



AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2010

Department of Consumer Affairs
2005 Evergreen Street
"Hearing Room"
Sacramento, CA

Committee Members Present

Alison Grimes, Au.D., Chair, Audiologist
Robert Green, Au.D., Audiologist
Sandra Danz, Hearing Aid Dispenser

Board Members Present

Carol Murphy, M.A.
Lisa O'Connor, M.A.
Rodney Diaz, M.D.
Deane Manning, Hearing Aid Dispenser

Board Members Absent

Monty Martin, M.A.

Guests Present

Tricia Hunter, Hearing Health Care Providers California
Cindy Peffers, Hearing Health Care Providers California
Jody Winzelberg, California Academy of Audiology
Marcia Raggio, California Academy of Audiology
Dennis Van Vliet, California Academy of Audiology
Rebecca Bingea, University of California, San Francisco
Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Deputy Director of Board Relations, Department of Consumer Affairs

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer
Don Chang, Legal Counsel
Kathi Burns, Staff
Cynthia Alameda, Staff
Yvonne Crawford, Staff
Debbie Newcomer, Staff
Lori Pinson, Staff

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Grimes called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Discussion Regarding Implementation of Legislation Passed in 2009

- A. SB 821-Omnibus Legislation – Senator Negrete McLeod – Entry-Level Licensing Standards for Audiologists (Doctorate Education) & Amendments to Audiology Aide Supervision Standards- Discuss Regulatory Amendments for Audiology Aides**

Ms. Del Mugnaio provided background on the necessity for amending current audiology aide provisions pursuant to SB 821 and the authority the new statutes provided the Board to adopt alternate levels of

supervision for audiology aides. She stated that Chairperson Grimes had provided her with a draft position paper on audiology support personnel from the American Academy of Audiology, which was included in the meeting packets. Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced the other pertinent documents in the meeting packets, including other states' laws and regulations for audiology support personnel and the results from the informal survey the Board conducted in 2009, where licensed audiologists were asked to provide comments on the appropriate tasks and supervision standards for audiology aides. Ms. Del Mugnaio reported that only 93 out of 1,300 survey responses were received by the Board.

Chairperson Grimes stated that there are plenty of reference documents and sample provisions available to the Committee to begin crafting draft regulatory language to define the audiology aide duties, limitations, and appropriate supervision parameters.

Mr. Green provided written suggestions regarding audiology aide duties and also included comments on services that should be not be assigned to aides.

The Committee discussed the history behind the statutory exemption for industrial audiology aides in terms of the authority for the Board to authorize industrial audiology aides to function under indirect supervision.

Ms. Del Mugnaio requested that the Committee begin developing regulatory language defining supervision standards, the audiology aide scope of responsibility, and exemptions and limitations on specific professional services. She suggested the Committee review the regulations for speech-language pathology assistants, specifically the supervision provisions.

Chairperson Grimes agreed to draft regulatory language, with input from the other Committee members in a manner that would not compromise the Open Meeting Act. She stated that the draft document will be presented to the Committee at a subsequent meeting for further discussion and modification.

B. AB 1535 – Assembly Member Jones- Authorization for Audiologists to Dispense Hearing Aids/ Consider Regulation Changes for Dispensing Audiologists Pertaining to License Renewal Requirements, Fees, and Continuing Professional Development

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the Committee reviewed and approved the proposed amendments at the March 24, 2010 Committee meeting regarding the change in the renewal fee and cycle to a one-year renewal with a \$280 fee for audiologists authorized to dispense hearing aids. She requested the Committee focus on the continuing professional development (CPD) changes, as proposed in the regulatory document included in the meeting packets, and review the language requiring dispensing audiologists to complete fifty percent (50%) of the CPD hours in hearing aid dispensing courses, but where the course content does not focus on the marketing of a particular product or device from a hearing aid manufacturer.

Ms. Winzelberg expressed concern for Educational Audiologists who rely on such manufacturer courses to learn about the latest products and hearing aid technology so that they may appropriately fit children with the latest hearing aid devices.

Chairperson Grimes commented that the restrictions in regulation do not prevent practitioners from seeking such educational opportunities on their own, but does mandate that the CPD for license renewal should focus on educational opportunities that do not have an inherent conflict due to the financial gain of the CPD provider, but instead are geared toward advanced learning and quality care to consumers.

Ms. Bingea commented that there are some extremely well designed audiology courses that have hearing aid related information and should not be restricted to qualifying as only hearing aid course work.

Chairperson Grimes stated that she recognizes that the scope of practice of audiology includes fitting, assessing, validation and verification of hearing aids as a subset of the audiology practice and that hearing aid related information is an integral aspect of rehabilitation; however, the practice of audiology is broad and licensees should be exposed to continued professional growth in other areas of practice as well.

Ms. Hunter inquired how licensees and CPD providers will be advised of the approval of the CPD courses and asked whether the courses will be categorized as “hearing aid related” courses or “audiology-specific” courses.

Mr. Van Vliet inquired how the Board would categorize a course offered by a hearing aid manufacturer where the six hour course was divided into two three-hour segments, with three hours directed toward the marketing of the particular product and the remaining three hours directed toward advancements in hearing aid technology.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the Board will employ the use of subject matter experts (SMEs) to review the hearing aid related coursework and recommend to the Board whether the content meets the CPD regulatory criteria. She further stated that audiology licensees have made such determinations regarding course applicability for the past ten years in terms of independently selecting applicable CPD courses for license renewal, and have been successful in passing the Board’s CPD audit at a rate of greater than 95%.

Chairperson Grimes requested an amendment to the proposed regulations to reflect “hearing aid manufacturers” as opposed to “hearing aid publishers, companies, or corporations.”

M/S/C: Diaz/Green

The Board voted to approve the regulatory changes to Section 1399.157 regarding the license renewal fee and annual renewal cycle for audiologists authorized to dispensing hearing aids and Sections 1399.160.3 and 1399.160.6 regarding the proposed CPD changes, and requested Board staff to notice the proposed changes.

IV. Update on the Status of the Correspondence with Department of Developmental Services Regarding the Need For Further Services Provided by Regional Centers for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children

Chairperson Grimes referenced the Board’s follow-up letter in the meeting packets dated May 6, 2010 to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) requesting a written response to the Board’s previous communication of September 9, 2009, expressing concerns regarding the lack of qualified personnel providing services to infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and who are being served by a variety of agencies, including regional centers. She stated that the Board has not received further communication from DDS to date.

Ms. Del Mugnaio agreed to follow-up once again with DDS.

Chairperson Grimes adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.