



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

**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST/AUDIOLOGISTS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 28, 2015**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Present Members	Present Members	MDH Staff Members	Guest
Jill Arvidson	George Pfaff	Anne Kukowski	None
Mark De Ruiter	Dr. Geoffrey Service	Catherine Lloyd	
Josephine Helmbrecht	Katherine Teece	Gloria Rudolph	<b>Absent Members</b>
Heidi Hueffmeier	Jenne Tunnell	Julie Stone	None
Jerry Meinders	Nyagatare Valens	Cindy Xiong	

**AGENDA:**

- I. Convene and Introductions** – Done by those in attendance.
- II. Announcements – Oath of Office.** An Oath of Office must be signed annually.
- III. Announcements – Licensing of SLP Assistants.** Kukowski informed Council Members that MDH did not introduce any bill’s relating to speech-language pathology or audiology this year.
- IV. Announcements – Electronic Licensing Surcharge.** Kukowski informed Council Members that the electronic surcharge is scheduled to end at midnight on June 30, 2015.
- V. Announcements – HID Exam Research.** Kukowski informed Council Members that due to the rising costs of offering the HID practical exam, MDH has assigned Erin Smilanich to research how HID exams are being conducted nationwide to see if there are testing alternatives.
- VI. Review and Approval of Minutes** – Approved as written.
- VII. Additions/Adoption of Agenda** – Approved as written.
- VIII. Staff Updates** – Rudolph presented AUD and SLP stats.

	Full	Externship	Temporary
<b>Speech-Language Pathologists</b>	1542	100	3
<b>Audiologists</b>	437	7	4
<b>Dual</b>	2	0	0

Rudolph presented the results of the February 15, 2015 HID exam.

Candidates	Audiologists		Non-Audiologists		Total	
	Pass	Fail*	Pass	Fail*	Pass	Fail*
All	6	2	5	4	11	6
Retest	2	0	4	2	6	2
New	4	2	1	2	5	4

\*One or more portions of the exam

Audiologist failures included 1 audiometry and 1 ear mold.

Kukowski presented Investigation and Enforcement Report through the 3rd quarter of Fiscal Year 2015.

	SLP	AUD
Intakes	13	16
Investigations Opened	2	0
Investigations Closed	9	7
Enforcements Opened	2	1
Enforcements Closed	8	1
Pending Investigations	2	3
Pending Enforcements	2	8

- IX. Old Business – HID Exam Bibliography.** Council Members received a copy of the updated HID exam bibliography.
- X. Old Business – Temp Licensing of Lapsed Practitioners.** Council members revisited temporary licensing of lapsed practitioners from the January meeting and concluded that temporary licenses should be monitored in the future if there is a consistent and growing trend of temporary license applications being submitted by expired practitioners or if any complaints are filed against practitioners holding temporary licenses.
- XI. Old Business – Telemedicine.** Stone presented about the expansion of telemedicine in Minnesota.
- XII. Old Business – Emerging I & E Related to Technology.** Lloyd requested feedback from Council Members about whether MDH should start asking practitioners whether they're practicing telemedicine on licensing applications and whether MDH needs to change the law to include telehealth services. After some discussion, Council Members agreed that if there is a benefit to patients and telemedicine provides quality care, we should try to figure out a way to make it work. Application questions related to telemedicine practice can be asked when practitioners renew their licenses. Lloyd suggested creating a committee that will conduct research or gather data to track telemedicine results. Stone noted that there might be technical bills in the future for telemedicine

**XIII. New Business – Dispensing AUD’s Employed by Non-profits.** Rudolph was recently contacted by an audiologist working for a non-profit organization who wanted to know if she needed a license. Under Minnesota law she is dispensing but, because she works for a non-profit organization, she is not required to be. Council Members agreed that audiologist working for non-profits should be certified, and would prefer for “for profit” to be excluded from statute 148.515 Subd. 6. Kukowski said she would try to get an amendment through.

**XIV. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned.**

**Next Meeting:**

July 28, 2015