



Hearing Aid Specialist Advisory Council
Minutes
February 10, 2016

Members

Melanie Gilgan
Rolan Tullos
Richard Clay Hardy
Grace Sturdivant

Absent Members

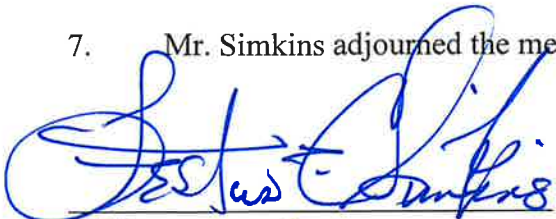
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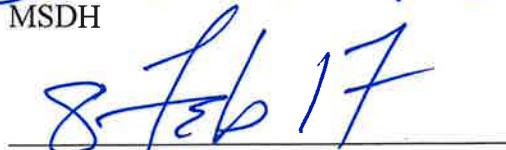
F. Wang
Y. Morrow
F. Simkins
V. Berryman

1. Mr. Simkins called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.
2. By unanimous consent, the February 11, 2015, minutes were approved by the Council.
3. The following officers were elected by acclimation:

Chair-Elect: Melanie Gilgan
4. Old Business:
 - a. Mr. Simkins informed the Council that the Department is still waiting on nominations for the Public member and inquired if the Council knew of anyone. The members stated they would check and submit the nominations if they found someone who qualified. Ms. Berryman informed the Council that nominations are needed by April for the July Board meeting.
 - b. Ms. Morrow informed the Council that the Department is waiting on nominations for the otolaryngologist member of the Council. Mr. Tullos said he may know someone and will ascertain the individual's interest then inform the Department.
 - c. Ms. Morrow stated that nominations are needed for a Dealer member and support from the Association to reappoint Richard Clay Hardy. Mr. Hardy stated he would have the Association send the information. Mr. Simkins reiterated the timeframe in which the Department requires the information to submit to the July board meeting.
5. New Business

- a. The Department informed the Council that 10 applicants for a Hearing Aid Specialist license sat for the exam since January 2015.
 - b. Ms. Morrow provided a licensure update to the Council. During the last renewal cycle, 61 Licensed Hearing Aid Specialists renewed online and 13 renewed late. The Department has issued 4 new Hearing Aid Specialist licenses since the renewal period ended, i.e., 3 temporary and 1 regular licenses.
 - c. Mr. Simkins asked the Council if they were willing to review the current practical exam and compare it to the International Hearing Society (IHS) practical exam. After reviewing, the Council would decide whether it is beneficial to update our current exam, switch to the IHS practical exam, or merge elements from the IHS exam to our current exam within the guidance of our statute. A motion was made by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Tullos to review and compare the Department of Health's practical exam with the IHS practical exam. The motion passed. Ms. Morrow will contact IHS concerning information on their practical exam and send the information to the Council along with a copy of the Department's exam.
 - d. Mr. Simkins presented the new by-laws for adoption by the Council. A motion was made by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Sturdivant to approve the Hearing Aid Specialist bylaws. The motion passed.
 - e. Mr. Hardy presented the U.S. Department of Labor National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards for Hearing Aid Specialists to the Council and shared how this program may be beneficial for people obtaining a hearing aid dealer license in Mississippi. Mr. Simkins inquired if the Council would be interested in adopting the program after reviewing the document and the current law. Ms. Berryman stated that legal would review the document. A motion was made by Ms. Sturdivant and seconded by Mr. Hardy for the Department to review the U. S. Department of Labor National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards for Hearing Aid Specialists for possible adoption by the Department for the Hearing Aid Specialist program. The motion passed.
6. The next meeting was scheduled for February 8, 2017 at 10:00.
 7. Mr. Simkins adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.


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Date


Council Chair