

Announcements

Participate in America Speaks Out!

Dear ASHA Advocate,

Consider participating in *America Speaking Out* (ASO), an initiative by the Republican party to engage the American people and give them a voice in crafting a new governing agenda for the 111th Congress. At AmericaSpeakingOut.com, you can submit ideas on a wide range of critical issues and potentially have each of them debated and discussed on their merits in an open and transparent forum.

This is an ideal forum to voice your opinions on how the U.S. Congress can ensure that the interests of audiologists and speech-language pathologists are included in current and future legislation.

If you have questions, please send a message to grassroots@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Katie Bromley

Director, Grassroots and Congressional Advocacy

Calendar of Events

June 18, 2010: Teaching Beyond Normal 2010, Inside Autism Contact katherinerains@yahoo.com
June 25,26, 2010: Integrated Treatment of Feeding, Speech and Mouth Function in Peds. Colo Springs, CO see ad below.

July 9, 2010: Ready S.E.T. Go! Sensorimotor Early Childhood, Denver, CO, info at www.crosscountryeducation.com

October 15 & 16, 2010: Collaboration across Settings: Implementing Research in Daily Practice, The Double Tree, DTC, more info in this NL and www.cshassoc.org

October 2011: IMASH Conference in Salt Lake City

Integrated Treatment of Feeding, Speech and Mouth Function In Pediatrics

Colorado Springs, CO June 25 & 26, 2010

Learn specific techniques for children who need to improve feeding, eating, drinking, oral hygiene, speech intelligibility, and motor planning. Group interactive experiences & DVD demonstrations. **15 Hours.** Instructor: Diane Bahr, CCC-SLP, Author of *Nobody Ever Told Me (or My Mother) That! - Everything from Bottles and Breathing to Healthy Speech Development* (2010). For brochure or more information contact **Agess and Stages, LLC** at 702-845-0642; Email: agesandstages@cox.net; or www.agesandstages.net. **\$299 (early registration) includes all materials.** Purchase Orders Accepted. ASHA Approved Provider.

Identity Theft Prevention Delayed Until January 1, 2011

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has again pushed back the implementation date for the "Red Flag" rules from June 1, 2010 to January 1, 2011. The FTC requires health care providers to implement a policy to prevent identity theft. Private practice audiologists and speech-language pathologists who do not require patients to pay for their services in full at the time of service are required to implement a program to prevent identity theft by January 1, 2011. The FTC's announcement can be found at www.ftc.gov/opa/2010/05/redflags.shtm. ASHA's article about complying with the FTC's "red flag" rules can be found at www.asha.org/Publications/leader/2009/090714/090714b.htm. For further information, contact Kate Romanow, ASHA's director of health care regulatory advocacy, at kromanow@asha.org or 800-498-2071, ext. 5671.

Denise Dougherty, MA, CCC-SLP, MFT

President, American Academy of Private Practice in Speech Pathology and Audiology

AAPPSPA Liaison to ASHA HCEC Committee

PA Representative ASHA Speech-Language Advisory Council

Medicare Billing for Speech-Language Pathologists in Private Practice
From CMS website...

<http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/SpeechLangPathfctsht.pdf>

JOBS CURRENTLY POSTED ON CSHA WEBSITE

<http://cshassoc.org/jobs.html>

Yampa Valley Medical Center
Valley Speech & Language
Rocky Mountain Autism Center
Phoenix Children's Hospital

San Luis Valley BOCES

San Luis Valley BOCES (A cooperative with 14 school districts)

SLV BOCES is hiring full time Certified Speech-Language Pathologists to serve students preschool through high school in rural school districts. CFY available. We have a collaborative team approach with flexibility in caseload. If you are interested in working with a range of disabilities in an area with a variety of outdoor recreational activities, join us!

Certification through Colorado Department of Education required. Full time benefits for health and retirement.

To apply or for additional information visit our website at www.slvboces.org

Applications available on line.

Save the Date
June 18th, 2010

Sewall

Child Development Center

Teaching Beyond Normal 2010 Inside Autism

Full-day Conference

Featuring keynote address and afternoon presentation
by

John Elder Robison

Self-advocate with Asperger's and author of

Look Me In The Eyes

Morning Break-out Sessions Include:
Enhancing Social and Play Skills For Young Children with ASD

Laurie Sperry, Ph.D.
Professional Development in Autism Center
University of Colorado at Denver

The Neuroscience of Learning
Beth O'Brien, M.A. CCC-A
Director of Children's & Adolescent Clinical Services
Center for Hearing, Speech, and Language

For more information or to reserve your seat today please e-mail Katherine Rains at katherinerains@yahoo.com

CSHA Fall Convention Update

Mark your calendar for October 15 and 16, 2010! **Collaboration across Settings: Implementing Research in Daily Practice** is the theme for the Fall 2010 Convention. Nationally known speakers will present current research and clinical implications on a variety of topics designed to appeal to SLPs, Audiologists and other special education professionals. Attendees can immerse themselves in 4, single-topic tracks for hours of in-depth learning.

The first track, *Enhancing Services for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs* is designed for those working with the early childhood population. Dr. Louis Rossetti (University of Wisconsin) will present six hours on assessment and intervention. He describes his sessions as "highly clinical" in content. Dr. Rossetti is Professor Emeritus of Communicative Disorders at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and is the author of the *Rossetti Infant-Toddler Language Scale*, the most widely used communication assessment scale for children under three years of age in the world.

SLPs working with school-age students with severe cognitive needs can attend *Strategies & Techniques for Individuals with Significant Language Needs*. ...

The third strand, *The Adult Neurological Patient: The Continuum of Care*, will provide detailed information for SLP's working with adults with neurological trauma. Featured Speakers include Alexandra Graves, Nurse Practitioner on the Stroke Team at CU Medical Center, Dr. Bill Locy, neuropsychologist at Rocky Mountain Rehabilitative Medicine, and Melisa Abate Family and Patient Counselor at Craig Hospital.

The last strand, *Cochlear Implants: Pushing it to the Limit* will take attendees on a journey from the research of Dr. Anu Sharma (Dept. of Speech Language and Hearing, Center for Neuroscience and the Institute for Cognitive Science at University of Colorado at Boulder) to the practice of Jennifer Kolb, Audiologist and Cochlear Implant Program Specialist at *Daniels Center for Children's Hearing* at The Children's Hospital to the school-based practice of Lisa Cannon (Denver Public Schools/ Colorado Cochlear Implant Consortium).

Other Convention Highlights...

CSHA's Annual Business Meeting will take place Friday from 12:00 to 1:00. All CSHA members are invited to attend. The current activities and goals of 2010 & 2011 will be presented.

A CSHA Town Hall Meeting will be held Saturday 8:00 to 9:45 am. The topic will be an update on the movement towards state licensure for SLP's. Speakers will be from the CSHA Licensure Committee and Lobbyist Jennifer Mellow.

An Evening Reception is planned for Friday evening of the convention. Join us for socializing, hors d'oeuvres, poster presentations, & the CSHA Foundation Silent Auction. Cash bar available. Auction items include a free year of Direct TV service and a free night at the Doubletree Hotel.



On the lighter side

Vera, a 4-year-old French Bulldog, has always been something special. She has an extreme love and connection to people. At a very early age, she would migrate to all the people at the park, instead of playing with the other dogs. Because of her desire to interact with anyone around her, Vera began a training program to become a therapy dog. In October of 2009 she passed a 22-part evaluation to become a Pet Partner, part of a person-animal team trained to provide services in a variety of settings. She is registered with The Delta Society, an organization dedicated to training and certifying service and therapy animals. She is now very excited to come to work each day and assist with speech therapy.



Vera's role in our office changes with each person we see. She is always happy to greet and visit with our hearing aid clients. However, she has taken a more in depth role with many of the people who visit us for speech therapy. Vera is now actively involved in goal directed therapy sessions. She helps children with articulation impairments by encouraging them to say her name or give commands for her to perform tricks. Vera teaches personal care skills by having patients practice routines of taking care of a dog. She is a great topic for describing, labeling, commenting, story-telling and social communication as well as a great listener for reading activates. For children with sensory challenges, Vera is a tool to help them learn to regulate their emotions and appropriately ignore and tolerate her presence. For some of our adult clients, she participates in therapy by simply sitting in the room. Above all, Vera is a great source of motivation. She loves everyone equally, and never notices a disability. Sometimes people need that extra level of acceptance to try something that is particularly difficult for them, and Vera is happy to just be a part of the experience.

Brianne Lay
CSHA Treasurer Elect

HOW TO POST YOUR JOB OPENINGS WITH CSHA

To submit your Position Vacancy Job Posting, go to the CSHA website at www.cshassoc.org and click on Job Referral Service. You can fill out the position vacancy form and submit it to CSHA. CSHA will reply to your request.

All postings are subject to approval and editing by the CSHA Executive Board. Postings must be in the CSHA office 5 days prior to posting request date. Web postings submitted will be posted either the 1st or the 15th of the month, based on the date received/requested. Postings will remain no longer than 60 days, unless resubmitted. Invoice for payment will be emailed to the contact person listed on the form within 5 days of submissions. <http://cshassoc.org/positionvacancy.html>

Awards of the Colorado Speech-Language Hearing Association

THE HONORS OF CSHA AWARD

This award represents the highest honor the association can give. It is given to both members and nonmembers of CSHA to recognize outstanding professional or scientific achievement, outstanding service to the profession, or outstanding support of the field of speech-language and hearing over an extended period of time. The contribution of this person has been far-reaching and has significantly impacted the lives of others. Many people recognize the contributions of this individual. This award is not necessarily given on an annual basis. In order to be eligible for HONORS OF CSHA AWARD, an individual must have demonstrated outstanding service or accomplishment in at least three of the following areas:

- Clinical
- Instructional
- Administrative
- Research and Dissemination of Results
- Contributions to CSHA and/or ASHA
- Contributions to Other Professional Organizations

THREE OTHER AWARD AREAS

LEADERSHIP: This is the art of motivating a group of people to act together to achieve a common goal. A leader is the inspiration and director of action. A leader possesses a certain combination of personality and skill that makes others want to follow his/her direction. Strong leaders are good communicators, inspirational, and skilled.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION: The work of this individual exceeds expectations. This person goes above and beyond. Possibly, he/she has been able to accomplish something that others have not. Commitment to the profession is very apparent. Perhaps he/she developed a particular program or impacted families in a special way.

MENTORSHIP: A mentor is a trusted helper or guide. A mentor takes a less experienced professional under their wing and provides counseling or guidance that causes the person being mentored to develop in a positive and meaningful way. Mentoring is done with integrity and not for personal gain.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Up to three awards in each category may be given depending on the setting (e.g. public schools, academic, clinical, professional).

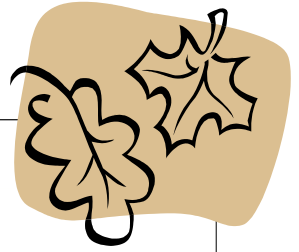
Recipients need not be CSHA members.

Nomination forms are available on the CSHA website: www.cshassoc.org or by contacting the CSHA office at: **303-733-9097**

All forms are to be completed electronically and submitted via email to: cshassoc@aol.com

The CSHS Board of Directors makes the final awards selections following a committee review, if necessary.

**NOMINATIONS FOR ALL AWARDS ARE DUE BY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2010**



Save The Date

Friday October 15 & Saturday October 16, 2010

*Colorado Speech Language Hearing Association's
Fall Convention:*

Collaboration Across Settings: Implementing Research in Daily Practice

Four Strands:

**Enhancing Services For Infants And Toddlers With Special Needs
* Cochlear Implants: Pushing it to the Limit*

**Strategies & Techniques for Individuals with Significant Language Needs.*

**The Adult Neurological Patient: The Continuum of Care
Featured Speakers:*

Dr. Louis Rossetti (University of Wisconsin) speaking on current research and intervention in early intervention
Dr. Anu Sharma (CU Boulder) speaking on current research in cochlear implants and cortical changes
Speakers from CU Medical Center, Craig Hospital, Children's Hospital, and more!

Convention will also include:

Student and professional poster sessions, Exhibitors, and silent auction

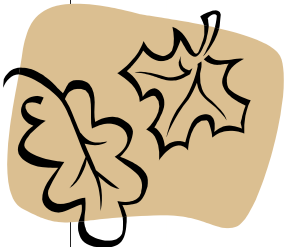
Watch the CSHA website for registration information:

www.cshassoc.org

The Double Tree, DTC

7801 East Orchard Rd

Greenwood Village, CO 80111 303-779-6161





Colorado Speech-Language-Hearing Association

LICENSURE: Recently or Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I work in the public schools and have a CDE license. What benefit/protection does a state license provide me?

A: ASHA: Licensure provides protections to the public and the professions that the CDE license and the CCCs do not. A licensure board can investigate inappropriate actions of a practitioner, and take action on these, while the CDE and ASHA do not have the same mechanisms to do this and ASHA does not have the force of law behind them. Also, as an association, belonging to ASHA is voluntary. If you do not join and have your CCCs, you do not have to abide by the Code of Ethics. A licensure law would apply to everyone; it is not something you can select to opt out of.

A: CSHA: Adding to the above:

Benefit: Portability! A state-wide license would allow for the smooth transition of speech-language pathologists from one work setting to another. Currently, therapists practicing in the schools may not readily be able to practice in a clinic or hospital setting and conversely, therapists practicing outside of the school system must apply for a Colorado Teaching Certificate in order to provide services in the schools. Our goal is to achieve either a universal license accepted by all work settings or to ensure that the CDE license standard is synonymous with the DORA standard (Masters Degree, passed PRAXIX exam) and either is acceptable for practice in Colorado.

Benefit: The licensure law also provides a single set of high standards for you as a professional. In contrast the CDE license can provide varying levels of standards including emergency and temporary authorizations.

Protection: Should a clinician's CDE license be revoked for cause, there is nothing to prevent that individual from practicing speech-language pathology in any other setting in the State of Colorado.

Q: Are we just looking for licensure because "everyone else is doing it"?

A: ASHA: The reason to pass licensure is not just because everyone else is doing it; however portability becomes an issue when you are one of two states in the country without it and you want to go work in another state that has licensure. I have had a practitioner who left Colorado to work in another state share with me the difficulties she experienced coming from a non-licensed state to a licensed one and the lost employment time she encountered in her new state because of her not having previously had a license. In this economy I would think most people would want to position themselves to have employment flexibility, just in case they ever need it.

A. CSHA on next page

A: CSHA: Key reasons for pursuing licensure are:

Consumer Protection – This is why we feel that only qualified individuals should be providing speech-language pathology services! Our degree matters.

Ensure adequate skills & training to diagnose communication disorder, develop and carry out an appropriate treatment plan

Potential harm: physical: injury, illness, (especially with feeding & swallowing disorders), increased treatment time or exacerbated problems (especially when proper treatment is delayed – critical time periods missed), financial: loss of money, resources (insurance visits...) & time.

Documented evidence-based practice or practice-based evidence required (outcomes)

Degree/Title/Scope of Practice Protection

Many of ethics violations presented to CSHA over the years have to do with concerns of individual calling themselves SLPs without holding a masters degree or even a degree in communication disorders

Without a state licensure law to clearly define and protect our scope practice, we are vulnerable to other powerful organizations defining it for us

E.g. See 2010 AMA Draft Scope of Practice for Audiologists (stated drafts in works other allied health professions – such as: SLP, OT, PT, Psychologists)

Help with SLP Shortages

portability across settings (schools, clinics, medical facilities & private practice)

reciprocity with other states (allows easy movement between states)

Legal Recourse

The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Colorado Speech Language Hearing Association (CSHA) can censor within their own membership but have no legal authority in Colorado.

Currently, if there is a concern with the actions or inactions of a qualified speech-language pathologist who is a member of ASHA, a complaint can be filed with the ASHA Ethics Board. If that individual is found to be in violation of the ASHA Code of Ethics, that person will be sanctioned (up to and including revocation of their certification). Should such action be taken against an individual, the ASHA Ethics Board notifies the state licensure board of the state in which they reside for determination of appropriate legal consequences. Currently in the State of Colorado, however, there is no legal recourse. Any individual sanctioned by ASHA can still continue to practice in the state of Colorado in any setting.

Schools: Colorado Department of Education

School-based speech-language pathologists are required to hold a Colorado Educator License. If this license is revoked for any reason, there is no recourse to prevent this individual to continue to practice speech-language pathology in another setting in our state.

Private Practice, Clinics, Hospitals etc.

No state-wide license or standard governs who can practice speech-language pathology in this state. An individual who has been sanctioned and barred from practicing speech-language pathology in another state can move to Colorado and set up practice without interference or oversight.

SLPA, support personnel

clearly defined scope of practice

protection for qualifications

supervision enforcement

Last state w/o licensure – magnet for those who cannot practice in other states

Reimbursement from third party insurance is easier (insurers require state licensure)

Standardizes continuing education requirements across settings

Q: If a licensure law is passed what will prevent practitioners from changing their titles to something generic such as "language specialists" and so skirt the law?

A: One of the benefits of licensure is title protection language for the practitioner and the consumer. A quick look at many states laws show that "aliases" are listed along with a statement such as "...or similar words that indicate the individual is practicing as a speech-language pathologist."

(e.g. from Michigan's law: Other names occasionally or formerly used by practitioners include: "speech pathologist", "speech therapist", "speech correctionist", "speech clinician", "language therapist", "language pathologist", "logopedist", "communicologist", "aphasiologist", "phoniatrist", "voice therapist", and "voice pathologist", or similar words that indicate that the individual is a speech-language pathologist.)

Q: How much will a license cost? I am concerned about the fees!

A: Licensure fees can be negotiated during the development of the law. Also, negotiations will need to take place with CDE to see what if any fees there are beyond the licensure fee if you are seeking to have universal licensure.

Q: I have been practicing with a CDE license for over 25 years but have not maintained my ASHA certification. Will I have to meet additional standards, retake the Praxis or not be able to practice?

A: No. As other states have done, a grandfathering clause will be included to protect active practitioners who currently meet CDE and/or ASHA guidelines at the time of the enactment of the regulations. This clause, however, will not allow those individuals who are practicing speech-language pathology without the required training (masters degree, passage of the PRAXIS test etc.) to become licensed.

Q: Occupational Therapists were granted "registration" in 2008. Isn't this the same as licensure (they pay a fee to the state)?

A: The OT registry is not the same as a licensure law and will not provide the same protections to a professional as licensure. From the Department of Regulatory Agency' Sunrise Application: Definitions:

"Under licensure, it is illegal for anyone to engage in an occupation without a license, and only persons who possess certain qualifications are licensed."

"Under registration, any person may engage in an occupation, but he or she is required to submit information concerning the location, nature, and operation of the practice."

Licensure Committee Report to the CSHA Membership
May 2010

- Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Boada

The CSHA Licensure Committee has been very active since January, meeting monthly to achieve the accomplishments listed below. Most significantly, we have succeeded in selecting a lobbyist to help us in our pursuit of a licensure law that will meet the needs of Colorado speech-language pathology professionals and consumers alike! Jennifer Mello came to our attention via professional colleagues and we couldn't be happier with her assistance so far (see "Meet Our Lobbyist" next page...). For instance, Jennifer facilitated a meeting between members of the CSHA Licensure Committee and administrators from the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) in order to prepare us for submission of our sunrise application for licensure. Currently, the Licensure Committee is hard at work drafting that document. We are pleased with the level of participation of CSHA members from all work settings in the drafting of this document and of the assistance from Eileen Crowe at ASHA. Please see the "Frequently Asked Questions" (Page 8...) for answers to questions that have arisen in the past few months.

One area of importance in applying for licensure of a profession is to demonstrate why it is in the best interest of the consumer that only qualified individuals provide the service (*can anyone do what you do?*). To address this issue, we must demonstrate that there is consumer harm when speech-language pathology services are provided by unqualified, unregulated providers. We are in the process of collecting this information (gathering data from complaints received at the CSHA office, national data available through ASHA & professional liability insurance providers etc.), but can use your help as well. If you are aware of a situation where substandard services were provided, please send an email to the CSHA office. (See detail in box on next page...) Thank you in advance for your help!!

Additionally, as we focus our attention on the legislature, other issues have come to light that affect our profession and our consumers. As a result, we have formed a new committee, the CSHA Public Policy Committee, to help us stay on top of issues and respond appropriately. Welcome to MeLea Mihok who recently volunteered to chair this committee! Issues addressed already this year are listed below – see "Public Policy Updates". Additional information about each item can be found on the CSHA website. Jennifer Mello will help us out with this as well; letting us know as new bills are being proposed or discussed so that we can work proactively vs. reactively for the interests of Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, and our consumers.

If you are active in no other way, please know that your membership in CSHA has helped us have a voice on capital hill!! Priceless!

2010 Year to Date Activities:

ACCOMPLISHED:

Town Hall Meetings at Metro Speech-Language Symposium

Interview Lobbyists so as to:

Be able to recommend 1-2 for CSHA BOD consideration

Determine costs/fees associated with retaining a lobbyist

Meet with constituent groups *as requested* to address questions/issues

February 22: Met with Harrison School District II SLPs

March 5: Met with Cherry Creek School District SLPs

Continued on next page

April 20: Met with Pike's Peak Area SLPs

April 20: Met with JEFSCO School District SLPs

Lobbyist selected! – During first four quarter of this year, several lobbying firms/groups were interviewed by members of the CSHA licensure committee and Board of Directors. Jennifer Mello of Branneberry & McKenna was selected to represent CSHA. (See Meet our Lobbyist section below.)

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been prepared to address all expressed questions & concerns.

A separate Public Policy Committee has been formed to provide for a timely response to public policy issues as they arise. (Chair: MeLea Mihok – welcome MeLea!)

IN PROGRESS:

We are currently working to submit our sunrise application for consideration of licensing of speech-language pathologists to the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA).

On-going updates to the CSHA website: FAQ Document, Public Policy Updates (Three new updates! Check it out!)

We need your help!

Please help us to document why it is imperative that only qualified individuals (SLP: masters degree in communication disorders/speech-language pathology; passed the PRAXIS, SLPA: bachelor's degree; completed required SLPA training...) provide speech-language pathology services in our state! We need verifiable* examples of consumer harm. *Verifiable, means that the situation happened (someone can tell the story) versus what you imagine could happen. Please do not divulge patient or client names. Evidence of consumer harm is defined broadly and we can provide any number of examples including:

safety issues (such as with the provision of feeding/swallowing therapy by untrained providers, thermal/electrical stimulation etc.),
loss of time or money or delay in appropriate treatment due to incompetent evaluation or therapy provision
speech-language pathology assistants were asked to provide services beyond their scope or training
inadequate supervision of speech-language assistants
instances where services were provided by unqualified individuals, etc.

Please submit examples in the following format or any questions to the CSHA office via email at cshassoc@aol.com.

Format for Consumer Harm:

Date of event:

Work Setting where event occurred: (clinic, school, home, private practice, hospital...)

Brief Description of Concern:

Contact Name & Phone Number for clarifying questions:

Meet Our Lobbyist: Jennifer Mello joined Branneberry~McKenna Public Affairs in 2007. She lobbies the Colorado legislature on behalf of several clients including The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Arts for Colorado, The Brain Injury Collaborative and the Colorado Association of Autism Professionals. Prior to joining the firm she worked as Executive Director of the Colorado Democracy Alliance. On behalf of the Bighorn Center for Public Policy, she spent the 2005 legislative session in a successful effort to pass legislation improving the integrity of Colorado's elections. Ms. Mello was the Policy Director for the House Minority Office in 2003-2004. Prior to her work at the State Capitol, Ms. Mello was a Senior Associate at Denver-based BBC Research & Consulting.

Ms. Mello has a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University and a bachelors degree in history and public policy from the University of Denver.

Ms. Mello's great-grandparents came to Colorado about 100 years ago and homesteaded near Las Animas. Ms. Mello grew up in Littleton and is a graduate of Arapahoe High School. Today, she lives in the Washington Park neighborhood with her husband of 12 years, Brent Mello and her daughter Vivian August Mello.



Public Policy Updates: (please see the CSHA website, Public Policy page in the member section for on-going updates as they occur or to reference past reports)

HB-1034 Title of Bill: SLPA Purpose: Concerning credentialing of School Speech Language Pathology Assistants

– Lynea Pearson*

The HB 10-1034 was signed into law at the end of April. The original bill made two changes to the current law. The first was that supervision of SLPAs can be done through electronic methods following ASHA's guidelines on telepractice. The second was to create an emergency authorization instead of an interim authorization. The week before it went to the Senate Education Committee, the SLPA Consortia made up of the Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) (UNC- Kathy Fahey , CU-Susan Moore and Lynea Pearson, Metropolitan State - Catherine), Kay Steg a retired school SLP, and CDE worked on clarifying the bill to make sure that a one-year emergency authorization are given to individuals with a BA in Speech Language Hearing Sciences (SLHS) or BA plus SLHS leveling coursework and only needed to take the SLPA course. It now equals the interim authorization that the Board of Education passed over a year ago. The language was cleaned up so that individuals who had a BA and the SLHS leveling coursework could receive the SLPA Authorization. The names of the acceptable degrees were updated since Metro changed the name of their department/degree.

Other language that did not affect the meaning of the bill was removed. Then Cindy Millikan and Fran Herbert met with key people at CDE as well as the BOCES directors and the bill founder, Joe Massey. They changed one word but kept all of the proposed revisions that the SLPA consortia made. HB 10-1034 was unanimously passed in the Senate Education Committee with the proposed revisions and continued onto the Senate. This was an excellent team effort in getting the bill to pass. Lynea Pearson and Jami Goetz from CDE attended the Senate Education Committee meeting. Currently the rules are being written. One change will be that SLPAs will be allowed to attend meetings with parents without the SLP present as long as they identify they are Speech Language Pathology Assistants and stay within their scope of practice during the meetings.

*Thanks to Lynea's quick action and efforts to pull together all required entities, efforts to modify this well-intentioned bill were successful and met the needs of all interested parties.

HIMAT Law – Health Insurance Mandated Autism Treatment (formerly known as Senate Bill 09244) – Amy Frisbie*

A collaborative meeting was held on March 17, 2010 between Colorado health plans and autism service providers (psychologists, behaviorists, OT, PT, and Speech) regarding the implementation of Autism Treatment Insurance Coverage Law (SENATE BILL 09-244) due to be enacted in July, 2010. This was the first meeting in a series of ongoing, collaborative meetings intended to help both sides understand how this law will be implemented and was initiated by Colorado Coalition of Autism Professionals (COCAP; <http://www.cocapmembers.org/>) and Autism Society of Colorado (ASC). The meeting started with introductions and expectations. The general impression was that the health plans would need time to address the providers' questions and would require additional time to get back to providers with as many answers as possible at a later date.

Continued on next page

One of the first discussions was related to processes and procedures for obtaining a prescription, what it should look like (physician vs. psychologist), and what it covered, as well as considering the statute's definition of "treatment". Discussion occurred as to whether or not "treatment" includes evaluation and assessment services, behavior training, behavior management, ABA, habilitative or rehabilitative care, etc. Specific discussion occurred regarding units of assessment, CPT codes to use, questions around when coverage begins (i.e. at time of script, at time of submission of treatment plan, at time of authorization of treatment plan).

Next, diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder was discussed including tools preferred or required as well as Bill 244 coverage per written. Next, discussion of treatment plans was addressed with insurance companies in order to attempt to make the process smoother for both providers and insurance companies. Specific questions included: format and components preferred /required on a treatment plan, CPT codes to use for evaluations, visits and behavior training, behavior management, ABA, etc. The definition of "Medical Necessity" was addressed as well as documentation requirements for this and by whom.

Other topics of interest included utilization review process, questions around supervised aides providing services, in-network vs. out-of-network providers and family education related to Bill 244. Workgroups and further meetings regarding matters raised in this meeting were discussed in order to determine answers and agreements between health plans and providers as appropriate and/or possible in anticipation of the July 1st enactment date of SENATE BILL 09-244.

* Thank you to Amy Frisbie, SLP, who agreed to represent CSHA on the Colorado Coalition for Autism Professionals (COCAP), a group formed to interface with the Colorado Division of Insurance, the Colorado Association of Health Plans and autism service providers. Amy has done a wonderful job of keeping CSHA members informed via updates on our website and periodic email blasts as meetings and issues arise.

Medicaid Collaborative

- Renee Karantounis*

Speech Language Pathology and Audiology Policy and Benefit Update for Colorado Medicaid.

Colorado Medicaid held a series of collaborative meetings with Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology providers. Policies have been updated with the input of a team of providers, have been posted for public comment and the final draft has been completed. As of April this final draft still needs to be approved by the Children's Advisory Group and the Medical Advisory Group. There have been official volume 8 rule changes, please proceed as reflected in the current manuals and bulletin. At some point in the near future the procedure codes will be updated as there were many proposed changes. The updates in the draft would outline coverage for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology services and requirements for payment and coding. Further, as of June 1, 2009, a Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist who provides any services in the home needs to be licensed to do so by the State of Colorado. This information can be found at the Colorado Department of Public Health website

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/healthfacilities/10110126homecareagencies.pdf> . Failure to license as a home care agency may result in penalties.

*Thank you to Renee Karantounis & Kim Lich who have agreed to represent CSHA at the Medicaid Collaborative meetings. Their combined efforts will assist CSHA in providing input from both the pediatric and adults service provider perspective.

Conflict of Interest Task Force [Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), Long Term Benefits Division]

- Maeline Barnstable* April 29, 2010

The departments named above have created the Task Force to develop a resolution to the conflict of interest issues inherent in the Developmental Disabilities system: services regarding the provision of single entry point, case management and program services for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Task Force is charged with evaluating options for system re-design to resolving these conflict of interest issues and to make recommendations to CDHS and HCPF. The meetings are open to the public. Written comments will also be accepted to ensure all stakeholders have the opportunity for input.

Public comment, as well as a review of written public comment, was taken in the beginning of the meeting. There was a presentation of Indiana's Case Management System. Indiana recently underwent a change 4 years ago to this system where the case management does not provide any services. This system addresses adult and Medicaid waiver services only, not wait list management, nor MANE (mistreatment, abuse, neglect or exploitation) investigations. They said that similar to Colorado, there are urban and rural areas to serve in Indiana. Their case managers work out of their homes. A state agency performs intake and assessment and then refers to the case management entity. This entity then goes on to identify providers that match the individuals need and the top 3 is given to the individual. The individual can interview the providers. Choice is paramount to Caliber Services. A database system run by 3 dedicated IT employees provides real time data so case managers are alerted to upcoming annual plan meetings, team meetings, paperwork deadlines, etc.

It was decided that several Task Force Members would contact advocacy representatives from the State of Indiana to balance the presentation. These members would share their findings at the next meeting.

The Task Force discussed how to effectively work on each area of our charge based on the size of the team. It was decided to work in a large group vs. breaking up into smaller groups. We broke down conflict of interest issues and utilized the template from the previous meeting to analyze eligibility determination, wait list management, service planning and provider selection.

*Thank you to Maeline Barnstable, SLP, who has agreed to represent CSHA on the Conflict of Interest Task Force!

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