



**Oregon Health Licensing Agency
Advisory Council on Hearing Aids
Education/Examination Committee Meeting**

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2010

Committee Members: Don Cloutier, Facilitator
C. Scot Frink
Martha Kocer
Chris Gustafson, Invited Subject Matter Expert

Staff: Cerynthia Murphy, Qualification Analyst
Sinnamon Harris, Board Specialist

Public Attendees: David Montross
Rosalind Sinclair-Sjue
Beth Carter
Scott Austin
Cornell Saptencu
Tammy Clark

Don Cloutier, committee facilitator, called the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids Education/Examination meeting to order at 10 am, September 23, 2010, in the Rhoades Conference Room of the Oregon Health Licensing Agency at 700 Summer St NE, Salem, Oregon to review and finalize recommendations for education and training and to start the review of the practical examination. Chris Gustafson was seated at the board table as a subject matter expert invited by the committee to use as a resource.

Cerynthia Murphy, Qualification Analyst, presented the meeting agenda, which included the June 24, Advisory Council on Hearing Aids Education/Examination Committee report. Murphy provided a summary of the committee's recommendations from that meeting. The agenda also included:

- Hearing Aid Specialist Training Program – Training Packet
- Practical Examination
 - Examination statistics
 - P1 A&B Audiometric testing and masking
 - P2 Earmold impressions
 - P3 Fitting and selection of hearing aids: audiograms, earmold, and Ansi strips

Hearing Aid Specialist Training

Hearing Aid Specialist Training Program Training Packet

The packet contains the following:

- **Hearing Aid Specialist Training Program Introductory Letter** - Explains the number of hours for required core competencies, including completion of the International Hearing Society's (IHS) Distance

Learning for Professionals in Hearing Health Sciences, the role of the supervisor, and retention period of tracking form.

- **Certification of Training Form** - Separates the specific content and hours of training within each of the core competencies in a checklist format. This form is required to be signed by both the hearing aid specialist trainee and the supervisor certifying the specific content and hours in the training program have been completed.
- **Hearing Aid Specialist Practical Training Tracking Form** - Tracks training hours and content on a daily basis and weekly basis to assist the hearing aid specialist trainee in completing the required Certification of Training form.

Hearing Aid Specialist Training Program Introductory Letter

Murphy began with a review of the *draft* introductory letter to the Certificate of Training form. The committee discussed, at length, part of the definition of “direct supervision” which requires the supervisor to be “in view” of the trainee. Martha Kocer spoke about not making the process of supervision too difficult on the supervisor. Rosalind Sinclair-Sjue, public attendee, remarked that during the training process the supervisor is relied upon to make judgment calls. The supervisor did not necessarily have to be in full view of the trainee at all times. Scott Austin, public attendee, made the point that the supervisor’s license is on the line for the training of a trainee and as such he felt the supervisor should always be on the premises but as far as “in view” is concerned, that could be modified and withdrawn from the definition. Scott Frink said it is a judgment call on part of the supervisor, once the supervisor felt the trainee to be competent without direct supervision. Frink thought the definition should be specific enough if modified to state “onsite.” The committee discussed and will recommend to the Legislation/Rules Committee to review the definition in rule of “direct supervision” for possible modification and changing the terms “direct view” to “onsite.”

Certification of Training Form

The committee reviewed the Certification of Training form. Murphy stated she had done some minor modifications to the form’s layout. Hours required are in a column on the left and actual practical hours completed are in a column on the right. Murphy stated there is a place on the last page of the Certificate of Training form for both the supervisor and the trainee to certify the hours completed.

Hearing Aid Specialist Practical Training Tracking Form

The committee then reviewed the Hearing Aid Specialist Practical Training Tracking form. Murphy stated this is the form, referred to on the introduction letter, which must be maintained by the supervisor for a period of two years. Murphy explained if there is ever any question as to hours the trainee received by in a certain domain, the agency can always request this form from the supervisor. Frink noted some minor changes should be made between the “date” and “hours” columns in order to make the totals clear at the bottom of the form. Changes to the Hearing Aid Specialist Practical Training Tracking form discussed:

- Change the term “trainer” to “supervisor” wherever it appears in the form
- Add a column for “carryover” hours from previous weeks
- Training hours required column adjustments
- Add in the definition of “direct supervision” to the form as it currently stands in rule subject to any changes

Public Comment

The committee asked if there were any public comments on the training issues. Cornell Saptener expressed concern that 550 hours may be very difficult to execute from the standpoint of a supervisor. Saptener gave examples of the requirements from other states. He asked the committee to make clear why 550 hours were being required as he felt that that many hours were excessive. Saptener referred to the January 22, 2010,

Legislation/Rules Committee report in which the committee discussed eliminating the temporary license. {The January 22, 2010, ??? minutes? report? has subsequently been amended to reflect the circumstances surrounding the possible elimination of temporary licenses and to clarify the misunderstanding. The amended committee report now reads, “The committee discussed the temporary license and how it dilutes licensure if a two-year degree program were adopted. The committee members agreed temporary licenses should be eliminated if a two-year degree program is adopted.” A two-year degree program was *not* adopted. }

Frink responded with an explanation of how the committee had derived the 550 hours. Frink stated he had interviewed many hearing instrument specialists and audiologists about their impression of how long it took for them to feel competent in evaluating, fitting, and following-up on hearing aid patients. The formal question was, “How long did it take before you felt competent enough to work independently without a supervisor?” Ninety-five percent responded with “six to twelve months.” Using this as a guidepost, the committee members discussed and reviewed how much training could be accomplished in a six-month period, and how much opportunity to be trained on core competencies would be available (i.e. impression taking, hearing tests, follow-up services, etc.). It was determined that the *average office* gets about four hours per day for training opportunities. At four hours a day, five days a week, six months, it came to 520 hours. From there, the committee divided the hours amongst the various areas based on what the committee felt the composition of each day would offer. In so doing, the committee moved up the hours to 550 based on where everyone felt time should be spent. Here is what the committee proposed:

- Sanitation & Cleanliness (2 hours)
- Audiometric Testing & Evaluation (100 hours)
- Counseling Regarding Hearing Examination (100 hours)
- Hearing Aid Selection (65 hours)
- Earmold Impressions (50 hours)
- Hearing Aid Fitting & Follow-up (230 hours)
- Ethics & Regulations (3 hours)

Murphy requested the committee members to individually put together what they felt were necessary training hours along with a breakdown of those hours in a training plan and an explanation to substantiate why the hours should be reduced or increased in any given area.

A majority of the committee members had schedule conflicts around the next scheduled committee meeting date of October 21, 2010. **The date was changed to October 26, 2010 at 10 am.**

Practical Examination

The committee moved forward to review and discuss the practical examination.

Don Cloutier called for the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids Education/Examination Committee to enter Executive Session at 12:45 pm pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) for the purpose of considering information or records exempt from public inspection.

Cloutier concluded Executive Session and reconvened regular session at 3:32 pm. Cloutier stated no recommendations or decisions were made during Executive Session.

Murphy reviewed today’s committee meeting objectives and the objectives for the next committee meeting to be held on October 26, 2010.

- Rosalind Sinclair-Sjue and David Montoss will review P1 and P2 (both A & B) of the examination at the October 26, 2010, committee meeting.
- P2/P3 - Gustafson will provide updated information for these sections of the examination.

- Gustafson will explore the possibility of ordering a mannequin head.
- Gustafson will obtain two sets of earmolds.
- Each committee member will email their practical hours recommendation to Cerynthia Murphy and Sinnamon Harris before the October 26, 2010 committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:42 p.m.
Prepared by Sinnamon Harris, Board Specialist