



**AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Los Angeles Airport Marriott  
August 11, 2016**

For the sake of clarity, the meeting minutes are organized in numerical order to reflect their original order on the agenda; however, issues were taken out of order during the meeting.

**Audiology Practice Committee Meeting**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

Alison Grimes, Committee Chair called the Audiology Practice Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 1:19 p.m. Ms. Grimes called roll and three members of the Committee were present and thus a quorum was established.

Committee Members Present

Alison Grimes, Committee Chair  
Dee Parker, Committee Member  
Marcia Raggio, Committee Member

Staff Present

Paul Sanchez, Executive Officer  
Cesar Victoria, DCA Web Cast  
Breanne Humphreys, Program Manager  
Anita Joseph, Enforcement Coordinator  
Kelsey Pruden, Legal Counsel  
Karen Robison, Analyst

Guests Present

Toni Barrient, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)  
Vanessa Cajina, Hearing Healthcare Providers (HHP)  
Cindy Kim, West Coast Captioning

2. Review and Approval of the May 12, 2016 Committee Meeting Minutes

**M/S/C Parker/Raggio**

- **Motion to approve the May 12, 2016 meeting minutes with corrections. The motion carried 3-0**

3. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

*There were no comments from Public/Outside Agencies/Associations.*

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4. Discussion and Possible Recommendations to Full Board Regarding Sales Practices that Lock Out Hearing Aids Restricting Consumer Access for Required Audiology and Hearing Aid Services

Ms. Grimes provided a background on the issue of hearing aid manufacturers creating an electronic lock that prevents hearing aid dispensers other than the original dispenser from reprogramming hearing aids. The locking mechanism can restrict consumers from having their hearing aid serviced by a dispenser of their choosing and can be problematic if a consumer moves or is out of the area and needs the hearing aid serviced. The Committee came up with possible solutions to this issue: 1) full disclosure on the sales contract prior to the sale; 2) verbal disclosure to the purchaser; 3) purchaser provided with the key to unlock the hearing aid for service if needed; 4) in California, prohibit the sale of locked hearing aids. Ms. Grimes noted the Board may need statutory authority to further define the regulations. Kelsey Pruden will research to determine if there will be a conflict with Federal law. The committee will be looking into determining how widespread the issue is and if the lock is coming from the manufacturers or at the request of dispensers.

5. Update Regarding the Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)
  - a. Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids without Medical Clearance

Mr. Sanchez stated the Committee requested this item be placed on the agenda to continue the discussion of the PCAST Report and the implications to the Board concerning future issues. PCAST reported last year that hearing loss is a problem affecting a majority of people over the age of 50. Research was conducted and the conclusion was that Americans would be best served by allowing non-surgical hearing aids to be purchased over-the-counter to address mild to moderate hearing loss. Ms. Pruden reported that it is currently premature to address any implications until we know what sections of the report will become law and to address the changes at that time.

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendations to Full Board on Risks to Consumers Due to California Children's Services (CCS) Program Issues
  - a. Cochlear Implant Requirements and Authorization Delays

Ms. Grimes reported that children who are covered under the CCS program do not have the same access to cochlear implants as children who are covered under private insurance. The consumer protections issue is that there is unequal access to care which has lifelong implications for how deaf children communicate and are academically and psychosocially successful for the rest of their lives. The Board has tried to set up a meeting with the CCS manager but has been thwarted due to staff turnover.

- b. Shortage of Pediatric Audiologists

The Committee remarked that there were four consulting audiologists who covered the entire state of California but there is only one audiologist who reviews the cochlear implant cases. These decisions are now being made by people who have a background in nursing or public

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health but not audiologists. It has been noted that the Board may want to raise this issue at the Sunset Review.

**M/S/C Grimes/Raggio**

- **Motion that the Committee recommend to the Board to initiate a meeting with the California Department of Healthcare Services. The motion carried 3-0**

7. The committee adjourned at 2:30 p.m.