

TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR LICENSING HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

DATE: February 27, 2014

TIME: 9:00 A.M., CT

LOCATION: Health Related Boards
Poplar Room, Ground Floor
665 Mainstream Dr
Nashville, TN 37243

COUNCIL MEMBERS
PRESENT: Thomas Stewart, Hearing Instrument Specialist, Council Chair
Jerry Hall, Hearing Instrument Specialist
Randy Williams, Hearing Instrument Specialist
Frederick Rayne, M.D

STAFF
PRESENT: Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director
Alex Munderloh, Office of General Counsel
Charles Custer, Board Administrator

Mr. Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. A quorum was present.

Minutes

Due to extenuating circumstances, no minutes were presented to the Council. Mr. Custer will have minutes available for the next meeting in June.

Office of General Counsel

The Office of General Counsel has no open cases. There are no consent orders and no agreed orders to be presented to the Council.

There is not any current legislation to be presented to the Council.

Mr. Munderloh also advised the Council that the rule making hearing for changing the fees for IHS exams, Rule 1370-02-.06 is scheduled for June 26, 2014.

Investigative Report

Denise Moran, from the Office of Investigations advised the Council that there are currently seven (7) cases open, 3 of which are against the same practitioner. There is one (1) case currently in review.

Financial Report

Vanessa Crutcher, from the department of Finance and Administration, spoke to the Council, advising them of each line item listed in the report. Ms. Crutcher advised the Council that their percentage of shared expenses, such as the new licensing system, the recent move, and other technology is 0.05%. Ms. Crutcher also stated she would put together some additional numbers for expenses to present at the next meeting. The Council discussed the Council Operations Fee as it relates to the financial report. It was

decided to place the topic on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the possibility of removing the rule and fee.

Administrative Report

Mr. Custer advised the Council that as of February 14, 2014, there are 131 licensed hearing instrument specialists and 17 apprentices.

There are 11 new applications in process, and 2 apprentices, that have been added since September 1, 2013. Also, 1 license was retired in this timeframe.

Regarding the Council Operations Fee, as of February 14, 2014, administration had sent out a total of 61 fee notifications and received 50 payments. There have been 7 30-day letters sent out and 3 agreed citations. As of the cutoff date, none had yet been referred to OGC.

Between the timeframe of September 1, 2013 and February 14, 2014, administration has sent out a 13 fee notifications and received 26 payments. There have been 4 30-day letters sent out and 2 agreed citations. As of the cutoff date, none had yet been referred to OGC.

Between September 1, 2013 and February 14, 2014, 33 Hearing Instrument Specialists have renewed their licenses. Out of the 33, 16 renewed online, giving a 48.5% online renewal rate.

Mr. Custer advised the Council of the update of the task force for exams, including the addition of a third version of the Audiogram Interpretation exam. Mr. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, to accept and integrate this exam. The motion carried.

Mr. Custer advised the Council of the IHS National ILE exam is going to a computer based testing by the end of 2014. In order for the Council to accept this change, it requires a signed addendum to the existing contract. After discussion, Dr. Rayne made a motion, seconded by Mr. Williams, to accept the addendum as presented and allow the transition process to begin. The motion carried.

Mr. Custer spoke to the Council regarding the upcoming conference for the TN Hearing Society, and advised the Council that if they wanted him to attend the conference as last year, it would require a vote and approval from the Council as funding would be taken from the Council finances. Mr. Stewart also mentioned that he had asked Mr. Munderloh to attend, but Mr. Munderloh had to decline. Dr. Rayne made a motion, seconded by Mr. Williams, to send Mr. Custer as the Council administrative representative to assist in exams and speak to licensees and applicants. The motion carried.

New Licenses

Mr. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, to ratify the following new licenses. The motion carried. Mr. Stewart did not vote.

| | | | |
|---|--------|---------|-----|
| 1 | Dollar | Tiffany | 806 |
| 2 | Harper | Taylor | 802 |
| 3 | Jensen | James | 812 |

File Review

The Council reviewed the file of **Billie Swift**. Mr. Custer advised the Council that Ms. Swift caused her audiology license information to be submitted from North Carolina, even though it was not required to be disclosed on this application. During administrative review, it was discovered that her NC Audiology

license was disciplined, being suspended for 3 years, through May 2014. The Council decided that no action could be taken at this point, as the verification for the North Carolina dispensing license has not yet been received, so the application is incomplete at this time.

The Council reviewed the file of **Honey McCloud**. Ms. McCloud is requesting a waiver of the college education requirement listed in the rules, due to not having attended a college program, but having several years of experience as an Audiology Assistant and other work experience. Mr. Munderloh advised the Council that the rules specifically require 2 years of college education. Based on this information, the Council denied the request.

Agreed Citations

Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Dr. Rayne, to accept and ratify the following agreed citations for the listed reasons. The motion carried.

- For CE violations:

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|----|---|------------|
| 1 | Rebecca Chaffin | 757 | 10 | | \$500.00 |
| 2 | Andrew Hardy | 720 | 20 | 2 | \$1,100.00 |
| 3 | Parrish Harrell | 668 | 15 | | \$750.00 |

- For Council Operations Fee violations:

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|----------|--|--|
| 1 | Thomas Falconbury | 694 | \$100.00 | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|----------|--|--|

Review Continuing Education

Mr. Custer briefly advised the Council on the use of online continuing education hours, and advised that one of the practitioners included in the agreed citation list had made up their CE hours online.

Adjourn

With no other Council business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Ratified by the Council of Hearing Instrument Specialists on June 26, 2014