Date: November 14th, 2016

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| Chair: Kara MacLean  Facilitator: Darin Quinn  Discussion Minutes: Annie Giasson and Kara McLean | |
|  | **Welcome everyone**  **Update on the plan**: WSNB Willing to meet with executive and a few members of sub-committee. They are receptive to what we have to say. Date to be determined this week.  **Concerns**:  **List of concerns of members not present:**  What level of technology has been approved? It was determined that advanced-entry or mid-level technology has been approved so far.  What kind of fees would be billable; similar or lower to DVA? In Nova Scotia, Workers Compensation fitting fee is below that of DVA.  Process to apply for higher end of technology – client can pay the difference  Approval process – how is that going to work? – No longer have to wait for Ottawa for record of employment.  Accessory coverage should be a billable service.  How will they implement battery sales?  **Concerns of present members:**  Kelsey – approval process- similar to NS- statute of limitations – retired for more than 5 years, unable to apply in NS, they have to apply while working- after, too late??  Batteries – in NF they mail the batteries – are they going to change their protocol here?  Angela – fitting fees – have they been provided?? What will they be?  Elizabeth – meeting in June with the president, Matthew Box attended by video conference. Darin says Worksafe contacted Debbie Maund to say they are moving ahead and letting stake holders know and they will meet tomorrow. Was not a meeting to discuss, but just to let you know. Matthew sent an email to summarize what happened. There was no time opportunity to let members be involved. What should have happened months ago is happening now.  Denis Leblanc: Cost sharing scenarios? If the client is to pay the difference for an advanced hearing aid, that cost will go directly to the manufacturer. This has a significant impact on private practice as there are a lot of expenses incurred in this business. Elizabeth agrees.  Elizabeth: How long will they be prolonging consultation with us? Kara stated that this is unknown, however she will find out once she hears from them this week.  Denis: other fees associated – grid route – what are other fees that can be charged – regular testing – reprogramming etc. fees for filling out forms – etc… What will be the full effect of the grid route? We need to have a united front. We need the support of the membership. We need the income for expenses that we incur.  Darin: Cuts are happening across the board in healthcare. It is important to emphasize the impact on clients. Really important to be able to continue services and minimize impact on patient health.  Elizabeth: Worksafe reached out to association. We are limited to our association to do the right thing for us. We are doing this anyway. There was no discussion. Hopefully they will listen from now on. The association should have been proactive after the June meeting. Darin does not disagree. Encouraged that we are now involved.  Denis: We don`t disagree that the program needs to be adjusted. Our feedback should have been requested.  Annie: Keep audiology hospitals involved and informed on process. We have to be informed to advocate for and guide the patients in the process. Exceptions should be allowed for specific model of hearing aids in specific cases (i.e. cochlear implant users and bimodal stimulation)  Darin: Executive and a few members have been invited to the meeting. The date has not yet been set.  Elizabeth: Everyone who wants to attend should be able to attend.  Angela: Nice to have things in advance to look at before if possible.  Edouard: The meeting has to be about discussing what they what to do, not discovering what they are about to do.  Kara will make sure that we are well prepared.  Denis and Eliz: Does the Association have our back or not?  Darin: Almost all volunteers on the Association. We are a regulatory body and association. Exec director vacant for a while. These are the reasons why some things fall through the cracks.  Elizabeth: Why don`t we have a director?  Darin: The executive has hired a recruiter.  Eliz: Maybe not enough revenue to hire and retain a good director?  Darin: A survey for strategic planning- a session will happen with open invitation to session as members.  Kara: Redirect: concerns from a client perspective – Clients that are familiar with advanced technology may not be content with having a lower technology level when it comes time to upgrade their device. Denis: concerned about propaganda from WSNB  Kara: In contact with a person to plan meeting and prepare a discussion. Contact person is Tanya Vanier, Project Manager for the Hearing Program Transformation.  Eliz: Would be nice if meeting was in Moncton, central. Kara agrees and will push for that. | |
|  | Kara will notify committee once she hears from WSNB regarding a meeting time and all further information discussed. | |  |