



## **AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Radisson Hotel/San Francisco Airport**

**February 6, 2014**

5000 Sierra Point Parkway

Brisbane, CA 94005

### **Committee Members Present**

Alison Grimes, Chair, Dispensing Audiologist

Marcia Raggio, Dispensing Audiologist

Amnon Shalev, Hearing Aid Dispenser

### **Committee Members Absent**

Rodney Diaz, Otolaryngologist

Jaime Lee, Public Member

### **Board Members Present**

Dee Parker, Speech-Language Pathologist

Debbie Snow, Public Member

Patti-Solomon Rice, Speech-Language Pathologist

### **Staff Present**

Breanne Humphreys, Interim Executive Officer

Sabina Knight, Legal Counsel

### **Guests Present**

Kim Craig, KP Public Affairs

Cindy Peffers, Hearing Aid Dispenser, HHP

Randall Sager, Hearing Aid Dispenser, HHP

Michael Snow

## **I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Alison Grimes called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

## **II. Introductions**

No introductions.

## **III. Approval of the October 10, 2013 Audiology Practice Committee Meeting Minutes**

**M/S/C Shalev/Raggio**

**Minutes approved with minor edits.**

#### **IV. Develop Proposed Regulatory Amendments for Audiology Aide Supervision Standards and Practice Limitations (16 CCR 1399.154-1399.154.4)**

Ms. Grimes stated that in developing the audiology aide practice limitations, the committee focused on the prohibited tasks of the aide instead of what is allowable.

An audiology aide may not perform any of the following functions:

1. Provide counseling or advice to a client or a client's parent or guardian which is beyond the scope of the client's treatment;
2. Sign any documents in lieu of the supervising audiologist i.e. treatment plans, client reimbursement forms, or formal reports;
3. Discharge clients from services;
4. Make referrals for additional services;
5. Unless required by law, disclose confidential information either orally or in writing to anyone not designated by the supervising audiologist;
6. Represent himself or herself as an audiologist;
7. Fit or sell a hearing aid without possessing a valid hearing aid dispensers license;
8. Independently adjust hearing aids or cochlear implant settings; and,
9. Perform procedures that require a high level of clinical acumen and technical skill;
10. Conduct evaluations;
11. Interpret data;
12. Alter treatment plans;
13. Perform any allowable task without the express knowledge and approval of a supervising audiologist.

Ms. Peffers commented that HHP feels that the fitting and selling of hearing aids is a broad statement (i.e. ear mold impression). She feels like it should read that any activity that requires a hearing aid dispenser trainee license would not be allowed by an audiology aide unless they possess a hearing aid trainee license. She stated that ear mold impressions should be a separate item on the list.

Mr. Shalev recommended that we add to #7. Fit or sell a hearing aid without possessing a valid hearing aid dispensers license or hearing aid dispensers training license.

The committee delegated to Ms. Humphreys to send out the above list as it is, with no additional changes at this time to the interested parties (CAA, HHP, CSHA) for public comment. Ms. Raggio said she would take those comments back to the subcommittee for review.

#### **V. Clarifying the Language for Ease of Understanding on the Permissible Continuing Education Hours for Dispensing Audiologists.**

Ms. Grimes asked to have this placed on the agenda since there is much confusion on what CE courses are allowed for dispensing audiologists.

Ms. Humphreys explained that she got her team together and reviewed what was on the website regarding continuing education and realized it was confusing. She and staff reworked the website document.

Ms. Grimes suggested that we add to the document that live on-line courses are the equivalent to sitting in a classroom.

Mr. Shalev commented that the document incorrectly states that there are hearing aid dispensing changes that are effective January 1, 2015; the Board has not submitted the Rulemaking File. Ms. Humphreys will confirm.

**VI. Discussion of Services Provided by Regional Centers to Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

Ms. Grimes stated that this has been a consumer protection of the Board for several years. The Board's last letter to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is dated September 2009 with a response from DDS on July 2010.

Ms. Humphreys referenced the Board's 2013 Sunset Report where the Board asked the Legislature to convene a task force to investigate and address these issues. The Senate Business and Professions and Economic Development Committee responded that it was outside their jurisdiction and suggested we work with the Health Committee, Human Services Committee and/or the Educational Committee of both houses.

The Board delegated that Ms. Humphreys send out letters to the three committees of both houses. (Ms. Grimes will write the letter.)

Ms. Grimes adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.