

Arizona Department of Health Services
Speech and Hearing Professionals Advisory Committee (SHPAC)
Unapproved Minutes of Open Meeting
July 20, 2011 2:00 PM

Meeting Chaired by Dr. Bob Scharber
MPA Minutes Recorded by Dr. Lynne Hebert-Remson

The meeting was convened at 2:20 pm
Members Present: Robert Scharber, Chair; Rohno Geppert, Administrator Designee; Bob Baber;
Joel Cmiel; Lynne Hebert-Remson; Michele Michaels; Thomas Rigo,

Members Absent: Michael Fucci; Mary Lou Luvisa; Mark Syms

Non-Committee Attendees: Yolanda Cordova (ADHS), Jay Griffin (ADHS)

Approval of minutes from previous meeting on April 20, 2010

Mr. Cmiel moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baber.
The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

Old Business: General

On-line applications for license renewal

Mr. Geppert notified the committee that problems with the computer program for on-line applications have resulted in significant delays in processing applications for renewals. The contractor who developed and hosts the site has not been able to determine what the problem is. State statute requires that license fees be refunded if not acted upon within 60 days.

No other action, resolution, or recommendation necessary from the SHPAC.

Old Business: Speech-Language Pathology

Ottawa University Status Update

As a courtesy to Ottawa University, ADHS has reviewed the program for alignment with the state university programs and found that the programs were “substantially the same,” but only at a minimal level. No graduates have yet applied for a license in Arizona. At this time, each applicant would be expected to submit course syllabi for each of their classes as part of the application process.

No action, resolution, or recommendation necessary from the SHPAC.

Old Business: Audiology

Jurisprudence Examination

See HAD Examination below.

Old Business: Hearing Aid Dispensing

HAD Status of Proposed Language for Telecoil Bill

Mr. Geppert reported that the Office of Special Licensing was asked to develop a document providing technical support to applicants for an HAD license concerning requirements for the bill of sale. Copies were provided to Committee members who offered minor revisions in wording. A copy of the document and the recommended revisions is attached. The document will be posted to the website.

HAD Examination

1. Mr. Geppert provided copies of the document Technical Assistance Information Regarding the Arizona Hearing Aid Dispensing Examination for Committee members to review. The document identifies a) state statutes concerning the exam, 2) directions for applicants and their sponsors in preparing for and taking the exam, 3) detailed descriptions of the examination and scoring procedures, 4) a list of study references, 5) close up photographs of an electronic console for the audiometric simulator portion of the exam. The mannequin purchased by ADHS for the fitting portion of the exam was demonstrated to Committee members.

A minor revision in wording was suggested for clarification. When asked, Mr. Geppert indicated that the list of references provided to applicants for the HAD license will also be provided as references for the jurisprudence portion of the exam for dispensing audiologists.

Mr. Cmiel moved that Technical Assistance Information Regarding the Arizona Hearing Aid Dispensing Examination be accepted as revised. Mr. Baber seconded the motion which passed.

2. Mr. Geppert provided a follow-up report concerning a statement read at the April 2011 SHPAC meeting by a representative of a local hearing aid dispenser whose employees had recently failed the HAD exam. Applicants were told they must reapply and pay the full application fee, although they would not be required to retake the written portion of the test.

Dr. Rigo filed a motion, seconded by Dr. Hebert-Remson, that Mr. Geppert express the Committee's displeasure at allowing those dispensers who failed the last HAD exam to be exempt from the written portion of the exam because it reinforces a negative message to those who benefitted from that decision. The motion passed by voice vote.

Old Business: Legislative Planning

Perpetual Licensing

Mr. Geppert reported that ADHS representatives are planning to meet with ArSHA lobbyist Jason Isaacs, attorney Steven Barclay (Hearing Health Care Providers), and other interested parties to examine ways to integrate and collaborate among all aspects of public health and across all functions of the department as the result of federal initiatives. Rules for licensing will become integrated under this initiative.

Audiology Assistants

Mr. Geppert reported that discussion of possible Audiology Assistants will be conducted as part of the larger integration and collaboration initiative.

Late Application Fees

Mr. Geppert reported that fees for late renewal applications are currently at \$25. Approximately 25% of renewal applications are late, and this frequently requires investigation into the need for assessing Civil Money Penalties and possible reporting to federal agencies. Increasing late fees would be expected to reduce the number of applications that are non-compliant, thereby reducing the present level of staff allocations for monitoring and enforcement.

Dr. Rigo moved that late fees be increased to \$100. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barber and was passed by voice vote.

Continuing Education Pre-Approval Fees

Mr. Geppert reported that ADHS must act upon applications for pre-approval of continuing education (CE) proposals within 30 days or pay a penalty. There are currently significant delays in this process due to lack of staff. Ms. Michaels moved that the Committee recommend an increase in staff allocation to process pre-approval of CEUs in a timely manner. Dr. Rigo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Justifications to Amend AAC Title 9, Chapter 16, Articles 1, 2, 3, & 5

Discussion on this item was tabled pending approval of a request for an exemption to the rule-making moratorium to harmonize the rules with the state statutes.

No action, resolution, or recommendation necessary from the SHPAC.

New Business

Question Concerning Pre-Approval On-Line CEU Classes

Mr. Cmiel asked about the procedures for requesting pre-approval of CEU classes and whether ADHS could post a list of classes that are pre-approved each year and develop a database of CEUs. Mr. Griffin reported that there was currently insufficient technical support to pre-approve and post CEU courses because of other priorities.

A motion was presented by Mr. Cmiel and seconded by Mr. Baber that ADHS allocate technical resources to post to the web pre-approved CEU courses.

Review of Applications for Committee Membership

Mr. Geppert provided copies of applications for membership as Public Representative, Speech-Language Pathology Representative, Dispensing Audiology Representative, Audiology Representative, and Hearing Aid Dispensing Representative. Discussion of applications was postponed due to the lateness of the hour and the need to conduct the Confidential Session. Mr. Geppert offered to assign codes to the various applicants so that Committee Members could discuss qualifications through electronic mail.

SHPAC members agreed to review the applications and communicate through electronic mail prior to the next quarterly meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

The Confidential Session was called to order at 6:50. Mr. Geppert provided a follow-up report on the status of a previous enforcement action from the April 2011 SHPAC meeting. The SLP was found to have fraudulently responded to the personal and professional conduct questions on the renewal application and the SHPAC recommended that the license be denied.

Mr. Geppert reported that the SLP will be allowed to maintain the license in accordance with a consent order which was the result of an informal settlement conference afforded to the applicant as part of the state due process laws.

Mr. Geppert reported on concerns regarding renewal applications for two SLPAs who also hold SLP-Limited licenses. Concerns related specifically to supervisory requirements for SLPAs who maintain they are not functioning as SLPAs in their employment settings. The matter is under investigation.

Adjournment

Because recent meetings have been adjourning after 6:00, SHPAC members suggested to Mr. Geppert that the meeting time be moved to 1:00 if possible. Dr. Hebert-Remson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Michaels seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Next SHPAC meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2011 at 2:00.

DRAFT