



Montana Speech - Language - Hearing Association

...Improving communication for life

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July 2014 Communicator

President's Message

Hello MSHA members!

I am hopeful that everyone is enjoying a well earned summer. Montana is a great place to work and an even better place to play! In January the board set some goals for the year. Here is our progress:

- 1) Maintain high quality of Fall Conference: In progress. We have our speakers lined up and we even have a theme this year! The conference is in Missoula at Ruby's Inn.
- 2) Develop May is Better Hearing and Speech Month offerings: Met. This year we provided members with flyers that they could customize and use.
- 3) Increase membership to 200: Progressing - currently at 194
- 4) Establish and offer our first scholarship: Met! Congratulations Shelby Swant.
- 5) Develop and offer telepractice training for our state: Progressing. Diane Simpson, the MSHA telepractice consultant, has provided members with resources and we will have a day at Fall Convention on telepractice.

We have a few other items in the works. We are currently assessing the telepractice rules imposed by the Montana State Board to determine if we need to take further action. We are exploring our ability to expand SLP and Audiology billing codes to include E & M codes. Lastly, we are working on partnerships with other agencies for future conferences.

MSHA has been granted \$2850.00 by ASHA to develop our webpage. We are just breaking ground, but if you have some ideas for the webpage – please email me at jennifer.closson@mso.umt.edu.

I truly enjoy being part of this amazing group! Thank-you for your on-going involvement. We are making communication based services in Montana better for consumers and practitioners alike.

Jennifer Schoffer Closson
MSHA President

2014 May is Better Speech and Hearing Month Winners

Poster: Communication Partner Training: Overview and Treatment Candidacy Schematic

Contributors: Jane Reynolds & Sara Dietz

Poster: Paws for a Cause

Contributor: Lauren Steinmetz

Poster: Stroke 411

Contributor: Kylie Bull

Brochure: Interact with your infant!

Contributor: Jon Metropoulos

Brochure: Developmental Milestones and Your Child

Contributor: Jon Metropoulos

Press Release: Autism, what to look for, what to do

Contributors: Rachel Babbitt, Lacey Kvam, and Scott Peterson

*Congratulations
to these Contest
Participants*

MSHA
www.mshaonline.org
Email: msha@fmdh.org

Special points of interest:

- *In Memory*
- *MAG*
- *Membership Update*
- *University Graduates*
- *MSHA Memorial Scholarship Recipient*
- *SLP and Audiology Board Information*
- *Board Member Bio*
- *ACE Award Recipients*
- *More Award Recipients!*
- *Legislative Information*
- *SEAL and Advisory Council Information*

Dates To Remember

**Fall Convention
October 16-18, 2014
in Missoula**

**Fall Convention for
2015 will be held in
Billings.....**

In Memory

One of MSHA's own, Carol Ecke died today in Mesa, AZ following open heart surgery a few days ago. Carol was a long-time MSHA member. I know her MT friends will want to know of her passing. She was a friend of mine for over 40 years, and I will miss her greatly.

Jane E. Smith, CCC-SLP; Former MSHA member; Wenatchee, WA

SCHWA Summer Events

Submitted By: Kylie Bull, President

* RiteCare Cafe at Monster Truck Rally, June 6-7: SCHWA members and professors volunteered both evenings in the RiteCare Cafe provided by the Scottish Rite Brothers to raise money for the RiteCare Clinic. They hit record sales on Friday night and had a blast doing it! * RiteCare Cafe at Western Montana Fair, August 5-10: SCHWA members and professors will work in the RiteCare Cafe for two shifts, 11-5 and 5-10. * Graduate Orientation, August 18-22: SCHWA members will assist in first-year graduate student orientation, present students with opportunities through the department and SCHWA, and promote G1 positions for the upcoming election. * Missoula Osprey Baseball Game, August 27: SCHWA has the opportunity to sell tickets to the game and receive 50% of sales (\$5 from each ticket sold). 4-8 SCHWA volunteers will also be selling 50/50 tickets during the game, with a portion of those sales going to the RiteCare Clinic as well.

ACE Award Recipients from ASHA

MSHA received notification from ASHA that there are some professionals in our state who earned an Award for Continuing Education (ACE). They earned 7.0 ASHA CEUs within a 36 month period. Please join MSHA in congratulating the following individuals from Montana who were recognized. These listed individuals are also members of our state MSHA organization.

Name	Award Presented	City, State
Crystal Dvorak	November 2013	Billings, MT
Jenny Nitz	October 2013	Billings, MT
Gwen Nowak	November 2013	Great Falls, MT
Lucy Hart-Paulson	November 2013	Missoula, MT
Beverly Pickett	October 2013	Helena, MT
Daylinda Radley	October 2013	Helena, MT
Jennifer Smotherman	October 2013	Missoula, MT

Thank you all for your obvious dedication to this profession.
Thank you also for your dedication to MSHA.

University Information

A reception to honor University of Montana graduates was held on May 15, 2014. There were 27 graduates and many of them plan to remain in Montana. Thanks to everyone who made this event a great success.

Congratulations to the 2014 Graduates of the CSD Program

Graduates are: Patrick McElwain, Stephanie Keil-Harris, Shanna Stack, Lindsey Aasheim, Aubrie Beard, Cara Elias, Elizabeth Gianotti, Jenna Griffin, Amber Hagel, Kathleen Hanson, Kelsey Johns, Noelle Jones-Firkins, Katanya Kerkman, Danielle Labrovic, Laurell McAlpine, Melissa Murphy, Anna Nelson, Jessica Reynolds, Haley Stukel, Dave Martens, Heather Betsayad, Shanell Latta, Jill Imsand, Jenny Martin, Jami Laird, Kimberly McCarthy-Cody, and Jamie Nelson

U of M - CSD Highlights

The CSD program had another busy and successful year. We had a wonderful commencement celebration with 27 students receiving their Bachelor of Arts degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders and 28 students joining our profession as speech-language pathologists achieving their Master of Science degrees.

In April, the Department hosted four site visitors representing the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Over a two day period, they reviewed all aspects of our program looking at our faculty, students, facility, processes, policies and records. They learned that our graduate students have a 100% passing rate on the National Praxis Exam, close to a 100% program completion rate, and nearly a 100% employment rate. We are so proud of the successes of our students. The CAA will make the final determination about our accreditation in their July meeting and provide official notification in August.

In other news, our department was granted approval for an expansion and admitted 30 students in the first year cohort of the graduate program this fall and will also add two more faculty positions. In addition, with the goal of guiding the program through the development phase into the accreditation phase, Dr. Lucy Hart Paulson will be passing the Department Chair responsibilities to Dr. Amy Glaspey who will guide the program into even more exciting opportunities beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year.

Submitted By: Lucy Hart-Paulson

Montana Audiology Guild

MAG enjoyed another Spring Conference at Chico!

A Few Conference Highlights:

On Friday, May 9th, we heard about the latest and greatest hearing aid technology from GN ReSound and Starkey. Saturday, May 10th, the MAG business meeting was held. Gene Bukowski updated us on his humanitarian work overseas, and Doug Rehder and Crystal Dvorak updated us on the 18 X 18 initiative by ADA and the status of the VA contract. Al Yonovitz proposed the idea of an Au.D program at the University of Montana.

The dates for the MAG Spring Conference in 2015 are May 1st and 2nd at Chico Hot Springs. MAG has a block of rooms reserved from April 30th – May 3rd. Please reserve your rooms as soon as possible....they book up quickly! We look forward to seeing you there!

Continuing Education Information

Valeria Schmauch is the Continuing Education Administrator for both MSHA sponsored and ASHA sponsored CEUs

State licensure requires 40 hours of continuing education every odd year, and ASHA certification requires 30 hours during each 3-year certification maintenance interval. MSHA sponsored CEUs follow the same standard set by ASHA. Anyone interested in organizing workshops and wish to provide documented attendance and offer CEUs, contact Valeria at msha.vs.cea2014@gmail.com and she will send you the necessary forms for documentation. Note that this can take up to 60 days!

Feel free to contact Valeria if you have any questions related to CEUs.

On behalf of MSHA I would like to thank Mary Callahan for her dedication to administering our CEUs. Many of you may not know that this is a very time consuming and sometimes tedious task. Mary was very detailed oriented and was able to ensure that we had ASHA and MSHA CEUs for all of your events. Thank-you Mary! We all really appreciate you!



Send speech, language, or hearing related jokes to sharlene.schmidt@fmdh.org

Scholarship Update

May was a busy month for the Scholarship Committee. We awarded our first MSHA Memorial Scholarship to Shelby Swant! We were also the grateful recipients of donations from Elizabeth Sullivan, Doug Rehder, Vicki Andre, Pamela Wedum, Bev Pickett, Ellen Vogelsang, Kathy McCafferty, Carolyn Boyd, Lucy Hart-Paulson, Glenn Hladek, Debra Olson-Sevier, Amy Glaspey and Maureen Mannix. Thanks to their support, we will be able to offer additional scholarships next year.

Submitted by: Rachel Stansberry



More Awards and Nominees to be Recognized

Lacey Kvam received the 2014 University of Montana Diversity Advisory Council Student Achievement Award for her substantial contributions to diversity at UM. Lacey has specifically benefited people on campus with autism through her work with the MOSSAIC program.

Mortar Board

The University of Montana's Penetrulia Chapter of Mortar Board honored an outstanding senior from each department and student organization. The following MSHA members were recognized:

Shelby Swant for SCHWA (Students in Communication and Hearing Working in Action)

Ani Haas for OSUM (Operation Smile University of Montana)

Isabel Archilla for CSD (Communicative Sciences and Disorders)

2014 State Clinical Achievement Award

Thank-you everyone for voting. We had 61 people vote which is about 1/3 of the membership!

☺ **Diane Simpson** was awarded the 2014 State Clinical Achievement Award for her work in the area of telepractice. Congratulations Diane!

☺ **Laurie Slovarp** was nominated for her clinical instruction in dysphagia and voice disorders.

☺ **Ginger Collins, PhD**, was nominated for her project: Improving Vocabulary across the Curriculum through Response-to-Intervention

Congratulations to all of our nominees and thank-you for your outstanding contributions. Diane will go on to compete nationally for the Louis M. DiCarlo Award for Recent Clinical Achievement. Good Luck Diane!

Janis E. Hayes-Strom, Montana SEAL
Janis will be attending the SEAL conference and summer ASHA Schools Conference July 24-28 in Pittsburg. This will be her first SEAL meeting and she looks forward to learning lots of information from her colleagues from other states to share at the fall MSHA convention. She has participated in conference calls with other SEALs and topics have included licensing issues, caseload/workload and paperwork overload. She is excited to be meeting the SEALs from across the country in person in Pittsburg. In addition, Michelle Garcia Winner is one of the key presenters!

Submitted by: Janis Hayes-Strom

ASHA Advisory Council-Janis Hayes-Strom, Audiology Advisory Council rep for ASHA and Jenni Nitz, Speech/Language Pathology Advisory Council rep, went to Washington, D.C. in March to attend advocacy training, help prioritize the issues related to the field of Communication, and lobby congress on Capitol Hill to encourage them to support issues related to our professions. We met with Health and Human services liaisons at the offices of Senator Walsh, Senator Tester, and Representative Dains. Focused initiatives included funding IDEA, hearing aid tax credit, Medicare billing issues, and telepractice. We also had the opportunity to meet Senator Walsh and representative Dains in person and have a tour of the Capitol. Janis has just one more year as the Audiology Advisory Council rep so if you are an Audiologist who is an ASHA member please consider this opportunity that will begin January 2015.

Submitted by: Janis Hayes-Strom

Need to Update Your Membership? If any of your information has changed please email msha@fmdh.org so those changes can be made in the database....

FALL CONVENTION PLANS ARE ALREADY IN PROGRESS! OCTOBER 16-18, 2014 in Missoula.

**Mark your Calendar
& Save the Date**

The MSHA Fall Convention is scheduled for October 16-18, 2014 at the Ruby's Inn in Missoula. The phone number to call and make reservations is 800-221-2057 (please use this number and identify yourself as part of MSHA so they can track our block of rooms). Tentative speakers and topics for the fall conference include for Speech Therapy: Telepractice, Passy-Muir Valve, Dynamic Assessment and for Audiology the speakers are: Ian Windmill and Peter VonDoersten. Registration and more specific details to follow in next issue of the Communicator.

Jamie Frost - Current SLP Member at Large for the MSHA Board...

Jamie Frost is a native Montanan, hailing from the northeastern corner of the state. She graduated from the University of Montana with a Masters of Communication Sciences and Disorders in 1985 and has been practicing speech-language pathology at Hellgate Elementary School since that time. Early in her career, Jamie was the CEU coordinator for MSHA. She is currently pleased to be serving on the MSHA board as the speech-language pathologist at large. In her free time, Jamie enjoys quilting and making music with family and friends.

Legislative Information

As many of you may or may not know, as SLPs or Audiologists, we are unable to bill and receive reimbursement for Evaluation & Management (E&M) CPT codes to insurance companies. This is a disservice to our professions because we are providing these services to patients, but are not being reimbursed as most other providers. We have been told by the State Insurance Commissioner's office that in order for us to be able to be reimbursed for these codes (for all insurance except Medicare), our professions need to be listed on Mont Code 33-22-11. These specific CPT codes are for case history, review of systems, familial history, development of a treatment plan, etc. These are things we are already doing, but unable to get reimbursement for our time. The other option would be to bill the patient directly for these codes, which is unfair to them since other providers (physicians, dentists, PAs, chiropractors, PTs, Podiatrists, APRNs, acupuncturists, naturopathic physicians, etc.) are able to get insurance reimbursement. We feel strongly that our professions should be represented in the Freedom of Choice code, so we are going to make a change through legislation. A patient should be able to go to the provider of their choice and have all appropriate services covered by their insurance. We are thrilled to have gained overwhelming support of the MSHA Board and look forward to making this a reality.

To view Mont Code 33-22-111 go to <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/mrcode/33/22/1/33-22-111>

Submitted By:

Doug Rehder, Au.D., Crystal Dvorak, Au.D., and Jessica Reynolds, SLP

Telepractice Rules and Regulations Response to Comments

The Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists recently made public their response to comments concerning the rules and regulations for telepractice services in Montana. You can go online at <http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ShowNotice> to read the comments and the Board's response. The Board made the following changes to the rules and regulations:

- 1) **New Rule III Limits on Telepractice:** The Board removed section two entirely which said "A person located outside this state who provides speech language pathology or audiology telepractice services to any patient in Montana shall be appropriately licensed in the jurisdiction in which the person providing telepractice services is located.
- 2) **New Rule V Quality of Telepractice Services:** The Board removed sections six through nine. Six was "Licensees must be competent in delivering telepractice services via an electronic communications environment. Seven was "The scope, nature, and quality of telepractice services must be the same as those provided by the licensee during in person sessions. Eight was "Optimal audio and video quality is dependent on the consistent and reliable operation and connection of telepractice equipment and networks. Nine was "Telepractice service delivery includes the responsibility for calibration and maintenance of clinical instruments and telepractice equipment in accordance with standard operating procedures of the telepractice site(s) and manufacturer's specifications.

These were the only changes made. The rest of the rules and regulations remain intact. These include the requirements for an in person initial assessment of patients and the requirement of four hours of telepractice training prior to engaging in telepractice.

Submitted By: Diane Simpson; MSHA Telepractice Consultant

Speech Generating Devices

There is a real possibility that SGDs will be significantly limited or unavailable to Medicare patients due to a policy that requires the devices to only function as SGDs and have no computer, wireless, or Bluetooth technology. The devices have to be approved in order to be rented for Medicare patients (also a new policy), and the approval process is underway now. Some devices have already applied and been denied. If the manufacturers are able to make the application deadline (which is this week, because there is a 90 day review process), their devices will be stripped down to meet requirements. Some are not issuing devices to Medicare beneficiaries at all. The eye-gaze is also under scrutiny and being denied if it is purchased for a device that is no longer approved, or being denied because it has the capability to plug into other devices. Lew Golinker is a lawyer and expert in this area, and a good referral for patients. Lisa is working with him, the ALS Association, the manufacturers, the SIG, and has had meetings with Jonathan Blum and other CMS staff, the DME MAC medical directors, the DME PDAC medical director, and senators to find a solution. Please contact Lisa Satterfield, ASHA if you have patients without the ability to communicate because of Medicare policies regarding SGDs.

You may contact Lisa: lsatterfield@asha.org,

Submitted By: Carol Morse

Rocky Mountain ENT in Missoula has an immediate opening for a full-time audiologist. Please contact Catherine Drescher at 406-541-3874 or cdrescher@rmeec.com for details. You can also view our full posting on Audiology Online.

**JOB
OPPORTUNITY**



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Check us out on Facebook also

Improving communication for life...

Please consider volunteering your time in support of MSHA if you aren't already.
We have an immediate position open for the Regulations Committee.

Executive Board Members

Title	Name	Contact Information
President	Jennifer Closson	jennifer.closson@mso.umt.edu
Past President	Al Yonovitz	al.yonovitz@umontana.edu
President Elect	Rachel Stansberry	rachelstansberry@uwalumni.com
Secretary	Catherine Drescher	cdrescher@rmec.com
Treasurer	Sharlene Schmidt	sharlene.schmidt@fmdh.org
Audiology member at large	Lisa Cannon	lcannon@msdb.mt.gov
Speech Pathology member at large	Jamie Frost	kydus@msn.com
UM—CSD Chair	Lucy Hart-Paulson	Lucy.HartPaulson@mso.umt.edu
UM—CSD Student Liaison	Dani Perry	dani.perry@umontana.edu

How many MSHA members do we have currently?

22 Audiologists

4 Dual (Speech Pathologist/Audiologist)

110 Speech Pathologists

56 Students

2 Speech Aides

194

If you have ideas for topics in the Communicator please email
msha@fmdh.org and share your requests.....