



Hear & Now News

Winter 2010

Serving the needs of Hearing Instrument Specialists, Dispensing Audiologists & the Hearing Impaired Since 1950

WORKER'S COMPENSATION ATTORNEY TO SPEAK AT HHP DISTRICT MEETINGS

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First Combined Board Meeting

President Cindy Peffers and I attended the first combined Board meeting of the Speech and Language Pathologists, Audiologists, and Hearing Aid Dispensers March 24th and 25th 2010. The new combined Board functions as committees and then there is a meeting of the whole. It was great to be in a real Board meeting for Hearing Aid Dispensers. Deane Manning and Sandy Danz, HHP/CA members were attending their first Board meetings as new Governor Appointees.

On March 24th the Hearing Aid Dispensers Committee, the only committee already established in statute, met to discuss the implementation of AB 1535 and outstanding issues from the Advisory Committee.

The outstanding issues were:

Establishment Registration Proposal

Legislation will be proposed that will require a hearing aid business establishment to be registered with the Board. HHP/CA agreed to look into this issue and meet with the interested parties. If there is a consensus, we will pursue legislation.

Song Beverly

The attorney will review the issue and make a recommendation based on existing law. Issues like defining completion of the fitting were discussed. The Board will determine whether the issue can be addressed in regulation or statute.

Proposed Statutory Change for Conditions for Referral

This is a proposal to add Federal criteria to state law. This will be pursued through regulatory changes.

The most significant discussion concerning AB 1535 was the regulatory proposal to have the Hearing Aid Dispensers and the Dispensing

DISTRICT MEETINGS

NORTHERN

District 1

May 6, 2010 6:00 P.M.
Cattleman's Restaurant
200 Taylor Road
Roseville, CA
Contact: Joey Bartlett
2201 Pillsbury Road #194
Chico, CA 95926
530-343-2350

District 2/3

None scheduled

CENTRAL

District 4/5

September 14, 2010 6:00 P.M.
The Depot
207 E Oak Ave,
Visalia, CA
Contact: Sandy Souza
1-805-547-9500

SOUTHERN

District 6/7

June 24, 2010 6:30 P.M.
Foxfire Restaurant
5717 East Santa Ana Canyon Road
Anaheim Hills, CA
Contact: Pat Vanderpool
714-974-5400

District 8/9

September 2, 2010 6:00 P.M.
3260 East Fox Run Way
San Diego, CA
Contact: Maxine Glazebrook
619-283-8400

2010 Convention

May 13 - 15

Doubletree Suites

Anaheim Convention Center

2085 S. Harbor Blvd

Anaheim, California 92802

Tel: 1-714-750-3000

9 CEU's will be offered!

SATURDAY May 15th

**HHP Annual
Convention**

PRESIDENT's Message 2010 off with a BANG....



Cynthia Peffers BC-HIS, ACA
President HHP/CA

We are only into April and already have had an active year. A resolution to support across the counter hearing aids has been pulled and gutted. The author is planning a positive resolution about hearing. This success occurred because of the active involvement of some of our members and the board. HHP/CA Lobby Days was held March 16th and our Lobbyist, Tim Shannon had set up many key meetings with members and committee staff for us to share our concerns.

Clean up language to AB 1535 is being proposed.

HHP/CA supports three of the four measures of this language. We have concerns with the fourth measure and our lobbyist was successful in having the language pulled until we come to agreement.

I attended the first meeting of the combined board of the Speech Language Pathologists, Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispenser. It was a great experience having a board that can actually take action and follow through on the needs of the profession and the clients we serve. There will be a number of regulatory packages being pro-

posed that HHP/CA will include the input of our membership.

Finally we are getting ready for the 2010 Convention in Anaheim and the election of HHP/CA officers. I hope you will join us at the convention. Included in the programs is a program with an update on the new board.

New Name of HADB: Speech-Language and Pathology and Audiologist and Hearing Aid Dispenser's Board

First Combined Board Meeting...continued from front page



Audiologist renew their license every year for the same amount of money. The Board had to make sure that the Hearing Aid Dispensing component had enough money to be solvent. At this time, fees will remain the same as they were when there were separate Boards.

The full Board met after the Hearing Aid Dispenser's Committee meeting.

The "new" Board was sworn in by an officer from the Department of Consumer Affairs. The Board elected officers and the recommendation to continue with the same President and Vice President as before the new Board was constituted. The President appointed the committees for the Speech and Language Pathologists and for the Audiologists. Again, the Hearing Aid

Dispensers Committee is already set up in statute so they cannot be appointed. The Chair of each committee was nominated and approved and Deane Manning was nominated and appointed Chair of the Hearing Aid Dispensing Committee.

LaVonne Powell, the new legal counsel for the combined Board, gave an overview of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and the ethical concerns for the Board. The Board then went into executive session to discuss disciplinary actions against one speech pathologist and one audiologist.

On the 25th of March the Audiology Practice Committee met with the major discussion being SB 821 (the omnibus bill that expanded the role of the audiology assistant) and AB 1535. The committee agreed that the intent was not to expand the role of the assistant pertaining to hearing aids and future regulations will include restrictions for activities such as making an ear mold. The committee discussed submitting regulations to define the continuing

education requirements for a dispensing audiologist. We proposed that the dispensing audiologist and the hearing aid dispensers should meet the same continuing education requirements of twelve (12) units a year. Six (6) of these units would be directly related to hearing aid dispensing and the other six (6) could be related, such as; marketing, business practices, legal issues, etc. Further, the number of manufacturer and online hours would be limited, online hours that are a webinar would not be limited. It was agreed that a full revision of the continuing education requirements should be submitted not just regulations for the dispensing audiologist.

There was discussion of the Omnibus bill language that had been proposed as a clean up to AB 1535. HHP/CA is okay with three of the proposals. HHP/CA successfully killed the bill for single licensure for audiologists at which time the bill was gutted and amended to combine the Boards. HHP/CA supported

NEW HHP Licensing

Board website:

[http://](http://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/)

[www.speechandhearing](http://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/)
[.ca.gov/](http://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/)

(address and phone numbers
are the same)





2010 Convention

You definitely don't want to miss the magic, May 13-15 at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Anaheim. The early bird deadline is almost here! Don't be left with nothing up your sleeve—send in your registration and make your hotel reservation by April 27!

Visit www.hhpca.org/convention for more convention details! We are enchanted with these wizards of technology who help make this convention a success (sponsors listed as of April 1, 2010)

*Opening Reception – Starkey Laboratories
Graphic Design and Printing –Audibel
Coffee Break – Oticon
Coffee Break - Phonak*

First Combined Board Meeting...continued from page two

the measure with amendments that kept the Hearing Aid Dispenser's Bureau's public protections in place for all dispensers. This means all dispensers must continue to meet all the same requirements. The Board has chosen to implement a single license for a dispensing audiologist that states they can dispense on the audiology license. They could have chose to have dual licenses. Even with the single license the dispensing audiologist will have to renew yearly versus every two years. The dispensing audiologist will still have to meet the same licensing criteria to dispense. Dispenser's have always had a certificate that was required to be posted on the wall. Our Board believes this should continue.

A representative from the Department of Consumer Affairs shared the status of the proposal for new investigative staff and for the legislation to implement strategies for enforcement, SB 1111. She also discussed the implementation of SB 1441, the uniform standards regarding substance abusing healing arts licensees.

For a full copy of the minutes from the meeting go to the new web site of the combined Boards at http://www.slpab.ca.gov/board_activity/meetings/index.shtml

Opening Reception Thursday, May 13

7:00 p.m.

House of Blues Anaheim*

**House of Blues Anaheim is a short ride away from the Doubletree Hotel. Anaheim Resort Transit is an efficient and economical way to get around the area, with a pick up location right at the hotel. Visit www.rideart.com for more information.*



Sponsored by:

SB 1111

As of this printing I am still waiting for amendments to this major piece of legislation proposed by the Department of Consumer Affairs to address discipline issues across health care boards. After the newspaper articles attaching the length of time discipline took by one board the department did an audit of all the health care board and found the problem was throughout the licensing board. A major overhaul of the process is being proposed. Some of the proposals are really great. Each licensing board will have nonsworn investigators who are experts for the licensee. They will prioritize the cases and assigned the cases to the sworn officers as necessary. Concerns include the ability for someone to loss their license when they are arrested. A false accusation and arrest could jeopardize a licensee. When the language is available we will post it to the website. Please read it and give us your input. We want to make sure that appropriate discipline happens but that the innocent are not harmed. There is language that states the licensee will pay for the investigation and prosecution if proven guilty. We have concerns as to how broad this language is. It could prevent someone from defending themselves because of cost.



1121 L Street Suite 409
 Sacramento, CA 95814



HHP California Convention
 May 13 –15
 Anaheim, California

Help us stay in touch:
 Do you have a new address or e-mail address?
 You can help Hearing HealthCare Providers of California **'Stay in Touch'** by updating your contact information. Call HHP/CA at 916-447-1975, e-mail us a hhpca@hhpca.org or return this form to:
 'Hear & Now News'
 c/o HHP/CA
 1121 L Street, Suite 409
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

New Address: _____

Old Address: _____

New E-mail Address: _____

***This will not update your license information - please visit www.dca.ca.gov/hearingaid/**

**Bylaw Change proposal for 2010 Business Meeting:
 Legislative Director**

The Bylaws of HHP/CA require that any change to the board must be voted on by the full membership. The following proposal for a legislative Director is being proposed by the Hearing Healthcare Providers Board and will be voted on at the business meeting on Friday May 14, 2010..

The Legislative Director will work the board to establish a legislative and regulatory activity plan that could include testifying on issues, organizing a grassroots effort, and/or establishing a legislative committee. The Legislative Director will work with the President, Executive Director and lobbyist to coordinate activity on behalf to he association. The Legislative Director will communicate with the board through email, conference calls, board meetings and other appropriate methods to establish positions on issues and get consensus for strategy.

Section 3). Term of Office
 The President shall appoint the Legislative, Membership and Managed Care Director to the Board of Directors to a term of office. The appointment will be confirmed by the Board. A solicitation for application will be mailed with the ballot request of the nominating committee in the election year of the Officers of HHP/CA. The Board will select members, who are qualified from these applications.