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New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
Audiology and Speech-Language
Pathology Advisory Committee
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



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AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES MARCH 15, 2012 MINUTES

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ROLL CALL

PRESENT Anne Eckert, Hilda Pressman, Nancy Schneider and

ABSENT Louis Conte and Gerard Caracciolo

ALSO PRESENT Renee P. Clark, Executive Director
Carmen Rodriguez, DAG
Sonia Claudino, Administrative Staff

CALL TO ORDER The regular bimonthly meeting of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee was called to order at 124 Halsey Street at 9:00 a.m., all members having been notified of the time, date and place and materials pertinent hereto having been provided.

SUNSHINE LAW In compliance with Chapter 231 the Public Law of 1975, notice of this meeting was sent to the Courier-Post and the Record.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 19, 2012

A motion was made by Hilda Pressman, seconded by Anne Eckert to approve the public session minutes with minor changes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

II. ONLINE RENEWAL PROCESS

Joseph Cordoma was unable to attend to explain to the Committee the online renewal process. This matter has been tabled to the May 17, 2012 Committee meeting.

III OLD BUSINESS

- a. Anne Eckert discussed the comparison of the American Academy of Audiology code of ethics to our regulations. Anne Eckert stated that based on what our regulations have we have already been addressing the code of ethics on our regulations.

Committee member Gerard Caracciolo was absent, so comparison of the American Speech and Hearing Association has been tabled to the May 17, 2012 Committee meeting.

IV NEW BUSINESS

- a. Anne Eckert discussed information in regards to ASHA'S discussion with HI HealthInnovations in regards to the sale of hearing aids over the internet. After review the Committee was concerned that it is not in the best interest of the consumer to purchase hearing aids over the internet. A motion was made by Anne Eckert, seconded by Hilda Pressman to have Anne Eckert draft a letter in regards to HealthInnovations and the sale of Hearing Aids on the internet to be posted on the Committee's website. In addition, Anne Eckert will draft a letter to the Department of Banking and insurance asking them if they are aware of the sale of hearing aids over the internet as well as advise them of the billing practices of physicians who are billing patients for conducting online hearing tests in their office. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
- b. Anne Eckert discussed a possible addition to the Committee's regulations in regards to "Identification of Licenses" and the importance of displaying information to patients by wearing an identification badge with name, title and credentials. A motion was made by Anne Eckert, seconded by Hilda Pressman to have the Executive Director have Charles Manning, Regulatory Analyst draft the proposed change. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
- c. Alan R. Ehrlich of the Center for Listening Disorders Research submitted for Committee review a proposal in regards to a Listening Rehabilitation Specialist or Therapist and Listening Rehabilitation Coach or Assistant. After review a motion was made by Hilda Pressman, seconded by Anne Eckert to have Nancy Schneider draft a letter stating that rehabilitation is an important component and part of the scope of practice of an Audiologist. Mr. Ehrlich should be referred to the Committee regulations and told that he should go to a lobbyist or the legislature in order to create a new Board for his proposal. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

V WEBSITE REVIEW

Committee members discussed the following changes need to be made to the Committee's website:

1. The website link for the New Jersey Hearing Health Directory needs to be changed.
From www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/ehdi/documents/audiologist_directory.pdf
To New Jersey Pediatric Hearing Healthcare Directory (NJ EHDl Program- NJ Department of Health) www.hearinghelp4kids.nj.gov.
2. Add an asterisk (indicating that the site is not available in Spanish to the American Academy of Otolaryngology; Head and Neck Surgery, The Stuttering Foundation and New Jersey Parent to Parent.
3. Entirely remove NJ State NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program
www.Njstbbc.org/deaf_and_hard_of_hearing_awareness_program

ADJOURNMENT

Hilda Pressman made a motion to proceed to Executive Session, seconded by Anne Eckert, to consider and review, applications, consumer complaints and other information received pursuant to the Committee's investigative authority in order to determine whether violations of law, including Committee regulations, have occurred. The results of these deliberations will be made known when, and if, the Committee determines to initiate disciplinary or other enforcement actions. If the Committee chooses to issue a Uniform Penalty Letter, the action will be taken in Public Session immediately after the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
COMMITTEE

Renee P. Clark, Executive Director