



Health Licensing Office
Advisory Council on Hearing Aids



March 20, 2015
700 Summer St. NE, Suite 320
Salem, Oregon

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Garry Harris, Chair
Shelly Boelter (joined at 1:10 p.m.)
Rodney Walker
Jonathan Hamm
Randy Lerner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tiffany Parret
Cheryl Blackman

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mark Pierce, Avada Hearing
Linda Pierce, Avada Hearing
Andrea Bartling, Avada Hearing

STAFF PRESENT

Sylvie Donaldson, Fiscal Services and Licensing Manager
Bob Bothwell, Regulatory Operations Manager
Joanna Tucker Davis, Assistant Attorney General, Oregon
Department of Justice
Anne Thompson, Policy Analyst
Sarah Kelber, Communications Coordinator
Debby Daniels, Qualification Specialist

Call to order

Garry Harris called the meeting of the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids to order at 1:03 p.m., on March 20, 2015, at the Health Licensing Office (HLO), in Salem. Roll was called.

Items for council action

◆ **Approval of agenda**

Rodney Walker made a motion, with a second by Jonathan Hamm, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

◆ **Approval of minutes**

Randy Lerner made a motion, with a second by Jonathan Hamm, to approve the minutes for March 21, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

◆ **Meeting date selection**

Jonathan Hamm made a motion, with a second by Randy Lerner, to accept Aug. 28, 2015, for the next meeting date.

◆ **Chair and vice chair selection**

Shelly Boelter made a motion, with a second by Jonathan Hamm, to have Garry Harris continue as chair and for Rodney Walker to serve as vice chair for 2015.

Reports

◆ Director report

Sylvie Donaldson, Fiscal Services and Licensing Manager, spoke on behalf of Director Holly Mercer.

Donaldson introduced Sarah Kelber, HLO's new communications coordinator, and asked new Council members Randy Lerner and Jonathan Hamm to introduce themselves.

She outline legislation that may affect HLO and its boards, including the new advanced esthetics board and the new program to license music therapists.

She said the transition to the Oregon Health Authority was going smoothly, although some processes took longer than they did before HLO became part of the large agency.

Donaldson showed the Council the communication developed by staff to quickly explain how to become a hearing aid specialist and an FAQ for continuing education requirements.

◆ Licensing and fiscal statistical reports

Donaldson then outlined licensing trends and pass/fail rates for exams. The majority of permanent license holders are older and male. The number of temporary licenses is declining, which she said is a good thing, as it indicates that these people are finishing their training, passing exams and getting permanent licenses.

◆ Policy report

Donaldson showed the Council the changes and 2015 schedule for the written and practical examinations.

◆ Regulatory report

Regulatory Operations Manager Bob Bothwell told the Council that in the last biennium, 43 complaints were received; 36 are closed. In the current biennium, 22 complaints were received; four are closed.

Public/interested parties' feedback

Mark Pierce addressed the Council, saying he was a hearing aid dispenser and he noticed that license holders were older and asked if young people were entering the profession. Donaldson said the Council's job is licensing and regulation; any promotion or recruitment efforts for the profession would have to come from associations.

Policy Analyst Anne Thompson read Scot Frink's emailed comments concerning tinnitus as it relates to hearing instrument specialists' scope of practice into the record.

Pierce said that there are new instruments with "masking" features and said he wasn't sure about how the new technology fit with scope of practice.

Executive session

Garry Harris called for the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids to enter executive session pursuant to

ORS 192.660(2)(f) at 1:34 p.m. on March 20, 2015, for the purpose of considering information or records exempt from public inspection.

Harris concluded executive session and the council reconvened regular session at 2:31 p.m. It was noted that no final decisions were made and no votes were made in executive session.

Other council business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Anne Thompson, Policy Analyst