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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 NOVEMBER 17, 2011 MINUTES

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ROLL CALL

PRESENT Anne Eckert, Hilda Pressman, Nancy Schneider and Louis Conti.

ABSENT Gerard Caracciolo

ALSO PRESENT Renee P. Clark, Executive Director
Carmen Rodriguez, DAG

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

September 15, 2011

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. REGULATORY ANALYST

Regulatory analyst Charles Manning to make changes to educational requirements regulation and return to January meeting with changes.

III OLD BUSINESS

- a. For Committee discussion: How do members verify that an applicant has enough hours of supervised observation and supervised clinical experience. Committee president to investigate the question and submit a response at a later date.
- b. Website changes:
 1. Members section should indicate that the new MD member should be an MD, not a DO.
 2. Online services should have speech-language pathology as a category. Executive staff to discuss this with Print and Production department.
 3. Alert page has the flyer for Early Intervention and it should be deleted from this area.
- c. Committee determines that continuing education will be reviewed by committee members on various dates.
- d. United Healthcare Industries American Medical News
Indicates audiologists and hearing aid dispensers are being bypassed for hearing evaluations. The committee determined that this is a substandard provision of services to the consumer. The information will be submitted to the Hearing Aid Dispensers Examining Committee for review.
- e. Historical requirements from ASHA, submitted by Dr Anne Eckert, considered informational.

IV CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Correspondence received from DAG Dianna Rosenheim

The Committee has determined the following responses to her questions:

1. *Does the Committee agree with above ASHA statement about the lack of equivalency between the two SLP certifications (NJ v. ASHA) at that time?*

Yes the Committee does agree that there were and are differences between the ASHA SLP certification and NJ licensure, the major difference being that ASHA requires a Masters degree and NJ licensure will accept a Masters degree or its equivalent (NJSA 45:3B-8).

IV CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

a. Correspondence received from DAG Dianna Rosenheim (cont.)

2. *Can the Committee advise if any of these differences continue to exist today or if they have been resolved through changes in licensing requirements?*

Differences do continue to exist today between standards held by ASHA and those held by the NJ Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Advisory Committee. The Committee (NJ) continues to require a Masters degree or its equivalent for licensure, while the ASHA requirement remains a Masters degree (NJSA 45:3B-8). Also, NJ only has a requirement of 350 clock hours of supervised clinical experience (NJAC13:44C-3.3c), while the ASHA requirement for supervised clinical experience is 400 clock hours; 375 direct clinic contact.

3. *Does the Committee believe that the ASHA CCC-SLP and New Jersey SLP licensure requirements have ever been equivalent, are now equivalent, or have become equivalent since 2003?*

The Committee believes that differences between NJ licensure and ASHA certification are only slight. We have enclosed the committee's past and present regulations for your review of licensure requirements, especially those discussed in the above sections.

4. *Does the Committee have anything in writing regarding this equivalency comparison over the years that could assist us in understanding the differences?*

Again, the Committee would refer you to the enclosed copies of the laws and regulations of past and present years for assistance in understanding the differences between ASHA certification requirements and those of the NJ Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee.

The Committee recognizes that they do not have identical requirements to ASHA, but committee licensees are in no way substandard. The Committee consistently reviews ASHA standards and tries on a regular basis to incorporate these requirements into our regulations and to make changes as appropriate. However, there is always some lag time between making changes and promulgating them into effect, and this is where you see the differences between ASHA requirements and those of NJ licensure.

IV CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- b. Devorah Solaimani
Committee determined that her continuing education is not acceptable per 13:44C-6.6 does not meet the appropriate sponsor criteria. Motion made by Hilda Pressman, seconded by Dr. Conte. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Linda Nash
Committee determined that it was acceptable for her to work on the removal of the inner canula and replacement of the speaking valve per N.J.A.C. 13:44C-7.2a(4). However, regulations are silent with regard to suctioning, so in this regard, she must refer to the policies and procedures of the facility she works for.
- d. Dr. Anne Eckert and Dr. Gerard Caracciolo to compare ASHA and AAA code of ethics at a future meeting.
- e. Correspondence from Mr. Haskill
Committee determined that he must meet all requirements for licensure according to statute N.J.S.A. 45:3B-8, transcript must be in for review, need clinical hours documented by letter, must achieve passing score on Praxis, needs 350 clock hours and 4th year clinical internship. Motion made by Anne Eckert and seconded by Hilda Pressman, motion carried by unanimous vote.

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