

Speech and Hearing Professionals Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes-DRAFT
January 20, 2016

The regular meeting of the Speech and Hearing Professionals Advisory Committee was held on January 20, 2016 at 2:00PM. The meeting was chaired by Allen Rohe and minutes recorded by Sarah Glenn.

Committee Members in Attendance: Allen Rohe, Max Stanley Chartrand, Jim Cvetko, Jean Brown, Sarah Glenn, Michele Michaels

Committee Members Absent: Lynn Meyer, Mark Syms, Bari Turner

Other Attendees: Donald Gibson, Sarah Donelson, Tim Chapman

Quorum confirmed by Sarah Glenn. Meeting called to order by Allen Rohe at 2:10 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

Melanie Rogers has completed her term on the committee. Sarah Glenn will perform the duties of the secretary for the committee. Meeting minutes will be submitted within a 72 hour time period.

No minutes were available to approve. The October 21, 2015 was cancelled due to insufficient committee attendees for quorum. Donald Gibson will contact Melanie Rogers, previous secretary, for minutes from July 15, 2015 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Sara Donelson, from Infinity Rehab, presented to the committee regarding telesupervision of speech-language pathologists who are completing their ASHA Clinical Fellowship Year. Infinity rehab has implemented telehealth for supervision in the states of Washington, North Dakota and Oregon. Washington and Oregon have passed legislation regarding telehealth, while North Dakota does not have a legislative board. Sara reported that many new speech-language pathologists benefit from the increased amount of supervision and the immediacy of the feedback and advice they can get from their CFY supervisor through the use of telesupervision. Sara reported that Infinity Rehab uses Skype. Currently, ASHA is in support of telepractice and it continues to be an emerging type of healthcare. Sarah Glenn and Jean Brown voiced concern with patient privacy if supervisors observe patient sessions online. Sara Donelson stated that her company required logins and the speech-language pathologists can only be connected at their worksite. Jean Brown questioned how we would be able to hold other companies to similar privacy requirements. Donald Gibson agreed to send the information collected

regarding telepractice to the Assistant Attorney General to determine if this would require legislative action or guidance documentation.

Jean Brown brought forth concerns regarding license renewal for speech-language pathologists. She stated it was difficult to find the CEU link. Donald Gibson stated it could be highlighted so that it would be easier to find. She also reported that speech-language pathologists were not able to count 0.5 continuing education hours during recent license renewal submissions. Donald Gibson reported this was an error on the website for speech-language pathologists and is now corrected. Jean Brown also requested clarification regarding approved CEUs. Donald Gibson reported that there are 10 approved organizations that automatically meet approval of the AZDHS. If the course is not from one of the approved CEU organizations, applicants must provide a description of the course that Donald Gibson will sign off on if the course meets the standards of the AZDHS. Individuals do need to provide certificates of completion to receive credit for any course.

Donald Gibson reported that the practical exam for HAD applicants now is available on 2 days each quarter. 1 of the days is for those who have passed portions of the exam and the other day is for those who have never attempted the exam. With the exams being available quarterly, Donald stated that he hopes that the number of applicants each exam day will be reduced. Currently, the reduced number of applicants is allowing the department to administer the test in chronological order, as if a patient was coming into the office for an appointment. Donald Gibson and James Cvetko stated that this might improve the comfort and success of the applicants. James Cvetko asked if there might be a component of the exam in the future that addresses troubleshooting. Donald Gibson reported that troubleshooting is difficult to address in an exam because of the need for standardization between exams in order to be equitable to all applicants. The HAD exam committee currently has 2 audiologists and 2 hearing aid dispensers. The ENT position on the committee is vacant.

Reviewing bill of sale was tabled for the next committee meeting, since Bari Turner requested the agenda item and was not present.

The board discussed concerns with internet sales of hearing aids. Consumers are able to purchase hearing aids that are manufactured and shipped from other states and there is no governing board for these companies in regards to quality control. Max Chartrand stated concern because these products are unlicensed. Michele Michaels stated that the ACDHH is opposed to internet sales because of consumer concerns regarding the quality of the products sold. Donald Gibson stated it is difficult for a state government agency to establish legislation that can be enforced in another state. He reported that this issue involves ecommerce and it is not an area that the AZDHS SHPAC has authority. Donald Gibson recommended that all members of the board and any other concerned professionals and consumers should contact their state legislator if they have concerns regarding internet sales. Allen Rohe requested that the committee make a recommendation regarding our opposition to internet sales due to consumer concerns. Michele Michaels provided a letter from the ACDHH regarding the

agency's concern of the effects of internet sales of hearing aids on the consumer. Max Chartrand recommended further discussion prior to the next meeting. Donald Gibson reported that members of the committee might look at other states that have been able to pass legislation regarding internet sales of hearing aids.

Donald Gibson reported that we have an opening on the committee for a Member of the Public. Allen Rohe made a motion to provide Melanie Rogers with a certificate of appreciation. Sarah Glenn inquired about the make up of the committee. She reported concern that it was difficult to make quorum when there were vacant positions and questioned whether there could be greater representation of speech pathologists. Donald Gibson reported that the statute regarding the SHPAC committee members would have to be changed and encouraged committee members to talk to their legislator.

Confidential Agenda Items

New disciplinary issues are still being reviewed by AZDHS and tabled until the next meeting.

Return to Open Meeting

Sarah Glenn asked how employers and consumers were able to verify an active license for a speech-language pathologist, audiologist or hearing aid dispenser. Donald Gibson reported that the database only lists names of individuals who have an active license. If someone does not show up on the database, Donald Gibson stated that he should be contacted. Per Donald Gibson, the only issue occurs when an individual is in the process of renewing their license because their name would be pulled from the database. In these situations, Arizona Care Check could be used to provide information regarding the individual's current licensure status.

Michele Michaels reported that the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing have hired a lobbyist. She also provided 2 flyers for the committee regarding upcoming events:

“Pathway to and Accessible Community for People with Hearing Loss” Free seminar by Dr. Juliette Sterkens, Au.D., HLAA Consumer and Hearing Loop Advocate. Hosted by The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing and Arizona State University on Friday, January 29, 2016 from 7:30-10:00 AM.

“Walk 4 Hearing” Saturday Nov. 12, 2016 produced by Hearing Loss Association of America.

Next meeting: April 20 from 2:00-5:00 PM

Meeting was adjourned by Allen Rohe at 3:40.