

## Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Hearing Instrument Dispensers  
November 16, 2016  
The Wellstone Center, Room 208  
179 Robie Street East, St. Paul, MN 55107

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Present Members:** Sarah Kahley, Daniel Rochel, Robert McLachlan, Arthur Zimmerman

**MDH Staff Members:** Amanda Hirsch, Anne Kukowski, Catherine Lloyd, Kevin Reinke, Gloria Rudolph

**Absent Members:** Richard Caruso, P. J Kiedrowski, Dale Thorstad

### AGENDA:

1. **Convene and introductions.** Done by those in attendance
2. **Announcements.**
  - A. **New appointment.** Arthur Chad Zimmerman - Public member
  - B. **Oath of Office**
  - C. **2017 HID Advisory Council Meeting Dates.** Hirsch reviewed and announced 2017 meeting dates.
3. **Review and Approval of Minutes.** Approved as written.
4. **Additions/Adoptions of Agenda.** Adopted with an additional new business regarding assistive listening devices.
5. **Staff Updates**
  - A. **Staff Updates – Credentialing Report.** Rudolph presented the Hearing Instrument Dispenser credentialing stats, as of July 31, 2016.\*
  - B. **Staff Updates – HID Exam Report.** Rudolph presented the Hearing Instrument Dispenser retest exam results from August 5, 2016 and the HID Practical exam results from the September 9, 2016 exam. \*
  - C. **Staff Updates – Investigations and Enforcements Reports.** Lloyd presented the HID Investigation and Enforcement Reports for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2017.\*

## HEARING INSTRUMENT DISPENSER ADVISORY COUNCIL

**D. Staff Updates – Budget Report.** Kukowski reported on the projected Fiscal Year 2017 budget for Hearing Instrument Dispenser Certification and the Hearing Instrument Dispenser Examination.

### 6. Old Business

**A. Old Business – Proctors.** Reinke asked the council members to review the questionnaire that we give to individuals interested in proctoring the Hearing Instrument Dispenser Exam. The questionnaires have not been updated since June 2015 and the department is looking for feedback regarding the questions we ask potential proctors.

**B. Old Business – HID Exam – Simulator update.** During the September 9, 2016 Hearing Instrument Dispenser Examination, a simulator was used for the ear mold portion for the first time. Staff received positive feedback from proctors and examinees.

### 7. New Business

**A. New Business – Continuous improvements for the HID Exam.** On December 2, 2016 the Department will be using the second simulator for the photo analysis portion of the ear mold practical exam. Department staff asked members if there was interest in researching the use and effectiveness of virtual audiometry for the exam. Staff identified three audiologists and one hearing instrument dispenser to research the technology and software pertaining to virtual audiology.

#### **B. New Business – 2017 Legislation**

**a) Criminal background checks** – The Revisor of Statutes codified the criminal background check requirements for new applicants in Minnesota Statutes, section 144.0571. By January 1, 2018, the Department will require new applicants to undergo finger print based criminal history background check by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

**b) Possible HID Fee Increase** – There may be fee increases for multiple programs including Hearing Instrument Dispensers and Audiologist. This is based on past and projected expenditures and revenues.

**C. New Business – Tinnitus management.** Members were asked to discuss tinnitus management as it relates to dispensing hearing instruments. Members stated IHS is offering a course on tinnitus management.

**D. New Business – Assistive Listening Devices.** MDH received an inquiry from a HID Advisory Council member regarding whether there is a scope of practice issue when teachers dispense assistive listening devices (ALD) in schools.

### 8. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned.

HEARING INSTRUMENT DISPENSER ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Next Meeting:**  
February 8, 2016

\*Detailed credentialing reports are available upon request.

Minnesota Department of Health  
Health Occupations Program  
PO Box 64882,  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
651-201-3731  
Email: [Health.HOP@state.mn.us](mailto:Health.HOP@state.mn.us)