



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

**Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Licensing
Advisory Council Meeting
January 27, 2015**

Attendance

Members

Mark DeRuiter, PhD, CCC-A/SLP
Josephine Helmbrecht, AuD
Heidi Hueffmeier, CCC-SLP
George Pfaff
Geoff Service, MD
Katherine Teece, AuD
Nyagatare Valens

Staff

Anne Kukowski
Gloria Rudolph
Brenda Rustad

Absent

Jill Arvidson, MST, CCC-SLP
Jerry Meinders, HID
Jenne Tunnell, AuD

I. Introductions

Done by those in attendance.

II. Announcements

- HID Exam bibliography will be updated on the web
- Kukowski announced that we have 2 vacancies.
- Brenda Rustad is our new administrative assistant for this council.

III. Oath of Office

An Oath of Office must be signed annually.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes from October 28, 2014

Approved, as written.

V. Review/Adoption of Agenda

Approved, as written.

VI. Health Professional Service Program Presentation

Tracy Erfourth presented information about the Health Professionals Services Program.

VII. Staff Reports

A. Credentialing Report

Rudolph presented the Credentialing Activity Report as of September 30, 2014.

- Full Licenses: 2,007 = 1,564 SLPs, 441 Auds, and 2 Dual.
- CFY/DE Licenses: 114 = 108 SLPs and 6 Auds.
- Temporary Licenses: 11 = 8 SLPs and 3 Auds.
- Total Licenses: 2,132.
- Next renewal deadline is 1/31/15; notices were mailed in November, 2014.

B. Exam Report

Rudolph presented the HID Exam results for November 7, 2014.

- Practical Exam: 23 new application.
 - 15 passed (7 audiologist, 8 non audiologist).
 - 8 failed (2 audiologist, 6 non audiologist).
 - Audiologist Failures: 1 audiometry, 1 audiometry and earmold impressions).
 - 6 retests: 3 passed (1 audiologist, 2 non audiologist).
3 failed (3 non audiologist).
- Exam results were mailed December 3, 2014.
- Next exam is in February.

C. Investigations and Enforcement Report

Kukowski presented the FY15 through 2nd quarter SLP I &E Report:

- 9 Intakes (5 allegations and 4 applications).
- 2 Investigation opened:
 - 1 misrepresentations/fraud/false advertising.
 - 1 suspension by another authority.
- 5 Investigations closed:
 - 2 civil penalty.
 - 1 abeyance.
 - 1 insufficient evidence to show violation.
 - 1 referred to enforcement.
- 2 Enforcement Actions opened:
 - 1 CE violation.
 - 1 failure to comply with an order.
- 6 Enforcement Actions closed:
 - 4 civil penalty.
 - 1 due process/timeliness.
 - 1 disciplinary penalty
- 5 Total Pending Investigations, involving 5 practitioners.
- 4 Total Pending Enforcements, involving 4 practitioners.

Kukowski presented the FY15 through 2nd quarter Audiology I&E Report:

- 8 Intakes (2 allegations and 6 applications).
- 0 Investigation opened
- 5 Investigations closed:
 - 2 insufficient evidence to show violation.
 - 2 dismissed with advisements.
 - 1 due process/timeliness.
- 0 Enforcement Actions opened
- 0 Enforcement Actions closed
- 5 Total Pending Investigations, involving 5 practitioners.
- 8 Total Pending Enforcements, involving 8 practitioners.

D. Budget

Kukowski noted that salaries charged is lower than expected due to vacancies, but will increase with the hiring of new OAS Staff. She also noted that the electronic licensing surcharge is low because we are just finishing up a renewal. On July1, 2015 the surcharge will be expire. The council discussed the electronic payment process. Kukowski noted that currently MDH pays electronic service fees. She noted that there may be some future changes to the electronic payment process.

VIII. Old Business

A. Tele-health discussion

Issues discussed at the last meeting were revisited, including how to verify the identity patients who are provided services through electronic media? Are standards for electronic services the same as for in-person services? Should they be higher or lower? MDH sought input from members on whether the current statutes should be amended to clarify issues around tele-health. It was noted that American Telemedicine Association provides guidance.

IX. New Business

A. Temporary licensing of lapsed practitioners

Rudolph presented a concern about lapsed or expired licensees who seek to return and apply for a temporary license pending full re-licensure. There is nothing in the statute saying they cannot do this; however, is this the purpose for which temporary licensure was intended? Does the Council foresee possible problems should this use of temporary licensure become more common? Right now there are few people doing this, but the word is getting out. Does the Council recommend that we consider amending the statute to prohibit this or put some restrictions on it? Revisit at the April meeting.

B. Closed cases

Lloyd presented on closing cases. Three factors are contributing to Investigation and Enforcement being able to increase the number of cases being closed:

- An increase in staffing. Chee Lee (2013), Patty Fuller (2013), Erin Smilanich (2014), and Catherine Lloyd (2003).
- A new process for evaluating old cases and considering for closure.
- A LEANN process to reduce the time spent on an investigation and have a written processes.

C. Licensing of SLP Assistants (Sally Gorski and Nancy Thul)

Nancy Thul and Sally Gorski presented about the SLP Assistants program Alexandra Technical College has. Approximately 10 students will graduate this spring, with up to 20 annually thereafter. There is a bill that will require SLP Assistants to register.

Next Meeting

April 28, 2015, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
TIES Event Center
Lexington Room
1644 Larpenteur Ave W
Saint Paul, MN 55108