



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

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Date: June 24, 2010 - REVISED

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

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

Public Attendees: Chris Gustafson  
Rosalind Sinclair-Sjue  
John Brenneman  
Tammy Clark

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Don Cloutier, committee facilitator, called the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids Education & Continuing Education meeting to order at 10 am, June 24, 2010, in the Rhoades Conference Room of the Oregon Health Licensing Agency at 700 Summer St NE, Salem, Oregon to continue to discuss and review education and training requirements for licensure qualifications. 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, started the discussion by reviewing the committee's recommendations for training and experience requirements from the last committee meeting report dated April 8, 2010. The report includes the committee's review of 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. At the April 8, 2010, meeting the committee also reviewed the practical requirements within the core competencies and determined additional content to meet current standards needed to be included. They increased hour requirements and modified content based on current standards. The committee also 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. This training would provide the appropriate amount of training to obtain competence needed, in the field, prior to sitting for the examinations. Following the review of the last committee meeting the committee moved forward with the Certification of Training modifications.

The committee reviewed, discussed, and modified the Certification of Training form line by line. Adjustments were made to the practical hours of the core competencies and sections deemed necessary were added. The committee will recommend **550** hours of practical training that requires direct supervision.

Below is an overview of the draft of the Certification of Training proposal:

- ◆ I. Sanitation and Cleanliness: Practical Hours: **02**
- ◆ II. Audiometric Testing: Practical Hours: **100**
- ◆ III. Counseling Regarding Hearing Examination: Practical Hours **100**  
*Change:*
  - A. Case history and Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act (HIPAA)
- ◆ IV. Hearing Aid Selection: Practical Hours: **65**
- ◆ V. Earmold Impressions: Practical Hours: **50**
- ◆ VI. Hearing Aid Fitting & Follow-up Care: Practical Hours: **230**  
*Change:*
  - I. Records management
- ◆ VII. (*new section added*) Ethics & Regulations: Practical Hours: **03**
  - A. Federal guidelines (FDA & FTC) for dispensing of hearing aids
  - B. Oregon Administrative Rules and Oregon Revised Statutes

The committee discussed training time limitations and came to the consensus below to recommend to the full council:

- ◆ 550 hours of practical training and the theory portion must be completed no less than three months and no more than 12 months with an allowance for three-month extensions due to life-altering circumstances on a case-by-case basis as approved by the council.

Scot Frink remarked that the council may wish to include language that states the theory portion of the training may also be obtained through formalized training similar to the IHS program so that the trainee is not limited to IHS training should another company develop a program in the future. Murphy stated the council may adopt standardize program requirements which IHS or other programs could be deemed meeting those standardized requirements. Frink stated that the committee would need to evaluate any new program to verify that the program meets all the Advisory Council on Hearing Aid requirements. The committee asked Chris Gustafson questions about the International Hearing Society (IHS) Distance Learning for Professionals in Hearing Health Sciences. Gustafson remarked that the program will be in beta testing at the end of this year and hopefully available online in January 2011. Currently, the committee will recommend to the full council to adopt the IHS program as meeting the theory requirements for trainees.

The subject of training for the persons responsible for direct supervision of trainees was generated by Murphy. Martha Kocer stated that it would be helpful if the agency could provide statistics on which areas of the test examinees were consistently failing so the trainers could add emphasis to those areas. The committee discussed the need to create a downloadable form of an outline that the trainer could follow throughout the training process. The committee discussed ideas such as seminars, asking Oregon Hearing Society (OHS) to facilitate a session specifically for people who wish to learn how to train hearing aid specialist trainees, or setting up training sessions at someone's office. Murphy agreed that the actual training of the trainers should be at the association level, but remarked that the agency could put documentation together that pointed the prospective trainer towards the reference materials to be used in the training process.

The following are recommendations to be presented to the council by the committee concerning criteria to be met by a prospective trainer:

- ◆ Licensed Hearing Aid Specialist for three years with National Board Certification and no history of multiple violations within the previous three years for either pathway or;
- ◆ Licensed Hearing Aid Specialist for four years and no history of multiple violations within the previous three years for either pathway

The committee agreed to September 23 and October 21, 2010 for the next education/examination committee meetings. Start time will be 10 a.m. The committee decided the following agenda would be for the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting:

- ◆ Finalize Certificate of Training form
- ◆ Review checklist for trainer
  1. Chris Gustafson to provide Cerynthia Murphy with an Excel spreadsheet no later than September 9<sup>th</sup>
  2. Cerynthia Murphy to provide statistical information on examination failure rates
- ◆ Start reviewing the practical examination

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:07 p.m.

Prepared by Sinnamon Harris, Board Specialist