



**HEARING AID DISPENSERS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Radisson Hotel/San Francisco Airport**  
**February 6, 2014**  
5000 Sierra Point Parkway  
Brisbane, CA 94005

**Committee Members Present**

Alison Grimes, Dispensing Audiologist  
Marcia Raggio, Dispensing Audiologist  
Amnon Shalev, Hearing Aid Dispenser

**Committee Members Absent**

Deane Manning, Chair, Hearing Aid Dispenser  
Rodney Diaz, M.D.  
Jaime Lee, Public Member

**Staff Present**

Breanne Humphreys, Interim Executive Officer  
Sabina Knight, Legal Counsel

**Guests Present**

Kim Craig, KP Public Affairs  
Dee Parker, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board  
Cindy Peffers, Hearing Aid Dispenser, HHP  
Randall Sager, Hearing Aid Dispenser, HHP  
Debbie Snow, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board  
Michael Snow

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Alison Grimes called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

**III. Approval of the June 12, 2013 Hearing Aid Dispensers Committee Meeting Minutes**

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

**Minutes approved with minor edits.**

**IV. Development of Proposed Practice Guidelines for Hearing Aid Dispensing**

Ms. Humphreys stated that Mr. Manning was still revising the document and would have it available for the May Board meeting.

#### **V. Discussion on Whether a Bone-Anchored Device, External Sound Processor, Requires a License to Dispense**

Ms. Grimes gave a background on bone-conduction hearing devices. The devices have been around for over 40 years and are not a new technology. Most hearing aids can be wired to have a bone conduction receiver as opposed to an air conduction receiver. It is still a hearing aid but with a different kind of receiver.

The device is provided to patients in two different types of application. One type of application is by use of a headband without surgery. The device can also be one-half of a two-part integrated system that is surgically implanted. This component is classified as a Class II medical device and is FDA approved for children over the age of five.

Mr. Shalev stated that any device that requires fitting and programming for a specific hearing loss should be performed by a licensed dispenser of hearing aids. Ms. Raggio agreed.

However, the Board has been informed by a manufacturer of this bundled system that the FDA does not require the person fitting the external component to have a hearing aid license. Ms. Raggio stated that since state laws cannot be more stringent than FDA laws, we would have to address this issue with the FDA and obtain a waiver.

Ms. Knight stated this is a scope of practice question. She will contact the FDA for clarification and inquire about the headband versus the bone anchored device.

#### **VI. Update on Exemption Request of the Federal Drug Administration on Mail Order and Catalog Sales of Hearing Aids**

Ms. Humphreys reported that our exemption request is currently under review. It was filed on June 4, 2012.

Chairperson Grimes adjourned the meeting.