufacture is selling it at an extremely high price. Does the increase in cost justify any new technology? Do we really want insurance to cover hearing aids when many people buy them and not were them (25%)? Advancements are not the same as in other electronic devices. People are not getting hearing aids because of the stigma and bundling prices. Prohibits mail order hearing aids. Recommends different classifications. Examples: Complex hearing aids, over the counter hearing aids. They recommend making a third category for mild to moderate hearing loss.

HID ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

16. New Business - Apprenticeship Standards for Hearing Aid Specialists. Reinke presented international guidelines. Still have to follow state regulations. Age and course work are a concern. Questions at end of presentation: IHS -this is just an additional pathway for other like veterans to come in. Used as more of a model not to replace state regulations. How much does it get utilized?

Rich Davies states to have competency models to help see progress and move ahead. Be able to evaluate competency. 16-18 long term care properties that use the apprenticeship model. 9 credits through mnsco and hours on the job. Have your own apprenticeship program. You are not bound to take what they say. This would help to train trainees. Have a wage schedule. Could have 4-5 steps. Incentives for people to do this program is to have on the job training. To learn more skills. Question: If audiologists could be sponsor/trainer for apprenticeship.

Biggest problem is the cost to the employer. Change statutes so apprentices can work/do certain tasks? (To provide more to the employer.)

Program would have a test/exam for completion.
Next meeting topic, what are other states doing.

Kampo stressed her concern on opening up the statute. Her request that no amendments be made to the statute. State it as a technical change. Her worries are that verbiage will be added that was not approved.

17. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 10, 2016