



**MEETING MINUTES
HEARING AID DISPENSERS COMMITTEE**

August 20, 2014
The Concourse Hotel
6225 W. Century Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90045

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Manning called the meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves and a quorum was established.

Committee Members Present

Deane Manning, Chair, Hearing Aid Dispenser
Alison Grimes, Dispensing Audiologist
Jaime Lee, Public Member
Marcia Raggio, Dispensing Audiologist
Amnon Shalev, Hearing Aid Dispenser

Committee Members Absent

Rodney Diaz, M.D.

Staff Present

Paul Sanchez, Executive Officer
Breanne Humphreys, Operations Manager
Sabina Knight, Legal Counsel

Guests Present

Becky Bingea, Audiologist, California Academy of Audiology (CAA)
Ellen Fagan, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
Vanessa Cajina, KP Public Affairs for Hearing Healthcare Providers (HHP)
Dee Parker, Speech-Language Pathologist, Board Member
Cynthia Peffers, Hearing Aid Dispenser, HHP
Mitzi Shpak, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Los Angeles Advocacy
Naomi Smith, Audiologist, SELPA, Santa Clarita Valley
Debbie Snow, Public Board Member
Patti Solomon-Rice, Speech-Language Pathologist, Board Member
Grace Tiessen, HLAA, Los Angeles Advocacy

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Shalev motioned to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2014 and May 22, 2014 meetings as written and Ms. Grimes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action on the Development of Proposed Practice Guidelines for Hearing Aid Dispensing

Committee Chair Manning expressed concerns that thus far the document resembles an outline for the licensing test for dispensers of hearing aids. The original intent of the development of Practice Guidelines for Hearing Aid Dispensers was to give subject matter experts who review cases of negligence guidance and to have consistency on case reviews but it is unclear how this would be accomplished with this document. Ms. Grimes added that her understanding was to develop standards for experts reviewing cases. This document would provide guidelines by which to judge an act that may be considered outside the scope or improper practice.

Mr. Sanchez stated that typically someone who is an expert should already have an understanding of what the standard is because they do the job. He added that if we are going to use a document like this as a job aid, then it should contain citations of the law and regulations next to the items identified. Ms. Knight added that the document was to compile and organize all of the per se requirements for subject matter experts in one document. Committee Chair Manning expressed concern that we are creating another quasi legal document that experts would use as a guideline and may result in complications with legal cases. The Board already has Guidelines for subject matter experts that define the case review process and we should not be re-defining what job tasks are performed for dispensing hearing aids. Ms. Raggio shared that she didn't think the document was helpful for its intended purpose and incomplete.

After much discussion, Committee Chair Manning recommended to table the development of the document and suggested that Board staff determine if there is a need for this type of job aid or additional training.

Mr. Shalev motioned to accept Committee Chair Manning's recommendation and Ms. Grimes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. Discussion on Whether a Bone-Anchored Device, External Sound Processor, Requires a License to Dispense

Ms. Knight reported that the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) defines hearing aids very similar to the way we define it. However, the FDA does include bone conduction and air conduction in their definition and we do not. Ms. Knight's opinion is that a license is required to dispense a bone-anchored device/external sound processor based on the FDA's definition and our practice act.

VI. Update on Exemption Request of the Federal Drug Administration on Mail Order and Catalog Sales of Hearing Aids

Ms. Humphreys reported that our exemption request is still under review. It was filed on June 4, 2012.

Committee Chair Manning adjourned the meeting at 4:25pm.