

COUNCIL FOR HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

MINUTES

- Date:** September 20, 2007
- Time:** 9:00a.m.
- Location:** Health Related Boards
227 French Landing, Poplar Room
Heritage Place Metro Center
Nashville, TN 37243
- Members Present:** Mr. Craig Haltom, Chairman
Mr. Jackie L. Miller, Secretary
Dr. David Levy, Council Member
Mr. James D. Alderman, Citizen Member
- Members Absent:** Dr. Robert E. Bowers, Physician
- Staff Present:** Ms. Bonnie Ferrell, Administrator
Ms. Marva Swann, Unit Director
Ms. Juanita Presley, Advisory Attorney
Mr. Jerry Kosten, Rules Coordinator
Ms. Juanita Stone,
- Court Reporter:** Courtney Cross, of Cannon and Stacy

The Council Chair, Mr. Craig Haltom determined that a sufficient number of Council members were in attendance to constitute a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Conflict of Interest

Ms. Juanita Presley reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy with the Council members.

Travel

Ms. Presley reviewed the rules of travel regulations relevant to per diem expenses, reimbursement of such expenses, and submission of appropriate forms to the administrative staff to process. Ms. Presley asked Ms. Bonnie Ferrell to review any changes regarding reimbursement for travel.

Ms. Ferrell informed the Council that the reimbursement for lodging will be increased as of October 1, 2007.

O.G.C. Report

Ms. Presley informed the Council of the following:

1. There were no contested cases scheduled for this meeting.
2. Rule 1370-2-.05, .06, .09,.15 regarding Refundable exam fees, stays, delete signed photo, bills of sale at renewal and informal settlements, were approved by the Secretary of State and became effective as of September 12, 2007.

Disciplinary Report

Ms. Juanita Stone informed the Council that there were no new disciplinary actions at this time.

Dr. Levy asked if there was anyway the Council could collect the civil penalties that have been imposed on persons that were practicing without a license. He stated that Mr. Gene Turpin, who was assessed a civil penalty of \$28,000 on August 30, 2005 was still advertising and working without a license. Mr. Turpin has not paid any of the assessed civil penalty as of this date.

Ms. Stone stated that Dr. Levy should file a new complaint against Mr. Turpin. She said she would look into the matter of collecting the civil penalties from persons working without a license and report her findings at the next meeting.

Investigative Report

Ms. Stone stated that there were six (6) complaints referred to the Office of General Counsel in February, 2007.

Dr. David Levy requested Ms. Stone to bring them a report showing how far back the complaints go and how long it takes for a complaint to come before the Council.

Financial Report

The Council reviewed the financial report.

Minutes

After reviewing the June 14, 2007 minutes, Mr. Miller made the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alderman and the motion carried.

Discussion

Audioprosthology – Dr. Levy brought up the discussion regarding audioprosthology, which is a special class that some Hearing Instrument Specialists and Audiologists are taking. When completing said class they are putting this on their advertising and business cards. Dr. Levy wanted the Councils position on this matter.

After some discussion Ms. Presley stated that this was a legal issue and we did not have enough information at this time.

Dr. Levy made a motion to defer this matter until the next meeting. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Simulator – Mr. Miller stated that he requested the software from Parrot but has never received it. Mr. Haltom said he had the software and was working with it. He stated that it showed promise and it made sense for the Council to step away and allow someone else handle the grading of the practical exam. The Council would still have to give the ear-mold examination.

Dr. Levy stated that we would need computers if we should decide to use the software for giving the examinations.

Ms. Ferrell stated that the practical exam could be purchased from International Hearing Society and that they would grade it. The Council has purchased the National exam from them and this process works very well.

Mr. Miller brought up the subject of having a training permit for applicants prior to applying for their apprentice license. Ms. Ferrell said she would prefer to change the rules by deleting the requirement for apprentice applicants to take the practical. All they would need to take is the jurisprudence and the written. The apprentice license is a training license. When they complete their training period they could apply for full licensure and take the practical at that time. Mr. Miller stated that having a training permit prior to the apprentice license would bring in more revenue for the Council. The subject was deferred to the next meeting, giving the Council time to consider all options.

Administrator’s Report

Ms. Ferrell reviewed the Administrator’s Report with the Council. She reported the following:

HEARING INSTRUMENT APPRENTICE–June-August
New Applications – 0
Active Licensees – 109
Active Apprentice – 14
Retired Licensees – 129

HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS– June - August
New Applications – 5
Full –Licensed – 6
Apprentice-Licensed - 0
Retired Licensees – 1
Failed to Renew – 2
Renewals Mailed – 16
HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS
Active Licensees – 109
Active Apprentice – 14
Retired Licensees – 129
Failed to Renew –251

The Council recessed at 9:45am and the meeting was called back to order at 10:00am.

Examinations

Mr. Miller made a motion to issue the following applicants a license due to their passing the practical examination on June 14, 2007. Mr. Haltom seconded the motion and the motion carried.

1. Dyke, Sandra R. - Full Licensure
2. Glynn, Kimberly. - Full Licensure
3. Clonce, Eric N. – Full Licensure
4. Pate, Mark E. - Full Licensure
5. Smith, William F. – Apprentice License

Dr. Levy made a motion to deny licensure to the following applicants due to failure of the practical examination on June 14, 2007. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and the motion carried.

1. Oureshi, Saima – Full Licensure

There being no further business, Dr. Levy made a motion to adjourn at 10:30am. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and the motion carried.

After the meeting was adjourned the Council administered practical examinations to the following applicants:

1. Falconbury, Jennifer A. Apprentice
2. Falconbury, Thomas D. – Upgrade to Full Licensure
3. Williams, Clayton A. – Upgrade to Full Licensure
4. Ball, Miranda R. – Upgrade to Full Licensure

Ratified by the Council for Hearing Instrument Specialists at the December 13, 2007 board meeting.

