

BOARD OF HEARING AID DEALERS AND FITTERS

Minutes of August 21, 2001 Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilbert Poliquin established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Members Present: Sallie Chisholm; Robert Bruder, Public Member; Dawn Dufkin Britt; Gilbert Poliquin, Chairperson; and Linda Snow, Complaint Officer

Members Absent: Wanda Creed

Others Present: Judith Peters, AAG; Elaine Thibodeau, Board Administrator; and Jackie Thibodeau, Board Clerk

COMPLAINT PRESENTATION

HEA-063 Robert Bruder moved to dismiss the complaint based on no evidence of a violation of the Board's laws and rules. Seconded by: Dawn Dufkin Britt Vote: Favor-5 Opposed-0.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Gilbert Poliquin made a motion to approve Stephen Little's application for a dealer license pending receipt of the NBC-HIS certificate. Seconded by: Robert Bruder. Vote: Favor-5 Opposed-0.

Robert Bruder made a motion to recind the first motion. Seconded by: Sallie Chisholm. Vote: Favor-5 Opposed-0.

Sallie Chisholm made a motion to approve for reciprocity based on the determination that the New Hampshire rules have been revised and are now equivalent to Maine's. The applicant passed the NBC-HIS exam and now meets the current requirements for the State of New Hampshire. Seconded by: Robert Bruder. Vote: Favor-5 Opposed-0.

Gilbert Poliquin made a motion to approve Cynthia Stapleton's application for a trainee permit and to send a letter stating that only supervision hours obtained after trainee permit is issued can count towards the 750 training hour requirement. Seconded by: Sallie Chisholm. Vote: Favor-5 Opposed-0.

Linda Snow made a motion to deny Anna McNease Lewis's application for a dealer license because she does not meet the requirements as outlined in [32 MRSA](#) sections 1658-I and 1658-M and to waive the exam requirement. Seconded by: Sallie Chisholm. Vote: Favor-5 Opposed-0.

APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2001 MINUTES

Sallie Chisholm moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Robert Bruder. Vote: Favor-5 Opposed-0.

EXAM REVIEW CONTINUATION

The current exam will be given in October until the Board can finish making revisions.

REVIEW CEU APPROVAL REQUESTS

CEU request was reviewed and approved. A letter will be sent accordingly.

CORRESPONDENCE

STATUS ON HEAR, INC.

Sallie Chisholm recused herself and left the room. The Board reviewed the correspondence that had been sent/received to-date. Dennis Smith will follow-up with Hear, Inc. to determine what their plans are to remain in compliance with Board rules.

Review response from the Veterans' Administration

A letter was sent to the Hospital administrator inquiring licensure for the hearing aid dispensers that are employed by the hospital. The response stated that the hospital is regulated under Federal law and therefore exempt from State law.

Review response from Kathryn Girardin

Judith Peters informed the Board of research that the AG's office performed in this matter. It is the opinion of the AG's office that CDS is only acting as an agent by providing hearing aids to their clients. They are not selling hearing aids; therefore there is no apparent violation of the Board's rules [involving sales and fitting](#).

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE TO INCREASE FEES

[Elaine continued the discussion, pursuant to her memorandum of July 20, 2001, regarding the board's financial condition and the need to increase fees. The board asked Elaine to include a notice with the mailing that would announce the annual seminar, explaining that the decision to increase fees ultimately is being made by the Office of Licensing & Registration, so that the action being proposed through upcoming rulemaking would not be misconstrued as a decision to have been made by the Board.](#)

UPDATE ON SEMINAR BROCHURE

The Board Clerk will work with the Board Chair to revise the seminar brochure and have it mailed by the first week in September. The Board requested that the NBC-HIS notice for the exam and a letter explaining the proposed fee increase be included in this mailing.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board voted to increase the seminar registration fees from \$75.00 to \$95.00 and from \$100.00 to \$125.00 to register at the door.

The Board requested that their annual seminar be presented to the Board of Examiners on Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology for CEU approval.

The Board voted to cancel the September 18th meeting.

Linda Snow shared with the Board a request that was received from the Division of Deafness looking for ideas to obtain funding to purchase hearing aids for low income elderly folks.

Linda Snow also reported reading an article in the Education Audiology journal which stated that Maryland passed 2 bills, one which will create a hearing aid loaner bank to provide hearing aid equipment to children ages 0-3, and the other to mandate insurance coverage of up to \$1,400 per year for children ages 0-18 toward the purchase of hearing aid devices.

ADMINISTRATORS' COMMENTARY

Elaine informed the Board of:

- the resignation of George Davis;
- an article about hearing aids in the Harvard Women's Health Watch; and
- brochures FAME had sent to us on their Adaptive Equipment Program

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.
The next scheduled meeting is October 16, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Thibodeau

Jackie Thibodeau
Board Clerk