Practical Solutions for State Associations

CSAP Fall Conference
In collaboration with ASHA
November 14, 2012

TENNESSEE

BRAGS:
Political climate supports introducing legislation to eliminate the Privilege to Practice Tax, annually $400.00
Convention was held early, Sept. with ASHA in a neighboring state, and a success. We had good attendance. Our student participation was great!
Our schools committee had a well-attended Schools Summer Forum.

MOANS:
Our Executive Board has four vacancies. Volunteers are down for committees as well.
Membership is down.
Our web master had to be temporarily replaced just before and during convention.

IOWA

BRAGS:
Found persons to fill open executive board positions
We helped get SF 2158 passed which allows SLPs to individually bill Medicaid
Running our second membership campaign
Developing initiatives to engage more members as well as student members

MOANS:
Still updating our Policies & Procedures
We do not offer online CEU options to members

ILLINOIS

BRAGS:
We received an ASHA Personnel Issues Grant to develop a training video on the use of speech-language-pathology assistants.

MOANS:
This summer, The Illinois State Board of Education increased requirements for students applying for a teaching certificate. The requirements for speech-language-pathologists include a course in reading methods and instruction. Since the new requirement is effective February 1, 2013, it will impact current graduate students. Because of the new requirements, many Illinois programs are planning to discontinue the teacher certification option for their students.
NEW MEXICO

Braggs:
- NMSHA celebrated its 50th anniversary at the 2012 NMSHA convention, Oct 26-27.
- The weekend included an anniversary party and silent auction on Friday, Oct 26th in Albuquerque.

Moans:
- The State membership has been lagging on taking a stand on the issue of speech-language pathology and audiology assistants working in the State. A recent survey of the issue sent to the membership received only 40 responses. During the Convention, a committee was established to study the issue and make a recommendation to the NMSHA Board and membership before the 2013 legislative session.
- It has been difficult getting students involved in NMSHA even those involved in NMSHA are not interested in participating as part of the NMSHA board.

VERMONT

Braggs:
- Focusing on building board capacity—descriptions of roles, clarifying decision making
- Holding meetings through teleconferencing—working well
- First 2-day convention in fall, offering multiple sessions for first time
- Planning Spring conference with NE-ASHA 2013 Patty Prelock (from VT) is keynote speaker
- Advocated successfully for increase in Medicaid reimbursement with assistance of an ASHA grant
- Have money in the bank that has not been touched for years—able to function on annual revenues generated
- Unveiled new website
- New award structure added as a benefit of membership
- Have SEAL, SMAC and STAR positions all filled
- Have added an audiologist spot to our board

Moans:
- Low audiologist membership
- Members have a lot of opinions about governmental affairs, but hard to get them to act—Board work is often clerical, administrative, causing board members to burn out.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Braggs:
- SC SHA Received both the ASHA Coalition grant and the ASHA Student Advocacy grant.
- SCSHA is operating on over 100% financial reserves
- This year, approximately 90% of SCSHA members attend the annual convention

Moans:
- SLP Supervision guidelines for SC school-based SLPs are "as clear as mud"
- Possible decrease in convention attendance due to ASHA nearby

IDAHO

Braggs:
- Discussions with Medicaid regarding reimbursement and Children’s ReDesign; won a Reimbursement Grant from ASHA to set up a list serve on our website; ISHA Convention to take place October 4-6

Moans:
- Keeping volunteers on different committees continually involved and energized

FLORIDA

Braggs:
- Improved communications—New in 2012 – Coffee Chat Cafes; Facebook is kept current and is an active tool for members and non-members; keeps in touch with members; social media format; E-blasts and frequent communication with members; Redesigned Electronic Newsletter – FLASHA Forum
- Enhanced Advocacy – presence in Tallahassee, FL; Co-funded a lobbyist with FLAA.
- New in 2012 – Legislative "Boot Camp" held in Tallahassee; schedule for one in January, 2013 prior to start of 2013 Legislative Session.

Moans:
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12/7/2012
Florida cont.

Moans:
Financial Situation: Cost of production of annual meeting exceeding registration fees; high cost of quality speakers; hotel food & beverage. Dues not supporting the cost of legislative representation in State Capitol and other projects wanting funding.
Maintaining Low Dues Structure versus funding membership programs.
Members renewing only every other year due to need for CEs at member rate in licensure year; multiple organizations to join; lack of support from schools and employers.
Availability of on-line CEUs versus cost of attending a FLASHA Annual Convention.

ALABAMA
Braggs:
New Position: Vice President for Governmental Issues – Developing program for lobbyist and PAC
New Position: Parent Advocate/Student Advocate
All Executive Board and Officer positions are filled
Moving forward with the 5 year Strategic Plan
New SHA website continuing to grow and evolve
Facebook page in place with regular updates
State Convention continues to be success with different venues
Developing an association brochure to be published in March, 2013
Biannual student scholarship
Moans:
Continuing to build membership
Continuing to work on implementing the Strategic Plan
Public awareness of the professions
Continuing to work toward lobbyist

ALASKA

ARIZONA

ARKANSAS

CALIFORNIA
COLORADO

Brags:
- 2 very successful conferences (170 for the spring conference and 125 for the fall mini-conference); both attendance numbers exceeded our goals for each conference.
- Thanks in large part to our past president, Rhea Paul; we had an infusion of newer professionals into our executive board and committee chair positions, thus expanding our base of members accepting leadership positions in the organization.

CSHA Brags:
- Theresa Cherry Cruz, a CSHA member, is now participating in the State Department of Education Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), the committee deciding on evaluation procedures for teachers and related service personnel. The CSHA Executive Board determined that we needed to contact the State Department of Education to make sure speech-language pathologists were included in the decision-making process.
- CSHA again held a successful Lobby Day (our 3rd annual) at the state capitol on Thursday, April 26th, 2012.

Moans:
- Membership decline; we get increasing requests for information and guidance, “Please send me what I need to participate in my school system’s committee for preparing SLP evaluation protocols.” “Please send me information as to Medicare guidelines for billing for dysphagia services.” “What is CSHA doing about XXX?” etc. We welcome being a resource, however, of these requests; many come from people who feel no need to be a member of CSHA.
- Web site issues; we have embraced using our web site but as we have become more sophisticated, a better site would be wonderful. However, going back to membership, membership, membership, we are hesitant to pursue better, but likely more expensive, website providers.
- Committee membership—also related to membership, membership, membership.

DELAWARE

Brags:
- We are doing a great job advocating for positive change during some major Medicaid restructuring taking place in Georgia;
- Our education committee has been working with the governor’s office to assist with implementing adequate funding formulas for school-based SLPs;
- We have been working hard to prepare for ASHA and we are ready!

Moen:
- Membership decline;
- Getting members involved;
- Difficulty getting Medicaid to allow CF’s to be providers in all Medicaid programs in Georgia

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Brags:
- We have experienced great attendance for our 2012 Spring Annual Convention and Fall Membership Session. Both events were held at changed venues (Ballroom and Conference Center vs. Hotel, and University Campus). Our Association celebrated May Is Better Hearing & Speech Month at the Hawaii State Library by leading Story Time with preschoolers, providing educational materials, craft projects, and a Health Fair.
- Our Association has made significant progress in our legislative efforts during the 2012 legislative session, including advocating for SB #2631 advocating for the provision of well-baby and well-child screening and diagnosis/treatment of autism spectrum disorders, SB #2538 SD1 advocating for medical and health insurance plans to cover survivors of brain injuries including cognitive and neurocognitive therapy, neurobehavioral and neuropsychological testing and treatment, and necessary posts acute transition services in community reintegration to be approved for a period of at least 6 months from day of injury.

Moen:
- We were unable to attend the Spring CSAP Conference Leadership Training.

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MISSISSIPPI

**Braggs:**
Membership drive
Successful MSHA Conference
New web site

**Moans:**
Reimbursement changes
216 license for Bachelor level STs in schools
Need universal licensing

MONTANA

NEBRASKA
NEVADA

**Brag:**
NSHA received a $2,500 grant from the Nevada Department of Education for conference support. The NSHA Coalition is in its second successful year of a telepractice pilot statewide.

**Moan:**
We, especially our STAR/SMAC, are struggling with our Health Exchange and Division of Insurance at the state level regarding coverage of habilitative vs. rehabilitative services, as well as defining those services. Building membership; in a state that has over 600 SLPs and Audiologists, we have 52 of them as members of NSHA.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Brag:**
In the day and age of online learning NYSSLHA continues to draw 600 plus attendees to our annual convention which offered more than 50 sessions on a variety of professional topics with an emphasis on technology for speech language pathologist and audiologist.

NEW JERSEY

**Brag:**
We were invited to provide needs for coverage in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology for the NYS Health Exchange. In particular we to help develop terminology related to coverage for habilitative services which is one of the 10 required elements of the federal plan. NYSSLHA developed a collaborative relationship with the OT and PT statewide associations to put together an extensive document of recommendations for therapy coverage under the NYS Health Exchange and to work on issues in the schools that affect all of our members.

New York Cont.

**Moan:**
Supporting our members with the ever increasing onslaught of paperwork, documentation requirements and shrinking budgets of schools and states. With shrinking budgets it is increasingly difficult for people with communication disorders to receive the services needed to be successful. Maintaining membership in our association during difficult times. Decreasing reimbursement rates for speech and hearing services on all fronts.

NORTH CAROLINA

**Brag:**
The NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has published assessment and intervention modules in all of the major disorder areas. The SLP performance appraisal instrument is now public on this website: http://www.uncg.edu/csd/faculty/perryflynn.html.

We now have a collaborative stance in North Carolina, i.e., only the Board of Examiners license is required in all settings. At one time the NCDPI also licensed SLPs. Medicaid related services will now be overseen by an SLP. The job vacated by a non-SLP is currently advertised as a school SLP position.

The NC Physical Therapy Association, the NC Occupational Association and The NC Speech-Hearing-Language Association are strengthening their alliances regarding issues related to compliance and survival in this rapidly changing healthcare environment. In addition NC has the Council for Allied Health whose ongoing purpose is to:

1. Ensure that North Carolinians will have access to a well-prepared, well-distributed allied health workforce that is representative of the diversity of our state’s communities.
2. Foster strategies to promote the allied health professions as sound occupational pathways for North Carolina’s students and career changers.
3. Monitor trends in the demand, supply and distribution of allied health personnel through regular statewide surveys.
4. Inform the General Assembly through the UNC Board of Governors of imbalances in the supply and distribution of allied health personnel that adversely affect access to cost-effective, appropriate and effective healthcare.
North Carolina Cont.

Moans:
NC wants IDEA to be re-authorized with real paperwork reduction. There is in principal a paperwork reduction act as part of the current IDEA, but in practice it has not reduced paperwork. Excessive paperwork is one of the reasons SLPs and other related service providers leave the schools.

We have a place for a 2-year degree (SLP-A) in speech-language pathology, a 6-year degree (Master’s) in speech-language pathology, but no place for a 4-year degree (B.S) in speech-language pathology. This is a sticky subject. Some would argue that this is a good thing (NC no longer allows bachelor’s level SLPs to practice anywhere in NC) and others believe that we should think more creatively about how to employ the services of bachelor’s level folks. Medicaid documentation is excessive. Medicaid does not reimburse for services provided by non-licensed providers (students) and, therefore negatively impacts the training programs’ abilities to place students in externships.

Ohio

Brag:
The Ohio Speech Language and Hearing Association was selected by ASHA to receive one of the Student Advocacy Grants for 2013

Moans:
Getting volunteers to run for Legislative Council and Executive Council
Increasing membership numbers in the Association

Oregon

Brag:
Our state will be celebrating its 40th year of licensure for SLPs and audiologists and we’re working to complete Universal Licensure for all the practicing clinicians in the state.

Moans:
BCBS has reduced it’s reimbursement of 92507 by 25% beginning Oct 1, catching many clinical SLPs by surprise. Small practices and clinics are now faced with closure, layoffs and reduced income.
Rhode Island cont.

Moans:
We need to use the grassroots efforts too much! In addition to our licensure efforts, we have had to advocate for early intervention services and against Medicaid copays.

Rhode Island cont.

Brags:
TSHA was successful in its 2011 membership drive! There are to date approximately 5500 members. TSHA continues to enjoy a strong group of volunteers and a loyal membership. This year, the Recruitment of officers and executive board members (committee chairs and members).

Moans:
An ongoing concern is member recruitment and retention. This year we are offering .5 CEU’s as part of the annual membership fee with our programs committee planning at least 5 hours of CE events to members. Recruitment of officers and executive board members (committee chairs and members).

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Moans:
TSHA has faced some major challenges this past year. A summer symposium planned for a Florida venue failed to attract attendees and was cancelled. At this time, the committee is looking to schedule a different event during the summer of 2013. If the one is not available, we will consider sponsoring a TSHA scholarship for one attendee. Balancing the budget in July was a creative process and some TSHA projects took a hit. Overall, we were able to continue with the most important programs in our state association but some Task Forces are working with smaller budgets. In October, our management firm made a decision to terminate our contract claiming that they could not longer manage us for the agreed upon fee. The search for a new management firm is currently in progress and plans for the March convention in Dallas are being transferred to a new event planner.

Brags:
RISHA had the largest display for Better Hearing and Speech Month at the RI Department of Education at the RI State House ever (10 groups) and received an annual citation declaring May as Better Hearing and Speech Month in the State of RI. It was the first time both the University of RI and RI College participated in the event.

Moans:
Decreasing membership and limited membership involvement.

Brags:
The SD SLP licensure law (SB72) was passed and signed by Governor Dennis Daugard on March 19, 2012! The Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology has been appointed and is working on writing rules for SLP licensure.

Moans:
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TSHA continues to enjoy a strong group of volunteers and a loyal membership. This year, the Nominations and Elections committee is running with 12 candidates to the board which is exciting. Both the President and the President-Elect are in attendance at CSAP and we look forward to learning and sharing as we move forward.

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Brags:
RISHA received a $1,000 ASHA student advocacy grant. RISHA representatives attended URI’s NSLSHAs meeting in May 2012 when they reestablished the RI chapter. RISHA attendees witnessed several students volunteer to serve as officers (on the spot) for the 2012-2013 academic year. At the same meeting RISHA members presented a packet of information to the students about advocacy, including how a bill becomes law. The students were invited to participate in the annual BHSM display at the RI State House (another first for URI). RISHA members will meet with the students later in the year to continue the discussion of advocacy, along with State Senator Hanna Gallo, who will discuss the importance of advocacy and the legislative process.

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WASHINGTON

Recently celebrated our 50th anniversary at our annual spring state convention. As part of our celebration we had a very special speaker... the one and only Dr. Patch Adams (yes the one Robin Williams played in the movie)! He was one of the most interesting and motivating people I have ever encountered and yes he is every bit as funny as in the movie. One minute you were crying from some of his stories being sad and the next minute you would be laughing so hard your face would hurt! A true roller coaster of emotions that left us reenergized, more motivated and focused both personally and professionally! (I attached a picture of myself and Patch... he would only take the picture if we both had our fingers up our noses! Seriously!)

WEST VIRGINIA

Our theme for our Spring 2013 “Coming Home...The Best of WV”. We are actively recruiting young undergrads and grads to be involved as well as encouraging more involvement from the faculty from each school. Almost all of our speakers will be from our own great state with a focus on including those students in the current speech and audiology programs at both West Virginia to participate and be involved and showcase their research among other things.

Moans:
We really have nothing to moan or groan about other than the usual financial concerns etc... but the entire country is moaning about that too.

WISCONSIN

Braggs:
WSHA’s advocacy and partnerships with institutes of higher education caused the Department of Public Instruction to redirect the quick and forward motion of the proposed licensure framework for “speech-language teachers”. Wisconsin protected funding for Medicaid (infusing over $1 billion into the program) and chose not to make drastic cuts to providers or eliminate optional services, which includes speech therapy and audiology.

38 students participated in the “Day at the Capital” event sponsored by an ASHA student advocacy grant.

WSHA convention attendance increased by 25% in 2012.

WSHA had a large 28% increase in student membership.

WSHA has launched a new website!

WSHA is inviting school-based colleagues, such as Directors of Special Education, to the 2013 Convention.

Moans:
Wisconsin decreased funding for K-12 over $1 billion, which has made it a challenge for SLPs working in school-based settings.

WSHA is working under a very tight budget and is looking for ways to increase revenue and membership.

WSHA did not receive any nominations for two Foundation scholarships, the ASHA Louis M. DiCarlo Award for Outstanding Recent Clinical Achievement and the NFSHA Mentor award.

WSHA continues to monitor the appropriate use and regulation of paraprofessionals in the school setting.

WYOMING

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR SUBMISSIONS!