



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans*

**Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Licensing  
Advisory Council Meeting  
July 23, 2013**

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**Attendance**

**Members**

Mark DeRuiter, PhD, CCC-A/SLP  
Jill Arvidson, MST, CCC-SLP  
Sally Gorski, MA, CCC-SLP  
Heidi Hueffmeier, CCC-SLP  
Josephine Helmbrecht, AuD  
Melissa Ferrello, AuD  
Katherine Teece, AuD  
Jerry Meinders, HID

**Staff**

Anne Kukowski  
Gloria Rudolph  
Barbara Miller  
Kimberly Zillmen (HPSP)

**Absent Members**

Geoff Service, MD  
Lori Mayo  
Jason Schlotthauer

**I. Introductions**

Done by those in attendance.

**II. Review and Approve Minutes from April 23, 2013**

Approved, as written.

**III. Review/Adoption of Agenda**

Approved, as written.

**IV. Staff Reports**

**A. Health Professional Services Program (HPSP)**

Zillman presented an overview of HPSP that including history, organizational structure, funding, unique characteristics, benefits, functions, referrals, and discharges.

**B. Credentialing Report**

Rudolph presented the Credentialing Activity Report as of June 30, 2013.

- Full Licenses: 1,835 = 1,421 SLPs, 412 Auds, and 2 Dual.
- CFY/DE Licenses: 117 = 101 SLPs and 16 Auds.
- Temporary Licenses: 5 = 4 SLPs and 1 Auds.
- Total Licenses: 1,957.
- Next renewal deadline is January 31, 2014; notices will be mailed in November.

**C. Exam Report – June 27, 2013 Exam**

Rudolph stated that MDH does not have the results for the June 27<sup>th</sup> Exam yet. Once they are available, the report will be emailed to the Council Members.

**D. Investigations and Enforcement Report**

Kukowski presented the FY13 SLP I&E Report:

- 39 Intakes (1 from an allegation and 38 from applications).
- 6 Investigations Opened (all from application intakes).
  - 1 count for failure to respond to a written request for information by MDH within 30 days and
  - 1 CE violation.
- 9 Investigations Closed:
  - 3 for insufficient evidence,
  - 3 unable to locate the complainant or witness, and
  - 3 were referred to enforcement.
- 3 Enforcements Opened.
- 2 Enforcements Closed (civil penalties).

Kukowski presented the FY13 Audiology I&E Report:

- 58 Intakes (11 allegations, 1 public action check, 16 inquiries for info, 1 credential check, 29 applications).
- 9 Investigations Opened (7 from allegations, 2 from applications):
  - 2 counts for incompetence or negligence,
  - 1 count for failure to perform with reasonable judgment, skill or safety due to use of alcohol or drugs, or physical or mental impairment, and
  - 4 counts for conduct likely to deceive, defraud public, and
  - 1 count for dispensing incompetently or without proper training.
- 7 Investigations Closed:
  - 1 dismissed with advisements,
  - 1 CE waiver denied,
  - 3 referrals to another agency, and
  - 2 referred to enforcement.
- 2 Enforcements Opened
- 1 Enforcement Closed (education/training requirement and civil penalty).

Kukowski updated I&E staffing changes in HOP.

- There is a new investigator, Chee Lee.
- Patti Fuller will do entry level investigation work, in addition to continuing to coordinate HID Exams.

#### **E. Budget and Expenditure Reports**

Kukowski presented the FY13 Q4 Speech-Language Pathologist Budget Report.

- Total Expenditures were \$118,951.16, which is under budget by about \$35,000.
- Total Receipts were \$175,873.27, which is nearly \$26,000 more than budgeted.
- Program Balance was \$56,922.11.
- The last two weeks of salary are not included in the report and will be billed to expenses in the coming weeks.
- Staff time was budgeted as 1.55 FTE in FY13, but the actual FTE billed was only 1.29. With the recent hiring of additional investigatory staff, the FTE should increase to around 1.55.

Kukowski presented the FY13 Q4 Audiologist Budget Report.

- Total Expenditures were \$98,198.26, which is almost \$32,000 under budget.
- Total Receipts were \$113,213.00, which is about \$4,000 more than budgeted.
- Program Balance was \$15,014.74.
- Staff time was budgeted at 1.38 FTE. The actual was 1.10 FTE. Again, the hiring of investigatory staff will bring FTE closer to the amount budgeted.

## V. **Old Business**

### A. **Audiology Assistants (ongoing discussion)**

Helmbrecht stated there are no updates about audiology assistants.

- Meinders stated he knows that North Dakota has audiologist assistants, and he believes that ND decided to allow HIDs to have one trainee that is less supervised as kind of a tradeoff. He inquired if a similar model would be proposed here?
- Helmbrecht responded that she will look at what North Dakota did.

### B. **Legislative Update**

Kukowski updated the Criminal Background Check (CBC) legislation.

- The finalized legislation that becomes effective in January 2017 was presented.
- Initially, the CBCs will be implemented for new licensees and eventually will extend to already licensed practitioners.
- The CBCs will be conducted both at the state level and the federal level, and it will require fingerprints.
- Meinders asked about the costs of a CBC?
- Kukowski responded a name check costs around \$20 through DHS. Fingerprints will cost from \$15-21. In addition, there are costs for the FBI check, staff time, and resources. She has been told the total cost will be around \$100-120 for each background check.
- Helmbrecht asked if this would be an annual cost?
- Kukowski explained that fee would include a wrap-back feature where any future criminal infraction would be reported to us, and so that fee would be charged once per license.

### C. **Medical Clearance Signature for Hearing Aids and Ordering Rehabilitation Service**

Kukowski stated there has been discussion recently about who can sign medical clearances for hearing aids.

- Handout presents different relevant to authorization related to hearing instrument dispensing.
- Resulting conclusion:
  - Physician's assistant can do the medical examination, but a medical doctor has to sign the medical clearance.
  - According to DHS, nurse practitioners would fall into the same category as physician's assistants.

Kukowski stated HOP received information from DHS entitled "Ordering and Referring Requirements for Rehabilitative Therapy Services" in regards to SLPs.

- Handout states who can order SLP services for people on MN healthcare programs.

## VI. **New Business**

### A. **2014 Legislation**

Kukowski presented preliminary proposals for 2014 legislation.

- Handout of legislation HOP intends to propose. Not yet approved by MDH.
- Summary:
  - Delete language about sending renewal applications since renewals are online

now.

- Add authority for non-disciplinary corrective actions.
- Amend language to be clear that audiologists who achieve licensure by reciprocity must still pass the practical exam for hearing instrument dispensing.
- Remove HOP from the CBC law or modifying requirements.

### **B. HID Exam – Audiologist pass/fail rate**

Helmbrecht presented an Audiologists and the HID Practical Examination: A Proposal for Change.

- The presentation is on behalf of Minnesota Academy of Audiology (MAA) with the disclaimer that they don't represent the entire audiology field within Minnesota. This presentation has been reviewed by MAA's subcommittee on the exam, their governmental relations committee, and their Board of Directors.
- MAA has a subcommittee to look into those concerns about age, content, and audiologist failures on the practical portion of the HID exam.
- The presentation covered the following topics:
  - regulation and exam history,
  - audiologist concerns,
  - ability to attract audiologists to Minnesota,
  - dispensing exam requirements in other states, and
  - education and exam requirements as part of an audiology doctoral program.
- MAA proposes that audiologists seeking licensure in Minnesota be exempt from the practical exam.

### **C. University of Minnesota Audiologist Exam**

DeRuiter presented an overview of the audiologist doctoral program at the University of Minnesota.

### **Next Meeting**

October 22, 2013, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Dakota County Northern Service Center, Room 501

1 Mendota Road

West Saint Paul, MN 55118