



**Oregon Health Licensing Agency
Advisory Council on Hearing Aids
Education & Continuing Education Committee Meeting**

Date: April 8, 2010

Committee Members: Don Cloutier, Chair
C. Scot Frink
Martha Kocer

Staff: Cerynthia Murphy, Qualification Analyst
Samantha Patnode, Policy Analyst

Public Attendees: Chris Gustafson
David Montross
Rosalind Sinclair-Sjue
Cornell Saftencu
Paul J. Willoughby

Don Cloutier, Chair, called the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids Education & Continuing Education meeting to order at 9 am, April 8, 2010, in the Rhoades Conference Room of the Oregon Health Licensing Agency at 700 Summer St NE, Salem, Oregon to discuss and review education and training requirements for licensure qualifications.

Cerynthia Murphy, Qualification Analyst, led the discussions.

○ **2011 Legislation**

The committee reviewed a letter sent to the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids by the Oregon Health Licensing Agency on April 6, 2010; the letter stated the agency would not be proposing legislation for 2011 to change Oregon Revised Statute, Chapter 694 to increase education requirements for hearing aid specialists due to the lack of consensus at the February 26, 2010, council meeting to require an associate degree as the requirement to obtain licensure as a hearing aid specialist in Oregon. The letter did explain the council was in agreement that an increase in training and experience requirements needed to be made, which included standards for supervision and reporting. The agency provided clarification to the committee regarding language within the current statute which allows changes to be made to the training and experience requirements, by rule, and based on the committee's review, recommendations would be made to the full council for approval.

○ **Training and Experience Requirements:**

The committee reviewed the training and experience requirements listed in Oregon Administrative Rule 331-610-0010; the current training program includes 62 hours of theory and 98 hours of practical experience covering specified core competencies. The committee reviewed the International Hearing Society's Distance Learning for Professionals in Hearing Instrument Sciences program. Based on the committee's review of the program content, the committee will propose, to the full council, adopting completion of the distance learning program, under direct supervision, in place of the current 62

required theory hours. The committee also reviewed the practical requirements within the core competencies and determined additional content to meet current standards needed to be included in addition to increasing hour requirements; modified content based on current standards and discussed hour requirements; discussed how a training program consisting of approximately six months, under direct supervision, would be comparable to a certification program provided at an educational institution which would provide the appropriate amount of training to obtain competence needed, in the field, prior to sitting for the examinations; and will hold an additional meeting to determine the specified number of hours to recommend to the full council.

○ **Trainee Registration**

The committee reviewed registration requirements listed in Oregon Administrative Rule 331-610-0020, which states the agency will authorize an Oregon licensed hearing aid specialist to act as a designated supervisor of a trainee. Current rules do not specify, other than by definition of direct supervision, what requirements are needed for an individual to act as a supervisor. The committee will recommend, to the full council, the addition of designated requirements listed in Oregon Administrative Rule 331-610-0030; supervision of a temporary hearing aid specialist, in addition to requiring four years of active licensure, to the administrative rules for trainee registration. In addition, the committee would like to recommend addition to the administrative rules, requirements for supervisors who have multiple trainees fail the examination, to complete the International Hearing Society's Distance Learning for Professionals in Hearing Instrument Sciences program.

○ **Proposed Pathways**

Documentation was provided to the agency in preparation for this meeting prior to receiving the agency's letter regarding proposed legislation, by council member Scot Frink. The documentation included three options for individuals trying to obtain licensure in Oregon, pathways included:

- a. On-the-job apprenticeship, utilizing the IHS 30-module program and practical hours under direct supervision.
- b. Two-year associate degree, suggested curriculum to include 97 credit hours
- c. Piecemeal – individuals with previous training, education and experience could receive credit based on documentation provided.

Discussion centered on setting baseline standards for training and experience and implementing pathways within rule to allow individuals with equivalent experience and training to obtain licensure.

○ **Comments by Dave Montross, Examination Proctor**

Montross recommended the agency review the current practical examination to ensure examination candidates are being tested on current standards. The committee conferred and will recommend, to the full council, review of the practical examination.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by Sinnamon Harris, Board Specialist