

TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

DATE: December 13, 2007
TIME: 9:00 AM.
LOCATION: Conference Room
227 French Landing, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37243

**BOARD MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Craig Haltom, Chairman
Dr. David Levy, Council Member
James Alderman, Citizen Member

**BOARD MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

Jackie Miller, Secretary
Dr. Robert Bowers, Physician

STAFF PRESENT:

Stacy Lannan, Board Administrator
Barbara Maxwell, Administrative Director
Lexie Whittemore, Advisory Attorney
Juanita Stone, Investigations

Mr. Craig Haltom, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A sufficient number of members were present to constitute a quorum.

Review Minutes

Upon review of the September 20, 2007 board meeting minutes, Dr. Levy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alderman, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Conflict of Interest

Ms. Whittemore reviewed the conflict of interest policy with the Board which requires all Board members to disclose any potential conflict of interest they may have that could affect the performance of their duties as Board members.

Office of General Counsel

Ms. Whittemore stated there are no current rules in OGC for the council.

Ms. Whittemore said the Office of General Counsel has five (5) cases open pertaining to the Council for Hearing Instrument Specialists.

Investigative Report

Ms. Whittemore reviewed the Investigative Report stating there are six (6) cases that were referred to the Office of General Counsel. There are ten (10) complaints in investigations pertaining to unprofessional conduct, unlicensed practice, care of services, fraud or false billing.

Disciplinary Report

Ms. Whittemore reviewed the Disciplinary Report giving the names of those practitioners that she is currently monitoring.

Financial Report

Ms. Lannan reviewed the Financial Report stating the Council has a deficit of \$8443.57.

Administrative Report

Ms. Lannan reviewed the Administrative Report stating there are currently 108 active, 14 apprentices, 130 retired, 253 failed to renew and 34 deceased Hearing Instrument Specialists in Tennessee.

Ms. Lannan stated between September 1, 2007 and December 3, 2007 14 hearing instrument specialists renewed their license. Out of the 14, 4 renewed online.

Councils position on purchasing a simulator

Dr. Levy stated he made several attempts to get a piece of equipment or software which were unsuccessful. Dr. Levy stated that he has concern about purchasing a simulator, first the council does not have the money to purchase the equipment needed. He also wanted to know, from administration, who was going to maintain the computer.

Mr. Haltom stated if you have a simulator how can you know the person is being fitted with the proper hearing instrument? The Simulator does not have the personal touch.

IHS Practical Exam

Ms. Lannan stated that Bonnie Ferrell said the Council wanted to review the HIS Practical.

Mr. Haltom said he did not recall requesting that but the Council would certainly look at it.

Council's position on Audioprosthology

Ms. Whittemore stated she had done research and in Minnesota, Florida, Arkansas and New Mexico you cannot use this title unless you are licensed as an Audiologist. Ms. Whittemore stated there is a thirteen weekend course that you can take to receive this title.

Dr. Levy said in his opinion, the term is misleading to the public.

Mr. Haltom requested administration speak to the Audiology board to get their take on the term.

Training Permits for applicants prior to applying for their apprentice license

Upon discussion, the board members requested Ms. Whittemore draft a rule change regarding 1370-2-.08(2).

Dr. Levy said he would like it to say 100 days instead of 90.

Ratification of Applicants tested September 20, 2007

Upon review, Dr. Levy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alderman, to issue the following applicants a license due to their passing of the practical examination given on September 20, 2007:

Ball, Miranda- Full Licensure
Falconberry, Thomas- Full Licensure
Falconberry, Jennifer- Apprentice

The motion carried.

Upon review, Dr. Levy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alderman, to deny licensure to the following applicants that failed the practical given on September 20, 2007:

Williams, Clayton- Full Licensure

The motion carried.

With no other business to conduct, Dr. Levy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alderman, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05am. The motion carried.

Ratified by the Council for Hearing Instrument Specialists at the March 13, 2008 board meeting.