

**TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR LICENSING HEARING INSTRUMENT  
SPECIALISTS**

**DATE:** December 11, 2008

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M., CST

**LOCATION:** Poplar Room, Ground Floor  
227 French Landing  
Heritage Place – Metro Center  
Nashville, TN 37247

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Craig Haltom, Chairman  
Jackie Miller, Secretary  
James Alderman, Citizen Member  
Frederick Rayne, M.D.  
David Levy, Ph.D.

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Stacy Tarr, Council Administrator  
Elizabeth Miller, HRB Director  
Lexie Whittemore, Advisory Attorney  
Barbara Maxwell, Administrative Director

Mr. Haltom, chair, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. All Board members were present, including the advisory attorney.

**Minutes**

Upon review of the September 18, 2008 Council meeting minutes, Dr. Levy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Ms. Tarr said the amendment to the June 2008 minutes which changed the name from HIS Board to HIS Council needs to be approved by the Board. Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Dr. Levy, to approve the June 2008 minutes as amended. The motion carried.

**Conflict of Interest**

Ms. Whittemore asked the Council to review and sign the conflict of interest policy.

### **Office of General Counsel Report**

Ms. Whittemore distributed the OGC Report and copies of the lapsed license and continuing education policy statements. Ms. Whittemore asked the Council members to review the policy statements.

Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Dr. Rayne, to approve the policy statements as written. The motion carried.

### **Investigative Report**

Ms. Stone stated there are currently twelve (12) open cases in Investigations for hearing instrument specialists.

### **Monitored Practitioner Report**

Ms. Stone stated she is monitoring three individuals, one who is on probation, one whose license is revoked, and one who is unlicensed.

Ms. Stone said she is currently working with the Attorney General's Office for collection of unpaid civil penalties and costs.

### **Financial Report**

Ms. Tarr stated the council has a negative cumulative carryover of \$35,560.13 as of June 30, 2008.

Ms. Miller said that all boards are accountable to the Government Operations Committee of the Tennessee General Assembly, and the Council will have to provide some sort of plan for getting out of the red.

### **Administrative Report**

Ms. Tarr stated that there are 113 licensed hearing instrument specialists and 13 apprentices. Ms. Tarr said that, of the 13 hearing instrument specialists who renewed their licenses, 3 renewed online.

Ms. Tarr said that, out of the 13 licensees audited for continuing education hours from January 2008 through July 2008, twelve (12) were in compliance.

### **Examination**

Ms. Whittemore stated that the Board's examination of applicants must be conducted on state property and staff must be present.

### **Approve Newly Licensed Hearing Aid Dispensers**

Upon review, Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Dr. Levy, to approve the following hearing aid dispensers:

**Jennifer Elder**  
**Richard Hardy**

The motion carried.

### **Approve Reinstated Hearing Aid Dispensers**

Upon review, Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Dr. Levy, to approve the following reinstated hearing aid dispensers:

**David Morrison**  
**Donda Morrison**

The motion carried.

### **Ratify Closed Files**

Upon review Dr. Levy made a motion, seconded by Dr. Rayne, to ratify the following closed files:

**Whitney Wallace**  
**Larry Lawson**  
**Mark Kling**  
**Matthew Sternberg**  
**Eric New**  
**Linda Bloomfield**  
**Taylor Harper**  
**Saundra Allgeier**

The motion carried.

### **File Review**

Ms. Tarr asked the Council to review **Peter Shea's** file to determine if it should be added to the list of closed files.

Upon review, Dr. Levy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to close the application file for Peter Shea. The motion carried.

## **Correspondence**

The Council reviewed a letter from **Bobby R. Hardy, HIS**, regarding the continuing education requirements. Mr. Hardy stated he failed to obtain the required two (2) hours of Tennessee statutes and law for 2006-2007. Upon review, Dr. Levy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to waive the required two hours of Tennessee Statutes and Law for 2006-2007 for Mr. Richard Hardy. The motion carried.

## **Written and Practicum Examinations**

Mr. Haltom stated that the national written exam was last updated in 1996, and that there are questions that are not within the hearing instrument specialist's scope of practice.

Dr. Levy stated that the failure rate is over 50% and questioned how such an exam can have such a high failure rate. Ms. Tarr offered to contact other states to see what types of written examinations they require for licensure.

Ms. Miller said the Assistant Commissioner has determined that all oral exams are to be given at Department of Health offices. Ms. Miller said that Department of Health staff must proctor the exams and that conducting exams offsite would incur expenses for staff to travel.

With no other Board business to conduct, Dr. Levy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn at 1:24 p.m. The motion carried.

**Ratified by the Council for Hearing Instrument Specialists at the March 5, 2009 board meeting.**