

Speech Language Pathologist/Audiologist Advisory Council Minutes

MAY 17, 2023

Attendees

Council Members

- Jim Clark
- Katie Dease
- Letty Faller
- Bri Morbitzer
- Nancy Thul

MDH Staff

- Alison Helm
- Ah Her
- Julianna Leintz
- Pete Meuwissen
- Rick Michals
- Debbie Thao

Review and Approval of Minutes

- Minutes approved as written

Additions / Adoptions of Agenda

- No additions noted
- Agenda was adopted as written

Announcements

- We still have one opening for a Public Member on this Council. Please refer interested people to the Secretary of State website. <https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Agency/Details/141>

Staff Reports

- Reports were presented
- Reports are available upon request by emailing health.slpa@state.mn.us.

Old Business

- 2023 Meetings August 16 November 15
- HID Modernization – 18 candidates took the exam in the last cycle, including the virtual and in person portion. Two of those were retesting. All 18 candidates tested virtually. 16 that were required to take the ear mold portion of the exam passed. 18 candidates took the CounselEar audiogram simulator and there

were 4 failures. Those failures were due to not following instructions. The Department advises reading the instructions carefully and taking the opportunity to practice online prior to the exam.

- Hearing aid brochure, is now a handout posted on the website.
- SLPA Advisory Council has one open position

New Business

- Legislative updates – Over the counter hearing aid technical changes clarifying and making our state statutes consistent with the new federal rules, have been included in the Health Omnibus bill. That bill is still being negotiated. Hearing aid language does not seem to be a sticking point. The issue is keeping the nurses at the bedside act part of the bill. Once they're able to negotiate that, we will be able to move the Omnibus bill forward and our language should be incorporated is the expectation. We won't know until the bill is taken on.

Minnesota Department of Health
Health Regulation Division
PO Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882
651-201-4200
health.slpa@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

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