

# Hearing Instrument Dispenser

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2017

The Wellstone Center, Ecolab Room #107  
179 Robie Street East, St. Paul, MN 55107

### In Attendance

**Present Members:** Richard Caruso, Sarah Kahley, P. Jay Kiedrowski, Robert McLachlan, Dale Thorstad

**MDH Staff Members:** Susan Winkleman, Catherine Lloyd, Kevin Reinke, Gloria Rudolph, Amanda Hirsch

**Absent Members:** Daniel Rochel, Arthur Zimmerman

### Agenda

1. **Convene and introductions.** Done by those in attendance.
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes.** Approved as written.
3. **Additions/Adoptions of Agenda.**
4. **Announcements**
  - a. **Legislative Update** – The Governor’s budget proposal included a onetime fee for the criminal background checks for all programs and then all of the fee increases for all programs. As of right now, the legislature has a version of the budget bill and none of the fees are included. Legislators have until May 22, 2017 to make a decision made regarding fees. If they do not only the governor can call a special session. It is possible that the fees will reappear, but it is still unclear.
5. **Staff Updates**
  - a. **Staff Updates - Credentialing Report.** Rudolph presented the Hearing instrument Dispenser credentialing stats, as of March 31, 2017.\*
  - b. **Staff Updates – HID Exam Report.** Hirsch presented the Hearing Instrument Dispenser exam results from the February 10, 2017 full exam and the March 31, 2017 retest exam.\*
  - c. **Staff Updates** – Investigations and Enforcements Reports. Reinke presented the HID Investigation and Enforcement Reports for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2017.\*
6. **Old Business**
  - a. **Old Business – Review HID Consumer Pamphlet.** The Department was asked to revise the consumer point of purchase brochure to more closely reflect statutory language in both 148 and 153A and the Federal Regulation. The Department will revise the brochure accordingly.
  - b. **Old Business – Assisted Listening Devices.** Department staff met with MDH audiologists and had discussions with SLPA Advisory council regarding teachers

assisting students with assistive listening devices. Audiologists support the role of teachers assisting students and audiologists, so long as teachers do not engage in the practice of audiology. The Department will refer any concerns to the Department of Education. Further, the Department will be updating the consumer websites to add information for families and children with hearing loss.

7. **New Business**

- a. **New Business – Streamlining the HID Examination.** Staff are considering other methods to streamline the HID exam, including online or web based audiology exam. Several members of the SLPA Advisory Council are researching different online models and will report their findings to MDH.
- b. **New Business – Tele-Medicine: Audiology and/or Dispensing Hearing Aids.** The Department received a question from an audiologist about whether or not hearing aids could be programmed to fit consumers via telehealth. Under this method, the audiologist used software to test tones, via telehealth, and then use the results to recommend and sell hearing aids. Department staff were encouraged to conduct more research into how the VA was using telehealth to test hearing, recommend and fit hearing aids.

Minnesota Department of Health  
PO Box 64882  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882  
651-201-3731  
health.hid@state.mn.us  
www.health.state.mn.us

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