CAOHC Moves Executive Offices to Milwaukee

Beginning March 31, the CAOHC Executive Offices were moved from New Jersey to Milwaukee, WI.

CAOHC joins 11 other clients managed by Executive Director, Inc. EDI has been in business since 1962, providing high-quality, cost effective service to clients that function on community, state, national and international levels.

The new executive director for CAOHC is Sandra M. Koehler. Ms. Koehler has been with EDI since 1981 and is associate executive director for an international client, the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology, and executive director for the Wisconsin Society of Internal Medicine.

Maria Comor will be handling the administrative and public relations activities for CAOHC. If you need information please contact Maria at 414-276-5338 or FAX 414-276-3349.

To reflect the new course outline topics and to improve usability, a new course approval application has also been developed. This application form and the new course outline became effective in 1992. To receive copies of the revised course outline and a supply of application forms, call the CAOHC office, 414-276-5338. All courses submitted for approval after January 1, 1992 must adhere to the new guidelines. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CAOHC office at 414-276-5338.
Many of you may be aware, CAOHC has a new address. In mid-February, we were informed by the Association Management Company (AMC) of Springfield, NJ, that their company would cease to provide association management services effective March 13, 1992. The CAOHC Council solicited bids from several association management firms and interviewed representatives from the four finalists prior to our March Council meeting in Cincinnati. The Council unanimously selected Executive Director Inc. (EDA) of Milwaukee to manage CAOHC’s affairs. The transition to our new management corporation is nearly complete.

The CAOHC Council, and I personally, want to take this opportunity to thank Jim Grasso (former Executive Director) and Judy Policastro (former Administrative Assistant) for their contributions to CAOHC over the years. CAOHC contracted with AMC in the early 1980s and Judy had worked on the account for all but about six months of that time. Jim became associated with the CAOHC account about two years ago. CAOHC owes both of these individuals a debt of gratitude for their assistance and support. They were great to work with and we will miss them.

On behalf of all of the Council members, I would like to apologize for any confusion or inconvenience that may have occurred during the transition from AMC to EDA. Additionally, I would like to ask for your patience and cooperation in working with our new headquarters’ staff as they become familiar with the day-to-day workings of CAOHC. You will find them very pleasant and cooperative. On page one in this UPDATE you will find an article introducing Sandra Koehler, CAOHC’s new Executive Director and Maria Connor, our new Administrative Assistant, as well as Sarah Kaluzny and Kay Whalen. Sandy and Maria are ready and willing to answer your questions and help you with any CAOHC questions or concerns.

This is a time to look forward to continued growth and change and we are excited about working with Sandy Koehler and Maria Connor. If you have suggestions, questions or concerns about CAOHC activities, please contact Sandy, Maria or any one of the Council members.

CAOHC Certification: Important Step Beyond Training

Course Directors are reminded to encourage certification. Occupational Hearing Conservationists may be granted certification by the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation by successfully completing an OHC course and completing a few additional steps. They include submitting an application, competing a course survey and sending in the fee.

Following the completion of an OHC course, an OHC may receive a certificate stating that they have completed a training course. Unless they have completed the additional steps stated above, they are not CAOHC-certified.
The Long-Awaited Draft ANSI S12.13 Standard is Here

by Theodore R. Haftefield, MD, FACHEM, FACPM

After eight years of long meetings and hard work by the Drs. Royster, the Draft American National Standard, "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Hearing Conservation Programs," has been published. And after three years of comments and revisions it will hopefully be published as an ANSI standard.

**Working Group Formed**

The OSHA Noise Standard in 1971 and subsequent amendments recommended that a method of measuring the effectiveness of hearing conservation programs (HCP) in industry be developed. HCP managers and other interested professionals have attempted to address this need. In 1984, a group comprised of representatives from the various professional organizations to the Accredited Standards Committee, S12 Noise, convinced the committee that they needed to form a working group of experts in hearing conservation to develop such a standard.

**Draft Standard Sections**

The Draft Standard currently has the following sections: introduction, scope, applications, references to other standards, definitions, recommendations audiometric data base analysis criteria, procedures implementation, results interpretation, and references.

The introduction section makes the major point that this standard is designed to identify problems with a program before permanent threshold shifts occur. The major problem with the OSHA standard is that it primarily documents permanent threshold shifts after they occur. While this might be acceptable in an enforcement program, it is not acceptable in a prevention program.

In addition to the sections, there are appendices which include an explanation of the recommendation process, sample calculations, and comparisons to the OSHA standard. The explanation appendix is profusely illustrated with statistical graphics which simplifies the statistical reasoning behind the recommendations.

**Largest Audiometric Data Base**

The working group provided the audiometric data base from the hearing conservation programs at their companies or organizations which combined to make the largest data base of this type in the country. This data base was used to test the various systems that were in use at the time. Most were discarded for reasons that are explained in the Appendix A. The statistics that were eventually developed were the percent worse sequential (% W s), the percent better or worse sequential (% B W s), and the standard deviation of differences in threshold levels. Comparisons with baseline audiograms were discarded primarily because of the difficulties in applying age corrections. The standard contains a series of tables which use the recommended statistics to categorize hearing conservation programs into acceptable, marginal, and unacceptable categories in various frequency ranges and test sequences.

**Learning Curve Should Be Noted**

The evaluator using the standard must be aware that the standard has limited value in the early phases of a HCP. There is a learning curve associated with the standard which stabilizes after several years and this must be considered. If high variability is encountered, the evaluator must assure himself/herself that this is not due to poor audiometric technique or inadequate protection from noise exposure. This can usually be determined by comparing different departments or groups with different levels of noise exposure, or different types of hearing protection. This is an effective way to identify problems in an HCP.

Company management needs to be convinced of the value of the standard. The major selling point is that by using the standard it is possible to determine noise induced hearing loss in populations before the loss becomes compensable under worker’s compensation. If a company waits until hearing loss is detected by the OSHA standard, they are very likely to incur worker’s compensation losses with the amount of loss determined by the state statute.

Copies of the Draft Standard are available for $30 each from: Standards Secretariat c/o Acoustical Society of America 335 East 45th Street New York, NY 10017-3483 (212) 661-9404

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**Oregon Changes Certification Procedure**

Students in Oregon now obtaining Audiometric Technician Certification will be required to take a written examination at the central Oregon-OSHA office located in Salem. These exams will be given on a regularly scheduled basis. Certification by CAOHC by itself is not valid in the state of Oregon.

This new procedure began May 1, 1992. Future dates for the state exam are: July 31, September 11, October 23, and December 4. If you have any questions about the Oregon changes, please contact Sharon Dey, MS, CCC-A, Audiometric Program Coordinator, Oregon OSHA, 503-378-3272.
Course Director Workshop Set for October 19

The Course Director Certification/Recertification Workshop is scheduled for October 19 at the Stapleton Plaza Hotel and Fitness Center in Denver. Registration for the workshop is $225 and includes a CAOHC manual. The cost for recertification is an additional $25. A course director should attend this workshop if he/she was originally certified in 1987 or later and will wish to qualify for recertification. A brochure with details on the workshop will be mailed in July. This is an ASHA-approved program offered for .8 CEUs of continuing education credit.

The course will include experts from the various disciplines using a new and interactive format. Topics include: teaching problems, course planning and development, performing valid audiometric monitoring, effective hearing protection programs and more.

For those people attending the 30 Days Lead Time Needed for Courses

- Course directors should remember that 30 days advance notice is required before OHC courses can be approved.
- The reason for the 30-day advance period is for the Executive Office to process the information and to mail out needed materials to the course directors. The 30-day time period also allows students adequate time to select an upcoming course in their area and to schedule time to attend.

Welcome Course Directors

CAOHC welcomes the following course directors who completed certification/recertification at the course director workshop in March in Cincinnati.

- Kenneth Aspinall, Aberdeen
- Proving Ground, MD
- Robert Bancroft, Muskogee, MI
- Cindy Bloyer, Kansas City, MO
- Carl Bohl, Baldwin, MO
- Margaret Burke, Laurel, MD
- Dennis Burrows, Macedonia, IL
- Jerry Cammarata, Staten Island, NY
- Lawrence Clayton, Rockford, IL
- Roger Clem, Sour Lake, TX
- Harlan Conkey, Portland, OR
- Patricia Fox, West Point, GA
- Barbara Garrett, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Mary Hallmark, Monroe, OH
- C. Garth Hengen, Worcester, MA
- Jill Hughes, Befington, WA
- Sjerra Irizarry, Lt. Col., Fairfield, CA
- Anthony Joseph, FPO, NY
- Herbert Kern, Philadelphia, PA

Barbara Markham, Bay Village, OH
Mary McDaniel, Seattle, WA
Richard Merchant, Potsdam, NY
Marion Morgan, Madisonville, KY
Gail Neuhau, Long Branch, CA
Bruce Olson, Waterville, ME
Richard Palmaz, Scottsdale, AZ
Curtis Paskert, San Antonio, TX
LeAnn Philibin, Aberdeen, MD
Jane Prince, M.D., Jonesboro, AR
Patrick J. Scanlon, Elmira, NY
Cari Sheeris, Cincinnati, OH
Walter J. Smoski, Bloomington, IL
Phyllis Sochin, Shelton, CT
Lea Spencer, Chapel Hill, NC
Giri Sundar, Succasauna, NJ
Christina Themann, Cincinnati, OH
Verapont Tawansat, M.D., Merrittville, IN
Marianne Towell, Pascagoula, MS
Thomas Walker, Palo Alto, CA
David Wirth, San Antonio, TX
Don Wolfe, Spokane, WA
Jeff Young, Fremont, CA

Workshop for initial certification he/she must have had an application approved by the CAOHC Screening Committee and fee paid to the Executive Office. Applications must be approved prior to attending the workshop. Course director applications can be obtained by calling Maria Comos at 1-414-276-5338.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I was told that an employee’s baseline hearing evaluation can be changed. How do I revise a baseline?

Signed, "a new OHC in Milwaukee"

Response:

True. The OSHA Hearing Conservation Amendment (CFR 1910.95) does state that “an annual audiogram may be substituted for the baseline audiogram...” OSHA recognized that the original baseline audiogram occasionally may be invalid or no longer representative of an employee’s hearing ability, and therefore, no longer appropriate for comparison purposes. Please note, however, that the decision to revise baselines can be made only by your program supervisor. OSHA states that baselines can be revised in certain cases when appropriate “in the judgement of the audiologist, otorhinolaryngologist, or physician who is evaluating the audiogram...” Ask your supervising audiologist or physician about provisions and procedures for reviewing and revising baselines.

Continued on page 5
### Upcoming OHC Refresher Courses

**Approved June 9, 1992**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>Chapel Hill, NC</td>
<td>Andrew Stewart</td>
<td>(919) 967-2226</td>
<td>James Wash</td>
<td>(206) 476-3266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>Oakland, CA</td>
<td>Jefery L. Young</td>
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<td>Lloyd D. Bowling</td>
<td>(202) 994-7166</td>
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<td>7/10</td>
<td>Newport News, VA</td>
<td>Henry C. Hecker</td>
<td>(804) 874-6665</td>
<td>Richard Stephens</td>
<td>(609) 228-3553</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/13-7/16</td>
<td>Great Lakes, IL</td>
<td>K.A. Kopy</td>
<td>(919) 457-4720</td>
<td>Richard Hawkins</td>
<td>(703) 334-9619</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/13-7/17</td>
<td>Toledo, OH</td>
<td>Dr. Herbert Greenberg</td>
<td>(800) 688-4185</td>
<td>Thomas Simpson</td>
<td>(313) 517-4574</td>
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<td>7/15</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
<td>George Cook</td>
<td>(909) 645-1818</td>
<td>Andrew P. Stewart</td>
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<td>7/16</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>Gayle Sullivan</td>
<td>(713) 513-5544</td>
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<td>(503) 450-7465</td>
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<td>7/16</td>
<td>Brookfield, WI</td>
<td>Edward Kozub</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/17</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
<td>Gayle Schulte</td>
<td>(412) 784-0205</td>
<td>Dr. Dean Harris</td>
<td>(303) 586-0782</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/21</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
<td>Dr. Delores Harris</td>
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<td>Dr. Herbert Greenberg</td>
<td>(800) 488-4185</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/4</td>
<td>Bala Cynwyd, PA</td>
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<td>Mandy Hase</td>
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<td>8/4</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
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<td>Michael Metz</td>
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<td>8/6</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>(404) 992-2827</td>
<td>Gauden Claff</td>
<td>(602) 987-7879</td>
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<td>8/12</td>
<td>Greenville, SC</td>
<td>Stephen Garvan</td>
<td>(863) 235-8649</td>
<td>Robert Connolly</td>
<td>(759) 519-0666</td>
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<td>8/12</td>
<td>Greenville, NC</td>
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<td>Montgomery, AL</td>
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<td>8/25-28</td>
<td>Brooks Air Force, TX</td>
<td>Jay Lehman</td>
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<td>(800) 995-1804</td>
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<td>9/1</td>
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<td>9/11</td>
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<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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**Letters to the Editor**

*Continued from page 4*

**Dear Editor:**

Recently, there has been discussion on using videotape in CAOHC courses. What is CAOHC's policy? Signed, "a CD in Tallahassee".

**Response:**

In order for your course to be eligible for CAOHC approval, all speakers must be physically present at the Course at the Inservice. In addition, you as the course director must also be physically present throughout the course. Therefore, viewing videotapes in the absence of an instructor/presenter would not meet CAOHC guidelines; however, videotapes may certainly be used to supplement presentations.

**Dear Editor:**

Recently a 17-year-old registered for one of my training courses. Is there a minimum age requirement for OHCs?

**Response:** No, CAOHC has no such requirement. Eligibility for OHC certification is determined by the CEP based on your judgment of the candidate's competency.

**Dear Editor:**

In the process of arranging faculty for my next OHC training course. Does a Psychiatrist Assistant qualify as an acceptable faculty discipline?

**Response:** No, unless this individual is otherwise qualified. Faculty members must represent one of the disciplines comprising the Council. These disciplines are: Audiology, Industrial Hygiene, Occupational Medicine, Occupational Health Nursing, Otolaryngology, and Safety.
Council Members & Their Represented Organizations

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