



AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2014

Department of Consumer Affairs

2005 Evergreen Street

Sacramento, CA 95815

Committee Members Present

Alison Grimes, Chair, Dispensing Audiologist

Marcia Raggio, Dispensing Audiologist

Committee Members Absent

Rodney Diaz, M.D.

Jaime Lee, Public Member

Amnon Shalev, Hearing Aid Dispenser

Staff Present

Breanne Humphreys, Interim Executive Officer

Sabina Knight, Legal Counsel

Guests Present

Ileana Butu, DCA Legal Affairs

Bryce Docherty, KP Public Affairs

Vanessa Kajina, KP Public Affairs

Deane Manning, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Alison Grimes called the meeting to order at 3:26 p.m. Two committee members were present thus the required three member quorum was not established. Chairperson Grimes stated that the committee meeting would be held for discussion only due to the lack of a quorum.

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Approval of the February 6, 2014 Audiology Practice Committee Meeting Minutes

No approval. Chairperson Grimes will provide edits to Ms. Humphreys.

IV. Review/Discussion/Possible Action on Informal Public Comments on the Proposed Regulatory Amendments for Audiology Aide Supervision Standards and Practice Limitations (16 CCR 1399.154=1399.154.4)

Chairperson Grimes provided an overview of the proposed amendments. Marcia Raggio discussed the change in legislation that removed the term “direct supervision” and how it may impact consumer protection. Ms. Humphreys introduced the informal comments summary provided to the Board. Chairperson Grimes discussed the role of an industrial audiology aide and requested that the proposed language clearly refer to audiology aides and not industrial audiology aides. In response to comments provided, Chairperson Grimes further clarified that the intent of the proposed language was to define an audiology aide and that we should limit the language to the profession of audiology and avoid language referring to excluded activities. Ms. Raggio discussed the current parameters of the law in relation to supervision of audiology aides.

Vanessa Cajina, KP Public Affairs and lobbyist for Hearing Healthcare Providers (HHP) of California stated that the membership of HHP, hearing aid dispensers, would like the proposed regulations to further define 1399.154.8 (10) Fit or sell a hearing aid without possessing a valid hearing aid dispensers license or a valid hearing aid trainee license. The membership feels that there are more activities that are involved to the fitting and selling of hearing aids: ear impressions, adjusting/modifying a hearing aid or the mold. HHP requests additional language to include that an audiology aide may not perform any activities that require a hearing aid dispenser’s license or a hearing aid dispenser trainee license.

V. Discussion on the Requirements that MediCal/CCS (California Children’s Services) Places on Audiologist Who Hold a License but Not Yet Panelled by CCS to Provide Services.

Chairperson Grimes discussed the large number of children in California who are receiving services through MediCal/CCS (approximately 50% of children born in California). Due to systematic problems with CCS, the number of audiologists providing services through CCS is dwindling. Chairperson Grimes stated that in future meetings she would like to work with representatives from CCS, MediCal, and CCS providers meet with the committee to discuss ways to respond to the shortage of services to CCS recipients.

VI. Update on the Outreach Letters Regarding the Services Provided by Regional Centers to Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Ms. Humphreys informed the committee that on February 11, 2014, letters were mailed to six legislative committees from both the Senate and Assembly on Education, Health, and Human Services and the Department of Developmental Services. To date the Board has received no communication in response to the letters from any of the recipients. Board staff will place telephone calls to follow up on the letters.

Chairperson Grimes adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.