

## Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist

October 25, 2016

TIES Center, Fair View Room

1667 Snelling Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55108

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Present Members:** Mark DeRuiter, Josephine Helmbrecht, Katherine Teece, George Pfaff, Dr. Geoffrey Service, Nyagatare Valens, Sarah Monahan, Leigh Ann Ahmad

**MDH Staff Members:** Anne Kukowski, Catherine Lloyd, Gloria Rudolph, Kevin Reinke, Morgan Foster

**Absent Members:** Jerry Meinders, Heidi Hueffmeier, Jenne Tunnell

### AGENDA:

1. **Convene and Introductions.** Done by those in attendance.
2. **Announcements**
  - A. New Appointments – Lloyd introduced new members, Sarah Monahan and Leigh Ann Ahmad.
  - B. Oath of Office - Lloyd went over the Oath of office and had new members sign the Oath.
  - C. 2017 meeting dates, location change - Meetings in calendar year 2017 will be held at Wellstone Center.
3. **Review and Approval of Minutes (April 26th, 2016 meeting).** Approved as written.
4. **Additions/Adoptions of Agenda.** Adopted with additional new business regarding HID Exam costs.
5. **Staff Updates**
  - A. **Staff Updates - Credentialing Report.** Rudolph presented SLP/AUD credentialing stats as of September 30, 2016. \*
  - B. **Staff Updates - HID Exam Report.** Rudolph presented Hearing Instrument Dispenser retest exam results from August 5, 2016 and the HID Practical Exam results from the September 9, 2016 exam. \*
  - C. **Staff Updates - Investigations and Enforcements Reports.** Lloyd presented SLP/AuD Investigation and Enforcement Reports through First quarter of Fiscal Year 2017.\*

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**D. Staff Updates - Budget Report.** Kukowski presented the SLP/AUD Fiscal Year 2016 budget report and the projected Fiscal Year 2017 budget. The Audiology budget is projected to run a deficit. This may lead to fee increases. Some years ago, Audiologists decided that the Audiology Program would contribute to the HID Exam to subsidize costs for audiologist candidates. However, at this time, revenues are not adequate to support even the regulatory program. Therefore, Health Occupations Program (HOP) will be considering ways to make the HID Exam self-supporting.

### 6. Old Business

**A. Old Business - Criminal Background Checks.** The Revisor of Statutes codified 2013 criminal background checks legislation relating to the Department of Health. As a result, by January 1, 2018, MDH must begin conducting criminal history background checks for new applicants. The 2013 legislation also required the Health Licensing Boards and MDH to write a report, by January 1 2017, on how we plan to conduct criminal background checks for renewing/current licensees. This report is in process.

### 7. New Business

#### A. 2017 Legislative Session

**a. Legislative Session - Criminal Background Checks.** HOP expects to partner with DHS to implement criminal background checks.

**b. Legislation - Increased fees.** Current fees do not cover the projected costs for regulation of Audiologists, and allow subsidization of audiologist candidates taking the HID Exam. MDH has suggested a fee increase for both initial and renewing Audiologist applicants. No fee increases are necessary for Speech Language Pathologists at this time.

#### B. SLP Licensing: MN Department of Education, SLP Assistants.

**a. Department of Education.** The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) contacted MDH because MDE is being asked to look at their licensure practices, including whether SLPs should be licensed by MDH instead of dual licensure.

**b. SLP Assistants.** The speech-language pathology professional association may propose legislation to regulate speech-language pathology assistants.

**C. Assistive Listening Devices (ALD).** MDH received an inquiry from the HID Advisory Council regarding whether there is a scope of practice issue when teachers dispense assistive listening devices (ALD) in the schools. Lloyd requested feedback from Council Members.

**D. MDH Initiative - Streamlining and shifting work.** Rudolph led a discussion on how MDH is experiencing an increased number of phone calls and emails during early stages of applications. MDH was curious as to whether processes had slowed down, or whether external pressure was at play. Kukowski researched how long it takes to process applications. Results show that processing times have not increased, despite increased growth of practitioners. Council Member stated that new graduates are feeling pressure from employers to be licensed faster. Rudolph noted that adding the application processing times to the website would be beneficial.

**E. New Business - Use of Simulator at HID Examination.** MDH researched alternatives to using live subjects for the ear mold portion of the exam to reduce costs and liability. A simulator was used

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during the September 9<sup>th</sup> HID Exam. The feedback received was positive, and MDH will continue to use the simulator.

**F. New Business - Proctors.** Reinke reported that MDH is updating the Health Program Rater Questionnaire. He asked members to review the questions MDH asks potential HID exam proctors. Council members suggested two questions could be eliminated.

**G. Addition - HID Exam Costs.** Kukowski presented the HID certification exam costs and revenues. Kukowski plans to look into restructuring the revenue and cost accounts for fiscal year 2017.

**8. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned.**

### **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

\*Detailed credentialing reports are available upon request.

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