Inside This Issue ...

Leadership for a Lifetime
CSAP Alumni Membership
State Association Liaison Updates
Advancing Best Practices
Advancing Best Practices: The Winners Circle
ArKSHA Stipend Ad Hoc Committee
Sharonda Coleman-Singleton Memorial Scholarship
Oklahoma Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Review of ASHA Grants Received
Medicaid Minute

The Mission of CSAP is to:
1. Provide leadership training for state speech-language-hearing association presidents.
2. Be a forum for collaboration and networking among these leaders.
3. Promote communication of professional matters between state speech-language-hearing associations, ASHA and other related national professional organizations.

CSAP Vision
CSAP is the premier organization where state leaders meet to cultivate a unique culture of growth and knowledge through collaborative efforts.

CSAP is a related association of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Visit CSAP on the web www.csap.org

Letter From the President
Happy Holidays CSAPers

As I prepare to end my year as your 2018 CSAP President, I want to thank each and every one of you for making this year so memorable. I also want to say “Welcome Home” to our new members who might have joined us before the fall conference in Boston or will be joining us at the beginning of 2019. The reason I say Welcome Home is that you will soon find that CSAP (the president’s, past-president’s and president-elect’s of each state) is an extension of your own family. We listen to each other, support each other, have each other’s back when things get tough and help network to find solutions to make your jobs as presidents of your state organization more manageable and enjoyable. In order to get the most out of CSAP, we ask that each state maintains their membership. By doing so, as issues arise, we can all stay at the forefront of the solutions.

With the holiday season upon us, I hope that each of you are finding some time to enjoy the cooler weather, and in the midst of the hustle and bustle that this season seems to bring, take some time to enjoy cozy socks, a warm fireplace with a peppermint mocha and some special memories with those you love. I know I am!! Although we are in the final stretch of 2018, it is my sincere hope that each of us will finish strong and continue to find ways to bring attention to our profession while also seeking ways to help our state organizations thrive. As leaders in our state, I see no better way to do this than to review what we’ve learned in Boston, consider piloting the ASHA Leadership Development Program Toolkit that Andrea Falzarano spoke of, and keep in touch with those newfound friendships we made while at the Fall CSAP Conference. We had a great slate of state speakers that inspired us on issues such as: how to work effectively with your management company, how audiologists and speech-language pathologists can work collaboratively on state boards, how to work with your universities and increase your membership and advocacy. Remember, if you have issues in your state, there are probably others who do as well; you are NOT ALONE. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to a CSAP board member to pose a question. We are truly all here to help one another succeed!

It was so fun to see more than 20 new CSAP members attend the Fall CSAP Conference, and with the start of the CSAP Alumni Membership, I look forward to our conferences being more packed with experiences, ideas and fun. In closing, I want to thank the Craven Management Associates team for making my year so fun, memorable and enjoyable. I can’t thank each of you enough for your kind words and support as well. I look forward to Deb Burnett taking on the role of CSAP president in 2019. She has some great ideas to further the work of CSAP and continue to make it an organization that encourages leadership, builds relationships, and promotes collaboration between the states. I wish all of those who are rolling off our state board and as members of CSAP the best. Don’t forget the Alumni Membership because as we say in CSAP “Once a CSAPer, Always a CSAPer!”

Blessings to you and yours this holiday season,

Kami Rowland
Kami Rowland
CSAP President
Leadership for a Lifetime

Thoughts From the CSAP Past President and Current (Again) NMSHA Board Member

As I complete my last year as a member of CSAP (past president) and the chair of the Joint Commission, I have come to realize that our role as leaders in our state associations never really ends even when we become part of the CSAP Board. As part of the CSAP Board, it is imperative that the past president not “check-out” during their year as “past president.” You are the person that the president-elect and current president of CSAP rely upon for insight about the board and the organization as well as remaining a member of the Joint Commission. As a board member of CSAP and the Joint Commission, we assist other states with issues that they request assistance on through the HELP forms. The members of the Joint Commission take our role seriously as we provide assistance to many of the states. I encourage each state to utilize the HELP form throughout the year and not just at each CSAP conference.

As for the state association, I still serve as part of the President’s Advisory Group (informally) to assist the current New Mexico Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NMSHA) Board president … NMSHA currently has two great leaders, Dr. Sandra Nettleton, current president and Mr. Sterling Durrett, president-elect. They both bring to the Association, a unique perspective of where the Association needs to grow and how to include new members.

It is important that we, as past board members of our state association and/or CSAP remain active within our state association. I have seen too many past board members in New Mexico “disappear” after serving their term of office. That is unfortunate as each of us has a unique perspective about the state association as well as some of the history, which provides new leaders with a view about where the state association has been, as the association moves forward.

I actually tried to become one of those “disappearing” former board members in NMSHA after completing my term as past president, but it seems that our state lobbyists requested that I remain involved because of my background and understanding of the legislative process in New Mexico. Over the past several years, I have become the expert witness on several pieces of legislation that have both promoted and tried to adversely affect our profession. So although I am leaving CSAP, I will remain as the vice president of governmental affairs-medical for NMSHA for yet another year, and continue to seek out other speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and/or audiologists to get involved in legislative advocacy.

The current NMSHA Board just participated in a strategic planning session through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) with Eileen Crowe. For me, this was my second time participating in a strategic planning process, but once again, I was able to see how this session re-energized not only myself but all the board members. Our board is made up of 11 members - both seasoned professionals as well as several “millennials.” Two of the three university training programs in New Mexico are represented on the board in addition, to a student representative from each university program.

Every member of the board had their own idea about what to expect from this training, but every member of the board participated and became an integral part of the resulting strategic plan and some of the following results:

a) The new members on the board commented that they could finally see the connection that their position on the Board had on the “big picture.”

b) Every member of the board has “buy-in” to the three goals developed as part of our strategic plan as well as being excited to keep NMSHA growing in membership.

c) Several of the next steps in each goal were implemented during the 2018 NMSHA Annual Convention.

As a long-time NMSHA member/board member and CSAP member/board member, it was exciting to see the future of our state association in these new members as well as to remain a part of the continuing growth of our association.

Who knows, that although I will soon be an alumnus of CSAP, I might make my way back to CSAP again as a member.

Michael Kaplan
Past President, CSAP
VP-Governmental Affairs-Medical, NMSHA

Save the Dates

Spring 2019
May 17-18
Little Rock, Arkansas

Fall 2019
November 20
Orlando, Florida

2020

Spring
May 15-16
Cleveland, Ohio

Fall
November 18
San Diego, California

Watch the CSAP website for more information – www.csap.org
At each CSAP Conference, you are struck with a few realities. By the time you understand your role, leverage networks and build your leadership skills, your time to transition as an old timer comes. You progress through CSAP phases that are inevitable: seeking, learning, growing and knowing. Just like that, your name is called as an “Old Timer” and the reality that there are fewer opportunities to show and share your CSAP knowledge with others in the pipeline. Making borderless connections is powerful! The perspectives, people and potential CSAP offers to advance the states and state leaders is an unrivaled developmental opportunity.

Energy, excitement and connection captured CSAP leaders across the states and inspired a conversation about CSAP leadership over time. What started out as a tongue-in-cheek joke for Old Timers to show up at a future Conference as alumni, became a serious conversation about engagement and CSAP cultural norms.

If you propose an idea to a CSAP leader there will be questions ... and if there are questions there will be solutions. We questioned what “once a CSAPer always a CSAPer” means and ways to engage? We wondered if it would be acceptable to attend a Spring Conference as a CSAP former leader (and not feel completely awkward)? How are past CSAPers recognized? We reflected on ways past CSAP leaders could be enlisted to support CSAP initiatives, new leaders and transfer knowledge in a safe space? There is no doubt that we discussed CSAP alumni paraphernalia and maybe even a song. Overall, we considered the notion that there are no limitations on how CSAPers enact lifetime participation. Overwhelmingly, we recognized the importance of social interaction and uncertainty of CSAP norms for continued lifetime engagement.

During a small group discussion with First Timers and Old Timers alike, the CSAP Alumni Steering Committee was formed. Steering Committee chair and former Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association president, LaBrita Cash-Baskett, challenged colleagues to imagine their future of CSAP continued involvement and the structure to do so. Jeff Adams, former Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association president agrees that “there were many good ideas tossed around at CSAP, one of them being a desire by some to have a CSAP alumni designation for continued participation in CSAP events and information sharing. I think this idea has potential to expand the sustainability and vitality of CSAP and to manifest the concept of, “Once a CSAPer, Always a CSAPer.”

In the tradition of any CSAPer, a proposal was written, advocacy ensued over months. CSAP leadership and the association’s management team reviewed the merits of the proposal and the structure for implementation. At the Spring 2018 CSAP Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, the proposal was accepted to formally recognize CSAP alumni as a viable component of the organization and at the Fall 2018 CSAP Conference in Boston, the executive board voted to allow CSAP alumni who have paid registration to attend and participate in CSAP gatherings.

So what does this mean and why bother?

CSAP leadership lasts and sustains. CSAP has a proud tradition of encouraging leaders to be connected. The alumni designation recognizes past leaders encourages continued engagement by making it clearer and easier to do so. Although you are an Old Timer, it does not mean that you are a Last Timer. Gathering together is important and impactful to building relationships. Past CSAP leaders are welcomed to participate in CSAP Fall and Spring Conferences, earning continuing education units and experiencing social activities. Participation and event registration will continue within the current CSAP structure after state leadership has ended. Past CSAP members are encouraged to maintain personal connections, build networks toward contributing to future leaders and CSAP success. This new membership category will be added to the application and conference registrations starting in spring 2019.

I’m honored and excited to turn ideas into action and contribute to shaping CSAP’s culture of engagement with CSAP leaders. The future is limitless!

Yours in CSAP,

LaBrita Cash-Baskett, EdD, CCC-SLP, CF, APMP
Former president, Georgia Speech-Language Hearing Association
CSAP Newsletter Editor, ljcash@fundamentalfocus.net

Acknowledgements: CSAP Alumni Steering Committee
LaBrita Cash-Baskett, Chair, CSAP Alumni Steering Committee
Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association, former president
Jeffrey Adams, Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, former president
Jeremy Braun, ASHA/Minnesota Joint Committee
Tamara Freeman, Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia, former president
Paulette Gentry, Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists, SEAL and former president
Christie LaCharite, Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association, former president
Darlene Robke, Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia, former president
Janice Smith, Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association, past president
The Joint Committee on State-National Association Relationships is designed to HELP you. The Committee is made up of members of the CSAP Board and ASHA representatives. The role of the Joint Committee is to recommend actions and policies to ASHA’s Board of Directors designed to improve and maintain optimum state-national relationships. The Joint Commission members are: Eileen Crowe, Kathryn Boada, Dena Hall, Jeremy Braun, Kamela Rowland, Debra Burnett and Michael Kaplan.

Help us HELP (Help, Evaluate, Listen, Purpose) you by providing the following information:

1. Briefly describe your concern/issue.
2. Send your concern to both ASHA and CSAP by completing the HELP form.
3. Include targeted suggested avenues or options for action.
4. If there is more than one concern, please prioritize your issues.

The Joint Commission met the day after the Spring CSAP Conference ended and considered several issues:

1. Eileen Crowe provided an update on those State Associations that have separate Audiology Associations: Both Arizona and North Carolina have separate audiology associations, however, neither of them are currently ASHA recognized.
2. Eileen Crowe provided information to the committee on the California Association and voting rights of speech-language pathology assistants.
3. HELP FORMS: Twelve States submitted HELP Forms. Each of the Commission members assist particular states with their concerns.
   a. Colorado requested assistance with reengaging audiologists and increasing the number of school-based speech-language pathologists.
   b. Arizona requested information on paying for a lobbyist, increasing membership, dealing with the separate audiology group, leadership training, developing a nonprofit scholarship foundation and grant writing.
   c. Oklahoma requested assistance on addressing one year terms for the association president.
   d. New Mexico requested assistance on implementing online continuing education units and how to get members involved in committees.
   e. New Jersey requested assistance on how and where to use social media.
   f. Alaska requested assistance with strategic planning, and how to address regulation changes with music therapists and applied behavior analysis (ABA).
   g. Georgia requested assistance on competing with splinter groups within their state.
   h. Delaware requested assistance with emerging music therapy and ABA groups, increasing membership involvement (e.g., no president-elect and other chairs resigning).
   i. Mississippi suggested that there be a CSAP community page along with the ASHA community page.
   j. West Virginia suggested that CSAP develop a message board for posting current and past messages.
   k. Kentucky also suggested that CSAP host a community page for emails.
   l. Montana requested assistance on how to involve medical SLPs in conferences and how to run a board meeting.

Michael Kaplan
Chair Joint Commission
Past President, CSAP Chair Joint Commission

CSAP Page 4
In 2016, the Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) realized the importance of hiring a lobbyist. With so much activity in our state, legislative affairs became a bigger task than a volunteer position could handle. Hiring a lobbyist became a necessity and the board was able to introduce him at our Annual Convention in April of 2017.

What led MSHA to decide we needed a lobbyist?
Sharon Sowder: When I joined the executive board (EB) in 2008, hiring a lobbyist was a topic at nearly every board meeting. However, nothing was ever done towards hiring a lobbyist. I often wondered if we, as a whole, just didn’t know how to go about finding one…In addition, I think there was some caution based on the past experience that MSHA had with a lobbyist (before my time on the EB).

What steps did you take to determine which lobbyist was appropriate?
Sharon: I consulted with people I knew who had worked in (politics) and… I was given four names; three were lobbyist agencies and one was a single person. I sent out letters to the four candidates for proposal requests … Immediately, our current lobbyist submitted his proposal to us. Shortly after, we received proposals from two of the (other) agencies. I never heard back from the fourth candidate. Our current lobbyist and one of the agencies submitted proposals listing current clients as well as fees. The third one’s response was very vague, so we removed them from consideration. We used this information to make the decision.

What considerations were used when negotiating the lobbyist’s contract and fees?
Sharon: The lobbyist presented the contract and then we worked together to make adjustments as needed. Our management company was instrumental in negotiating the contract and final fees. We proposed different rates - less money for the months that the lobbyist might not be working that much for us and a larger monthly fee for the months (primarily January-May) that he would be working more for us.

How did you approach the budgetary constraints that it took to hire the lobbyist?
Sharon: The EB had decided that the first year of the lobbyist budget would be paid from our financial assets…The EB has continued to make adjustments and cuts as needed.

How did you go about educating the lobbyist on MSHA’s needs?
Beth Mc Kerlie: Sharon and I met with our lobbyist at his office to give him an overview of what our professions do and some of the past issues we have struggled with …One way we have been able to provide ongoing education is to work closely in collaboration with our lobbyist and other groups in meetings with stakeholders.

Greta Hull: I also met with the lobbyist (at the start of my term). I started by explaining the skill set required, education level and certification required to be a speech-language pathologist and audiologist. We discussed the settings that we work in as well. The last piece was reviewing the bills and talking about how they might affect our membership. I think it also helped him understand our organization more when he participated in the roundtables at Convention.

Beth: Yes, at our past Convention, our members were pleased to hear a quick presentation from our lobbyist as well as being able to interact with him in a roundtable-type format during a session.

What effective ways to communicate with the lobbyist?
Beth: We have established an open line of communication. Our lobbyist and his staff are highly responsive to our needs and we can easily reach him when situations arise. We tried to establish some regular times for (weekly) updates with the three presidents and vice president for legislative affairs. We have found that impromptu conference calls work as well as emails, text messages and phone calls … We also include our ASHA State Liaison, Janet Deppe, in ongoing communications with our lobbyist.

Greta: The weekly phone conferences and emails were the most helpful, I think.

How does your organization and the lobbyist make decisions on the legislation that would affect your members?
Greta: The three presidents make the ultimate decisions on legislation.
Beth: That’s correct, while working with our lobbyist is a new endeavor, our leadership (the three presidents) are responsible for reviewing items and then working with our lobbyist, state liaison and vice president for legislative affairs on communicating information out to our members … Our lobbyist is instrumental in giving us guidance.

What other lessons have you learned from hiring a lobbyist?
Beth: When entertaining the idea to hire a lobbyist, the EB has to attach as much energy to the budgeting piece of the puzzle in advance…as they do in the application/selection/interviewing process. This will strengthen the EB’s ability to effectively be able to handle questions and criticisms by the association.

Greta: I think it’s important to make sure the lobbyist doesn’t have any, or at least many, conflicts of interest and be approachable and reachable. But most importantly, to have good contacts in the Capitol.

Beth: The lobbyist should definitely be well-known by individuals at the Capitol. In situations that have arisen, we’ve been able to observe our lobbyist’s established relationships lead to outcomes. Our lobbyist is committed to helping grow our organization’s presence in the state legislature in a positive way.

Sharon: The first year was a learning curve and there were some weeks we were in constant contact due to legislative issues that developed. Our lobbyist was learning about us and we were learning about the legislative process. I think this will be an ongoing process as other legislative issues develop through the years.

Advancing Best Practices: The Winners Circle

Making Connections:
Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association (OSHA)

A few months back, I was listening to a podcast from a public radio station. The story was about an audiologist who treats balance disorders. The presenter admitted that prior to developing this story, she had not known what an audiologist was. She “had to look it up!”

Many of us have long been perplexed about why speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists, as experts in human communication, find that the public often fails to understand or appreciate the value and role of our professions and services. How can we, as professionals, effectively communicate who we are, what we do and why we are needed to the public? This lack of understanding about our field by the general public has a tremendous impact on our ability to reach those who need our services. It is a barrier that results in lower identification rates of people with communication disorders, under-utilization of our expertise and reduced leverage for influencing policy and legislation.

In 2016, the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association obtained a State Association grant from ASHA. The purpose of the grant was to help tell some of our stories through a series of short documentaries. Making Connections is a five-part series that gives a glimpse of some areas of practice in the field of communication sciences and disorders. We were attempting to shine a light on the way relationships are built between SLPs and their clients in different practice settings. We wanted to show SLPs making connections with their patients, students and clients in order to help them in turn better connect with their world and the important people in their lives.

One objective of this project was to increase understanding and knowledge about the profession through personal narratives. Powerful personal narratives allow the general public to associate our professions with compelling stories and life-changing experiences. Increased public awareness can lead to increased funding for research, improved support for speech-language pathology programs, adequate reimbursement for direct care and support for legislative efforts; all of which result in meaningful changes for individuals, families and communities. Part of the challenge is that the field of communication sciences and disorders is so broad and encompasses so many different disorders, diagnoses and treatments across all populations and ages. It is impossible to describe our field in a “30-second elevator speech.” However, considering the scope of what we do, everyone might be in a position where they will need our services at some point during the course of their life.

The ASHA grant application requires a statement of the issue that the project is intended to address, the description of the project, a timeline and a budget. Submission is online through the ASHA website and the awardees are informed of their grants shortly after the closing of the application window. Upon completion of the project, a brief report and accounting of the grant expenditures is submitted to ASHA.

We put out a request for proposals to find the right filmmaker for the project and our budget. Participants were chosen to highlight different areas of practice, stories were developed and filming sites were selected. Some of the participants had clients or patients who volunteered to be part of this project. Permissions and image releases for participants and filming locations were obtained. We made some adjustments in our project outline because the award from ASHA stipulated that we include at least one audiologist in the project. Our volunteer producer worked on scheduling and production support. Volunteer actors appear in some of the documentaries that were filmed in sites where no “real” patients or clients were available. We provided sign language interpretation for one of the clients and added closed captioning for all the films. Because of the limited budget, our filmmaking team donated many hours of their own time to this project. This year, we received a 2017 follow-up grant from ASHA to create three more short films, which are currently in final stages of completion.

More than 30 volunteers, 10 film locations and many hours went into the making of our short documentaries. We invite you to take a look at our project (see link below) and to share these films with friends, colleagues and family members.

Karen A. Aguilera
Past President, Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd8Cxx9blm7le7SuJbcYjA.

Karen A. Aguilera, CCC-SLP
Past President, Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association

CSAP 2019 Executive Board

President
Debra Burnett
debbieburnett41@gmail.com

President-Elect
Amy Rosonet-LeBert
amy.rosonet@usm.edu

Past President
Kami Rowland
kamela.rowland@lrsd.org

Secretary
Beth McKerlie
beth.mckerlie@nkcschools.org

Treasurer
Michelle Dawson
michelle.dawson.slp@gmail.com

Management Office
Craven Management Associates, LLC
Dawn Klinefelter, Account Manager
Diane Yenerall, Business Manager
700 McKnight Park Drive
Suite 708
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
855-727-2836
412-366-8804 (fax)
csap@robertcraven.com

CSAP Page 6
Since the beginning of the Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ArkSHA) Salary Supplement Committee back in 2004, those working to secure a stipend for school-based speech-language pathologists by having the state recognize the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCCs) as equivalent to the National Board Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification have been hard at work. The following provides a brief history at the inception of the stipend work:

- In 2005, during the 85th General Assembly, Representative Betty Pickett and Senator Shane Broadway filed HB1622 in an effort to secure a school-based stipend. Marsha Harding from the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) also spoke before both the House and the Senate Education Committee. By March, HB 1162 had passed both chambers of the House and Senate, it was signed by Governor Huckabee and became Act 1187 of 2005.

- In 2007, during the 87th General Assembly, ArkSHA was unable to obtain funding for Act 1187 and appropriations bill, HB 1344 was filed, however it never made it out of committee.

- In 2009, Representative Eddie Cheatham sponsored HB 1149 during the 87th General Assembly which was signed by Gov. Beebe in March and became Act 607 of 2009 but was still “unfunded”.

Numerous hiccups occurred from the time Act 607 came about in March of 2009 until March of last year. These were due to funds not being available and not having the support for the stipend at the ADE after Commissioner T. Kenneth James left in 2009 until 2015 when Johnny Key took the position of ADE Commissioner. Commissioner Key served as a member of the House of Representatives from 2003-2009, and the Senate from 2009-2015 prior to accepting the position at the ADE. During his terms in office as House of Representatives, he supported and voted for our stipend through HB 1622 and HB 1344.

Since coming to the ADE in March of 2015, Commissioner Key has continued his support of our stipend work for school-based SLPs, entertaining meetings with ArkSHA’s Executive Board and the Stipend Ad Hoc Committee; providing insight as to who we need to speak with in the governor’s office regarding funding and rewriting the Appropriations (Act 607 of 2009) for funding Act 1187; and also instructing what is needed in moving forward to gain support for a school-based stipend going into the 92nd General Assembly which begins January 2019.

Fast forward to the continued work of the ArkSHA Stipend Ad Hoc Committee:

In March of 2017, our lobbyists received word that Senator Alan Clark had a bill (SB555) to remove the speech pathology language regarding obtaining a stipend for school-based SLPs. Because this was right before our ArkSHA Student Advocacy Day on the 16th, ArkSHA’s lobbyists and board decided this would be an ideal time to share with legislators what school-based SLPs do in the schools. That morning, our lobbyists prepped our graduate students on the hot topic of Senator Clark’s bill, and with the help of Representative DeAnn Vaught, a family friend to graduate student Morgan Miller who was participating in our Student Advocacy Day, the SB555 bill was amended and the speech pathology language regarding a school-based stipend was put back in place.

In the fall of 2017, the ArkSHA board approved a motion to have a Stipend Ad Hoc Committee with Kami Rowland as Chair. Over the course of the past several months, Kami has secured a strong committee with the following school-based members representing all areas of the state: Carol Fleming (Little Rock School District, ArkSHA Co-SEAL, and instrumental in the stipend work from the beginning), LeeAnn Griffith (Little Rock School District and ArkSHA President-Elect), Kathy Humphrey (Jonesboro School District and ArkSHA President-Elect), Wendy Roark (Springdale School District) and Marietta Woollen (El Dorado School District).

This past summer, the Stipend Ad Hoc Committee was busy in gaining support through meeting with Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair of the Educational Committee, and ADE Commissioner Key. The ArkSHA Stipend Ad Hoc Committee members left both meetings very encouraged as both Rep. Cozart and Commissioner Key offered their support in our continued stipend work. It was made very clear to the committee that in order to move forward, funds would have to be available; that we need to look at rewriting the...
ArkSHA Stipend Ad Hoc Committee (continued from page 8)

Appropriations (Act 607 of 2009) for funding Act 1187 as it is out-dated; and that speaking about our discipline and how we work with students whose disorders pose a threat to the safety on school campuses would be paramount in gaining support as there is now a big push for safety in the schools. The additional work of the ArkSHA Stipend Ad Hoc Committee was to meet with Speaker of the House Matthew Shepherd, from El Dorado. The saying "it's who you know" could not ring truer as one of our committee members, Marietta Woollen, lives in El Dorado where Speaker Shepherd resides, knows him personally and was key in getting this meeting set up. The ArkSHA Stipend Ad Hoc Committee couldn’t have been more excited about how well their meeting with Speaker Shepherd went on August 30. Speaker Shepherd’s support, along with the backing of Rep. Cozart and Commissioner Key, is paramount in our efforts to finally secure a stipend for school-based SLPs in our great state. Kami has asked that any and all Arkansas school-based SLPs, who are members of ArkSHA and personally know a Representative or Senator, reach out to her so that they can speak with them about ArkSHA's stipend work and hopefully gain their support as well in this endeavor. She has also asked them to write a letter as to their work with students on the spectrum or those who are troubled. These letters should emphasize how our intervention strategies and support of these students can help prevent them from harming themselves or others. Kami, her stipend committee members, the ArkSHA Board and ArkSHA’s lobbyists are hopeful that in 2019 we will finally see the fruits of our labor from the past 14 years of working toward securing a salary stipend for Arkansas's school-based SLPs. We continue to work “Hard for the Money.”

Sharonda Coleman-Singleton Memorial Scholarship

O n June 17, 2015, South Carolina lost a beloved and respected speech-language pathologist, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, when a horrendous act of violence occurred at Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Unfortunately, several other members of the church also lost their lives that fateful day. The South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association (SCSHA) responded by deciding to honor her legacy with a memorial scholarship. However, even the best intentions can be problematic. We, as an association, have experienced many ups and downs in our journey to establish this scholarship. We have had to find ways to keep this scholarship fully funded, functional and self-sustaining, and through it all, we have learned a lot! So, what did we learn? First, don’t forget the stakeholders. Sharonda’s family members, especially her children and her sister, had vital input on where the 5K fundraising would be held as well as being “honored” participants in the races. Second, did we have the legal right to use someone’s name? Sounds common sense, but turns out that can be a bit of a logistical problem when making it a reality. Third, be aware that there may be unanticipated, out-of-pocket expenses and have a contingency plan should this occur. Last year our largest challenge was affording the expense of the race due to unexpected costs. Shortly before our race, we found out our agreed upon course had to be moved due to an issue of two separate races being booked for the same route. That move tripled our out-of-pocket expenses because more police officers had to be hired to stop traffic along the course. Those expenses decimated the funds we would have had available to continue with the ability to fund the Sharonda Coleman-Singleton Scholarship. In truth, we were heartbroken.

What did we take away from those surprises? We had to make this scholarship sustainable! SCSHA made a drastic move. After consulting with her sister and a lawyer, we decided to run only a virtual race. There are no out-of-pocket expenses, and all donations/virtual registrations are going straight to the scholarship! Also, we set a reasonable goal; as of today, I am proud to share that we are 50 percent of the way there! The beauty of a virtual race is that it can be run anywhere. Several participants planned to meet the morning of the race, Saturday, November 3, to actually take time to run together. After our run, we met at a local pub to celebrate our success in completing the race. This pub also graciously agreed to give all tips for that day to the scholarship!

Associations often have great initiatives but forget that even great ideas take long-term planning and commitment in order for these initiatives to be perpetuated for future generations. SCSHA has learned this through the implementation of the Sharonda Coleman-Singleton Scholarship, but through it all, we are proud to say that we have found a way where we can continue to honor the life and legacy of one of our own for years to come.

If you’re interested in making a donation please check out https://www.scsha.net/scholarships.

Michelle L. W. Dawson
SCSHA President, CSAP Treasurer

Elizabeth Fogle, MA, CCC-SLP
SCSHA Immediate Past President
ASHA Grant Received

The Oklahoma Speech-Language-Hearing Association (OSHA) received a $4,000 ASHA state advocacy grant entitled, “Increasing Efforts to Support Membership and Advocacy”. OSHA has struggled to grow its membership and to maintain robust communication with current and prospective members. While there are more than 2,000 audiologists and speech-language pathologists working in the state of Oklahoma, OSHA has only about 300 paid members. More dismal is the percentage of members that participate in advocacy efforts. The organization kept manual records of membership until just four years ago. As a result, the accuracy of membership records suffered. The association transitioned to electronic records, but they were housed by a third-party system that was not linked to the association website; therefore, joining OSHA was a frustrating, multi-step process for prospective members. Current members had it no better, as they had to navigate two separate systems to register for events, renew their memberships and/or obtain current information.

This hindered the association’s ability to effectively advocate on behalf of the profession, which is one of our primary missions. Vigorous and continual advocacy is critical, because Oklahoma has legislative term limits, resulting in a turnover of at least one-third of members in the state House and Senate each election cycle. Our members must educate new legislators on a constant and ongoing basis. In order to address this concern; OSHA used the grant funds to implement a comprehensive online association management system which maintains accurate, up-to-date membership records. The new system allows streamlined communication to both current members and prospective members alike, hopefully resulting in membership growth, increased exposure for the association and much stronger advocacy efforts. Better servicing current members and growing the membership will allow OSHA to develop new advocacy projects throughout the calendar year. Through the purchase of the management system, all individual members can be reliably notified when legislation arises and be encouraged to immediately contact their legislators. Legislation for 2017 includes changes to the Licensure Board Act, a critical issue for our association members.

In regards to our state Medicaid system, the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority (OHCA), during a past legislative session, just over $1 billion was appropriated for the agency’s state fiscal year (SFY) 2018 budget. Appropriations bills were sent to be signed by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin on May 26. However, even with the appropriated funding, the OHCA projects a nearly $34 million budget shortfall for SFY2018 due to rising costs and declining federal funds. The OHCA notes that reductions to benefits and provider rates will only be considered as a last resort.

Otherwise all is well in Oklahoma! As we like to say, O-K-L-A-H-O-M-A, Oklahoma, OK!

Suzanne Kimball
Suzanne Kimball, AuD
Past Association President, OSHA
Business Development and Medicaid Minute
The Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) has submitted two successful key initiatives that ASHA supported in the awarding of an ASHA Personnel Grant in 2014 and an ASHA Student Advocacy Grant in 2016. The MSHA processes and best practices utilized to manage and execute these winning proposals included the establishment of a grant writing team to perform specific tasks that included identifying the state’s most urgent professional issues, researching recommended successful grant writing techniques, providing a wide variety of grant activities, producing explicit descriptions of grant events in sequence of occurrence and proofreading each outline and rough draft document.

In 2014, a grant proposal opportunity emerged when MSHA recognized that with increasing costs of hearing aids in Mississippi, potential clients were using consumer-administered hearing tests and purchasing hearing aids without consulting with accredited and licensed hearing health professionals. The 2014 ASHA Personnel Grant funding of $7,500 provided the financial support and opportunity to increase awareness of Mississippi consumers, legislators, and other stakeholders regarding the roles, credentials and importance of audiologists in the appropriate evaluation and fitting of hearing aids including auditory rehabilitation and counseling regarding proper hearing aid fit and use. An introductory letter to state audiologists and written surveys for the audiologists and their consumers were sent statewide. A public service announcement (PSA) and an educational video on the MSHA website were broadcast across the state. The grant funds were utilized to cover cost of printing paper, envelopes, postcards, address labels, as well as postage for introductory audiologists’ letters and hard copy consumer and audiologists’ surveys. Funds were also utilized for the production of the PSA which had a significant impact on consumers including a heightened awareness of the important role of audiologists in overall hearing health of Mississippi consumers. Another positive outcome was that there was an increase of audiologists’ awareness as to the importance of their state association in the support of their professional practice in addition to the increase in consumer awareness of audiologists in the fit and use of hearing aids. The link to the video is below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb8U2B7vyxM

The second initiative included a focus on our students in communication sciences and disorders university programs. MSHA has long recognized a need for increased graduate student participation in student legislative advocacy and the annual MSHA Legislative Day. MSHA’s 2016 Student Advocacy Grant of $1,000 allowed MSHA the opportunity to recruit speech-language pathology and audiology graduate students at the five Mississippi university communication sciences and disorders programs to participate in professional legislative advocacy at the 2017 MSHA Legislative Day at the Capitol. The MSHA University Chair appointed a student MSHA liaison from each university to relate information to the students from MSHA regarding current state and national legislative issues. Additionally, the MSHA lobbyist educated the students in identification of Mississippi elected officials, the legislative process, how a bill becomes a law, key communities of jurisdiction, protocol when meeting with legislators, effective student advocacy with legislators and state professional legislative priorities via online and a face-to-face session at the 2017 MSHA Legislative Day.

The students also received professional experience in the provision of free audiological screening for the legislators. Funds were utilized in the coverage of transportation costs of MSHA members who promoted the student legislative advocacy events at the five universities as well as the costs of transporting students to and from the MSHA Legislative Day. Grant funds were also used to purchase audiological screening supplies, snacks and boxed lunches for the state legislators and students. The impact of the student advocacy events was that this allowed students the opportunity to be educated in the legislative process and advocate for state professional legislative issues. The positive outcomes included an increase in student awareness as to the importance of professional legislative advocacy and an exciting day for all!

Camille Williams
Camille Williams, MS, CCC-SLP

Rebecca Lowe
Rebecca Lowe, AuD, CCC-A
Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association (OSLHA) remains focused on supporting our membership and helping them navigate the significant changes in healthcare that we may face professionally. In Ohio, similar to many other states, the landscape for reimbursement is constantly changing. This change is very apparent in the Medicaid system. As changes to the Ohio Medicaid system evolve, OSLHA is dedicated to ensuring that our membership is informed of changes that may impact their practice as well as having advocates working with the local, state and national legislation to protect their interests.

One main area of focus is the changes in Medicaid billing for the schools in Ohio. The changes for Ohio now require that all Ohio school-based speech-language pathologists apply to become an initial practitioner in order to bill Medicaid for school-based services. This change also requires that the school-based practitioner complete the 1099 tax form information and submit a W-9. This billing arrangement is unique to Ohio and still evolving. Due to the significance of this change and the amount of members impacted, OSLHA is working diligently to support our members through the transition and top advocate for the needs of the providers.

In addition to the billing for school-based services, there are numerous other changes that impact speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Ohio. The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH) is changing in order to ensure a sustainable program to support Ohio's most vulnerable children and their families. All individuals, both Medicaid and non-Medicaid eligible who apply for the Children With Medical Handicaps program on or after July 1, 2017 will be transitioned into Medicaid or the new Medicaid Children With Medical Handicaps (CMH) program effective January 1, 2018. The eligibility requirements will change with this model and the exact impact to the services for speech pathology and audiology are still unknown. OSLHA is committed to keeping our members informed as this change evolves.

The Ohio Hearing Aid Assistance Program (OHAAP) is currently active in Ohio and provides assistance to families with children birth to 21 years of age to purchase hearing aids, ear molds and/or hearing aid batteries. Families with incomes at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for the program. This program will help children with hearing loss to obtain not only hearing aids but other needed audiologic services. Children who qualify for Medicaid or Medicaid CMH are not eligible for OHAAP (unless documentation can be provide that Medicaid of CMH will not pay). This program is run through the Ohio Department of Health.

As state reimbursement programs change, OSLHA is working to ensure that our membership has access to funding sources to still be able to treat the needed patients. Currently, if patients in Ohio are denied speech therapy services through private insurance, an appeal process is initiated. If the appeal processes are unsuccessful and the parent cannot afford to self-pay, we direct the speech therapists and audiologists to private grant options that can help with reimbursement. OSLHA provides contact for third-party payers to members through newsletter communication, at our Annual Convention and with any inquiry within our state Association.

OSLHA leadership appreciates the important role to advocate for our members. We work with other organizations in our state to sponsor and support a legislative event and encourage participation by membership and other stakeholders. As recipients of the ASHA Student Advocacy Grant of 2017, OSLHA is dedicated promoting student participation in advocacy and leadership activities. As part of the grant, students are provided with opportunities to connect with legislators face to face and through written communication. This experience with advocacy early in one's learning process develops strong leaders for the future.

Ohio is facing significant change in state payer insurance. The impact of these changes are not yet defined. OSLHA remains focused on our mission of empowering our members by providing opportunities for professional development, advocacy and leadership development necessary to foster excellence in the services provided to individuals with communication and related disorders. By involving current leaders and leaders of tomorrow, OSLHA's impact remains great.

Maggie Kettler, AuD