



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

**Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Licensing  
Advisory Council Meeting  
October 22, 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  
Geoff Service, MD  
Katherine Teece, AuD  
Jerry Meinders, HID

**Staff**

Anne Kukowski  
Gloria Rudolph  
Barbara Miller  
Bridget Woitas

**Absent Members**

Melissa Ferrello, AuD  
Lori Mayo  
Jason Schlotthauer

**I. Introductions**

Done by those in attendance.

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

Approved, as written.

**III. Review/Adoption of Agenda**

Approved, as written.

**IV. Staff Reports**

**A. Credentialing Report**

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

- Full Licenses: 1,898 = 1,477 SLPs, 419 Auds, and 2 Dual.
- CFY/DE Licenses: 125 = 113 SLPs and 12 Auds.
- Temporary Licenses: 7 = 4 SLPs and 3 Auds.
- Total Licenses: 2,030.
- Next renewal deadline is January 31, 2014; notices will be mailed in November.

**B. Investigations and Enforcement Report**

Kukowski presented 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY14 SLP I&E Report:

- No Intakes.
- 1 Investigation Opened (from an allegation).
  - 1 count of failure to perform with reasonable judgment, skill or safety due to use of alcohol or drugs, or physical or mental impairment
- No Investigations Closed.
- No Enforcements Opened or Closed.

Kukowski presented 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY14 Audiology I&E Report:

- 4 Intakes (1 allegation, 1 inquiry for info, 2 applications).

- No Investigations Opened.
- 1 Investigation Closed:
  - insufficient evidence to show violation.
- No Enforcements Opened or Closed.

### **C. Budget and Expenditure Reports**

Kukowski presented 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY14 Speech-Language Pathologist Budget Report.

- Total Expenditures were \$23,432, which is under expected costs by about \$4,000.
- Total Receipts were \$15,617, but there has not been a renewal cycle yet.
- Program Balance was -\$13,392.
- Personnel time is lower than expected due to some vacant positions, but should increase over the fiscal year as those positions are filled.

Kukowski presented 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY14 Audiologist Budget Report.

- Total Expenditures were \$20,573, which is under expected costs by about \$12,000.
- Total Receipts were \$4,635, but, again, there has not been a renewal cycle yet.
- Program Balance was -\$15,938.
- Personnel time is lower than expected because it has not been allocated correctly, and Kukowski will work on getting that issue corrected.

## **V. Old Business**

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

Helmbrecht stated there are no updates about audiology assistants because the MAA subcommittee is still in the planning and development stage of the idea.

- Meinders raised some concerns about the hearing instrument dispenser exam, focusing on cost and the dwindling number of HIDs.
- Helmbrecht stated that MAA would talk to all stakeholders before championing any kind of proposed legislation.

### **B. 2014 Legislation**

Kukowski presented the MDH Proposed Amendments handout, noting it is still a draft.

- First item is the corrective actions, as discussed at the previous meeting. A corrective action would be an agreement between MDH and the practitioner under investigation to take remedial action to correct problems identified in the complaint, and corrective actions would be non-disciplinary.
- Second item is updating the language about renewal mailing, since renewals are now done electronically online.
- Third item is reciprocity language to clarify that audiologists who apply for licensure by reciprocity must still pass the practical exam in order to dispense hearing aids. The current statutes are not clear on this issue, even though MDH has always required this.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Standard of Care/Fitting Hearing Aids**

Kukowski stated the MDH often hears from consumers that their hearing aids do not fit well, in terms of both physical fit and sound quality fit. So she inquired if there is a standard of practice for fitting aids that MDH should be referring to?

- Helmbrecht stated that AAA has a standard of care for hearing aid fitting.

- Kukowski stated that she looked at AAA's standard from 2006, and she looked at ASHA's standard from 1998. She thought both were pretty vague in terms of how many times an audiologist should see a patient, how much is up to the audiologist to actively pursue the patient to make sure the aids are fitting right, and how proactive audiologists should expect their patients to be.
- Meinders suggested creating an advice sheet of things to look for, and then that sheet can be sent to the practitioner and the person that is complaining.
- Helmbrecht speculated that IHS would have a best practices guideline too.
- Kukowski noted that MDH is supposed to simply enforce the practice act, and getting into issues of client relations is technically beyond MDH's scope of activity. Yet, these issues come up.
- Kukowski asked how a new audiologist would determine what the standard of care is.
- Helmbrecht responded that they would learn it at school, and they would pick it up at their worksite because most large medical facilities will have a protocol of best practices that they update periodically.
- Kukowski suggested the Department could look at the brochure to see if some language should be added about patients being proactive in their hearing care.
- Helmbrecht stated Consumer Reports had a very informative, straight-shooting article about purchasing a hearing aid, and she believes it was published in 2009.
- Meinders stated that his office has a small booklet of what to expect to consumers, and he could forward a copy of it to the Department to also review.
- Miller stated when HOP gets phone calls from consumers before purchasing a hearing aid that she refers them to DHHS, which is part of DHS, to get more information.
- The Council discussed how the professional organizations have information for consumers, and HOP discussed making sure that their website provides consumers with links to that information.

## **B. Proposed 2014 Meeting Schedule**

Miller presented the proposed 2014 Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Advisory Council meeting schedule.

### **Next Meeting**

January 28, 2014, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm  
 TIES Event Center  
 Lexington Room  
 1644 Larpenteur Ave W  
 Saint Paul, MN 55113