



# Montana Speech - Language - Hearing Association

...Improving communication for life

PO BOX 1065  
Glasgow, MT  
59230

## March 2014 Communicator

### President's Message

**MSHA**  
[www.mshaonline.org](http://www.mshaonline.org)  
Email: [msha@fmdh.org](mailto:msha@fmdh.org)

It is with great honor that I write my first letter as president of MSHA! I would like to thank Dr. Al Yonovitz for his leadership in 2013 and express gratitude toward Rachel Stansberry for joining our leadership team! Additional thanks to Diane Simpson for her ongoing support. This year we have a perfect balance of SLPs and audiologists on our board. I am so pleased to work with this crew (see the last page for board members) and feel that this team will continue MSHA's legacy of excellence.

There are so many amazing and new things in 2014! MSHA received a \$2850.00 grant from ASHA to improve our webpage. A committee will work hard to make it an information hub for Montana and your input will be solicited. This year marks the initiation of the MSHA Memorial Scholarship. We have also established the May is Better Speech and Hearing Month Student Contest to create public relations resources for SLPs and audiologists to use across the state. MSHA will be adding a professional poster session to our 2014 conference in Missoula and we will continue to try to support or medically based professionals with topics that they value. We are also in the process of booking our 2015 venue and speakers for our conference in Billings. I am always open to feedback and ideas so please email!

I would like to close this letter by thanking the membership. On several occasions I have asked for assistance with tasks such as establishing a Strategic Plan Review Committee for the UM CSD department, conference help, input on different issues, committee work, etc. I feel so blessed by your responsiveness and appreciate your involvement in our great organization. MSHA is doing brilliant things for Montana professionals and consumers in the area of communication and I am proud to be a part of this wonderful organization!

Respectfully,  
Jennifer K. Schoffer Closson  
MSHA President

### NEW STUDENT CONTEST

#### May is Better Speech & Hearing Month

Win 1 year free MSHA membership (\$25 value) and free admission to the 2014 MSHA State Conference in Missoula Montana (\$50 value).

The Montana Speech Language Hearing Association is hosting a contest for students with a \$75 value prize for all winners. Multiple winners will be chosen by the MSHA selection committee. For May is Better Speech and Hearing Month we are looking for the following items (you may submit more than one item):

*information continued on page 4.....*

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Telepractice in MT - Update & Consultant Information*
- *Cigna Insurance*
- *Membership*  
**Remember to renew for 2014**
- *Fall Convention Current Plans*
- *ASHA ACE State Members Recognized*
- *Jokes*
- *MAG Conference*
- *Recognition*
- *Learn about Operation Smile*
- *Community Outreach Funds Available*
- *SEAL Information*
- *Summer Institute needs help*
- *May is Better Speech & Hearing Month Student Contest Details*

## 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 (70 contact hours) 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
Carol Ecke	July 2013	Great Falls, MT
Amy Glaspey	August 2013	Missoula, MT
Christine Merriman	August 2013	Missoula, MT
Jillian Stieg	July 2013	Billings, MT

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

## Community Outreach

The purpose of the Community Outreach program is to provide financial assistance for people with speech, language, and hearing disorders in need of communication aids/ assistive devices. A MSHA member must submit the application. An applicant may be approved for up to \$300.00. The applications can be found on our MSHA website, and forms can be mailed to the address located at the bottom of the application form. Leah Jacobsen

Current amount available in this fund is \$2,299.98



**Deanne Kopp Reported:  
The MSHA Facebook Page is up to 138 Likes!**

## Prevention Committee

Catherine Off's students, Ani Haas, Josilyn Olson and Scott Peterson are in the process of securing agreements and setting dates for the launch of their TBI Prevention/Awareness program for elementary schools in Missoula. They will pilot the program in a few schools this semester and then they will ask the SCHWA students to take over the program for the future. They will continue to refine the program and create a video of the program in the upcoming months. If successful, they would like to ask MSHA to help them expand the program to other districts across Montana. They suspect that college-student age presenters will be highly successful with elementary school-aged students. Additionally, the TBI prevention team here at UM will have a database of prevention resources created in the next month. They are close to having it completed.

## Continuing Education Information

“Please remember to make sure your ASHA CE Registry fee is paid. There were 62 Fall Convention participants who earned ASHA CEUs for Fall Convention; however there were 14 members who have not paid their Registry fee to ASHA. Their CEU hours have been recorded with ASHA, but the CEUS will not be awarded and added to the individual CE Transcript until the fee is paid. Members can check to see if the registry fee has been paid or not by logging into their ASHA account at the ASHA website. ASHA members can also check their maintenance interval information, including the number of ASHA sponsored CEUs they have earned within the current maintenance interval.”

If you have questions please contact Mary Callahan at [sti4211@blackfoot.net](mailto:sti4211@blackfoot.net) or Valeria Schmauch who is in the process of taking over this position at [vasmttalk35@yahoo.com](mailto:vasmttalk35@yahoo.com)  
*Feel free to contact Mary or Valeria if you have any other questions related to CEUs.*



## MSHA Member Receives NSSLHA Honor

The 2013 Chapter Advisor Honors recipient is Dr. Amy Glaspey of Students in Communication and Hearing Working in Action (SCHWA-MT), University of Montana NSSLHA Chapter, Region 9. Congratulations Dr. Glaspey!

## Changes to Insurance Coverage in Montana

Last year, Montana signed a three year contract with Cigna to provide insurance for state employees. Since then there have been some reports from speech pathologists around the state indicating that they are experiencing an increase in claim rejections from Cigna. In particular, difficulties arise when submitting claims for many disorders covered under ICD-9 315 insurance codes such as receptive and expressive language delays. Additionally, there have been some reports of Cigna rejecting claims for disorders for which the state mandates coverage, such as autism.

More information needs to be gathered to understand how recent changes to insurance are impacting and will continue to impact speech pathologists and audiologists in Montana. If you or your clients have been experiencing difficulty with claims rejections for speech or audiology services from any insurance company, please contact Jessica Reynolds at [jessica.k.reynolds3@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.k.reynolds3@gmail.com).

### Noise machines may put infants at risk of developing hearing loss.

USA Today (3/3, Healy) reports that research published online in Pediatrics suggests that “parents should be cautious with” infant sleep machines “because they can generate sound levels that could place infants at risk of

developing noise-induced hearing loss.” These “machines – which can be used to mask environmental noises or provide ambient noise designed to soothe an infant during sleep – ‘are capable of producing levels that may be damaging to babies’ hearing,’ says Blake Papsin...senior author of the study.”

The New York Times (3/3, Louis, Subscription Publication) reports that according to Dr. Gordon B. Hughes, the program director of clinical trials for the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, “Unless parents are adequately warned of the danger, or the design of the machines by manufacturers is changed to be safer, then the potential for harm exists, and parents need to know about it.” Dr. Hughes was not involved in the study.

On its website, NBC News (3/3, Mantel) reports that in the study, investigators “tested 14 widely available machines that play white noise and other soothing sounds.” The researchers found that “at one foot away, three of the machines produced such intense sound levels at maximum volume that, if played through the night, they would exceed allowable noise limits for adults at work.”

Also covering the story are CNN (3/3, Landau) and Reuters (3/3, Seaman).

## Telepractice in Montana - Update

On February 24, 2014 the Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (the Board) of the Department of Labor and Industry of the State of Montana released a notice of public hearing on the proposed adoption of New Rules I through IV regarding telepractice. The hearing will take place on March 24, 2014 at 11:00 am in the Basement Conference Room, 301 South Park Avenue, Helena, Montana.

**The notice states the following:**

*The 2013 Montana Legislature enacted Chapter 162, Laws of 2013 (Senate Bill 230), an act revising audiology and speech-language pathology licensing to allow for telepractice. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 5, 2013, and became effective on October 1, 2013. The board is proposing to adopt New Rules I through VII to implement the legislation by establishing standards for telepractice in Montana. Specifically, the board is proposing these new rules to establish minimum safe standards for both delivery and quality of telepractice services provided to Montana audiologists and speech-language pathologists to satisfy prior to providing telepractice services, and parameters for establishing the practitioner-patient relationship.*

The proposed New Rules can be found at:

[http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd\\_boards/slp\\_board/pdf/24-222-24pro-arm.pdf](http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd_boards/slp_board/pdf/24-222-24pro-arm.pdf).

Three significant rules should be brought to the attention of MSHA members. The first is New Rule V (sub-rule 6): "Licensees must be competent in delivering telepractice services via an electronic communications environment." The Board has not defined competent. The second is New Rule VI that states that telepractice may not be initiated without an initial in-person evaluation. The third is New Rule VII that states that all providers must complete a minimum of 4 hours of "board-approved telepractice training prior to engaging in telepractice in Montana". As MSHA members, the Board needs to hear your voice about all of the New Rules for telepractice. Please review the proposed New Rules carefully and submit your comments and concerns in person at the hearing in Helena or via writing. You may send your written comments to the Board at:

BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS ([www.slpaud.mt.gov](http://www.slpaud.mt.gov))

301 South Park, 4th Floor

P.O. Box 200513

Helena, MT 59620-0513

Fax: (406) 841-2305

E-mail: [dlibsdspl@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdspl@mt.gov)

Submitted by: Catherine Off, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

**NEW STUDENT  
CONTEST**

### 8 ½ x 11 Informational Poster

This can be on any topic such as vocal hygiene, hearing conservation, early screenings for autism, how to locate a provider, acronyms for school based services, wearing your helmet, treatment for TBI or Stroke, etc. etc.

### 8 ½ x 11 Trifold Informational Brochure

This again can be on any topic such as how to talk to your toddler, pre-reading skills, dipping is a picky eater's best friend, selective mutism, cleft palate, medical acronyms, developmental milestones, use of pets in therapy, etc. etc.

### Press release – one page

The press release is intended for use by SLPs and Audiologists in their communities. It can be used to highlight speech, language, and hearing services in general or it can be on a specific topic.

All entries will become the property of MSHA and will be distributed at their discretion. All entries must contain the MSHA logo, the MSHA webpage <http://www.mshaonline.org/> and a place the size of a business card (3.5 x 2 inches) for providers to place their information. All submissions must be in a Microsoft Word or Publisher format. Please cite any pertinent information and consider sharing internet resources.

### Submission due date: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Submit your entry or request an electronic copy of the logo from [jennifer.closson@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jennifer.closson@mso.umt.edu)

## Operation Smile from the University of Montana

Operation Smile University of Montana (OSUM) has so much planned for 2014! Last year OSUM raised enough money to fund **seven** cleft lip and palate surgeries (smiles) for children all over the world! For 2014 our creative and ambitious group has set our goal at **ten** smiles! We plan to achieve this by participating in a community wide garage sale, hosting community nights at local establishments, providing a self-defense class for campus and Missoula residents, and much more. This April we receive fund matching so for every smile earned, we actually get two! Every smile costs \$240.00.

This year OSUM plans to expand by first reaching out to students from departments outside of Communicative Science and Disorders. This goal will raise awareness about our cause and recruit members resulting in fresh ideas and enthusiasm! Second, we are looking to increase our community involvement through volunteer opportunities in the Missoula area. OSUM wants to support people locally as well as globally. Last, we are very excited about the implementation of our newest program OSUM – Junior. OSUM – Junior involves reaching out to local youth to educate them about cleft lip and palate and collaborate to raise funds for surgeries and supplies. During the spring of 2014 our goal is to collaborate with a local elementary school and a local service group such as Boy Scouts. The OSUM members are very excited to achieve these goals and look forward to a year full of challenge, growth, and a chance to change the world one smile at a time.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to OSUM please mail it with your name and address to:

OSUM c/o Communicative Sciences and Disorders  
32 Campus Drive  
Missoula, MT 59812

**Thank you to MSHA for your continued support.**

## State Education Advocacy Leaders (SEAL)

Janis reported that she attended one online training meeting; however, the second was cancelled due to weather. She plans on attending a SEAL meeting in Pittsburg at the end of July at the ASHA Schools Convention. Some concerns from the list-serve include caseload/workload, paperwork burdens, how to best serve low functioning students, and using assistive technology, such as ipads, effectively.

Janis E. Hayes-Strom; MSHA

## Telepractice Consultant requests your input...

Telepractice is now allowed in Montana. The Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology recently posted the proposed rules and regulations concerning telepractice. In an effort to help our members with this delivery model; MSHA has named Diane Simpson as our Telepractice Consultant. Diane is collecting information about our members' experiences with telepractice. She is a member of the ASHA special interest group on telepractice. Diane is developing a resource guide to help our members learn about online speech therapy. Please contact her at [speechpath@3rivers.net](mailto:speechpath@3rivers.net) or (406) 899-5418 to share your experiences, provide suggestions or ask questions. Telepractice is approved by the American Speech Language Hearing Association as a valid delivery model for speech therapy. Speech Language Pathologists who wish to use this service delivery model need to consider the following: 1) SLP's must comply with all licensing and regulation requirements in each state that they provide services. 2) Adhere to the code of ethics. 3) Follow all HIPAA and FERPA privacy regulations. 4) Assess each client's candidacy for online speech therapy. 5) Have a secure high speed internet connection and meet all minimum requirements with the hardware.

Diane Simpson  
MSHA Telepractice Consultant

Need to Update Your Membership? If your information has changed please email [msha@fmdh.org](mailto:msha@fmdh.org) so those changes can be made in the database....



PO BOX 1065  
Glasgow, MT 59230

# Montana Speech · Language · Hearing Association

**MEMBERSHIP**

*...Improving communication for life*

**Mail this form and payment to:  
MSHA; PO Box 1065; Glasgow, MT 59230**

**Full Membership (licensed or equivalent) - \$75.00**

**Aide/Assistant—\$25.00**

**Student Membership—\$25.00**

**Membership dues include January 1 through December 31 of each year**

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYER INFORMATION

**Area of Specialty that you would like to include on the MSHA website?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Please circle all that apply: SLP AUD DUAL AIDE/ASSISTANT STUDENT  
HOSPITAL SCHOOL PRIVATE PRACTICE OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_**

The information may be published in the directory **yes / no** on the website **yes / no** (please circle yes or no on each) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature). Year you first became a MSHA member: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer to work on a committee **yes / no** or be nominated for an office **yes / no**. If so, which one(s)?: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contribution to Community Outreach**  
Community Outreach is a MSHA program that provides modest grants to clients of speech pathologists and audiologists for funding materials or equipment necessary for our clients to reach their potential.

Dues (Full Membership \$75.00))	\$
Dues (Aide/Assistant or Student \$25.00)	\$
Contribution to Community Outreach	\$
<b>Contribution to Scholarship Fund</b>	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$

**MSHA Memorial Scholarship**

2014 Marks the Initiation of our First MSHA Scholarship.  
 The current value is \$500. MSHA members who are graduate students (currently enrolled or admitted for Fall 2014) and planning to work in Montana upon graduation are invited to apply.  
 Scholarship forms may be requested by emailing [msha@fmdh.org](mailto:msha@fmdh.org).  
 People wishing to make tax deductible donations to the MSHA Memorial Scholarship may mail checks with the following information filled out to: MSHA, PO BOX 1065, Glasgow, MT, 59230.  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please mail my receipt to: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAG 2014 Spring Conference Update**  
 Dates: May 9th and 10th - Chico Hot Springs  
 Presenters on Friday, May 9th: AM: Erica Koehler – GN ReSound  
 PM: Sarah Lewandowski – Starkey  
 Saturday, May 10th: MAG Business Meeting  
 Call now to reserve your rooms! 406-333-4933



*The ultimate hearing aid for talking to yourself.*

**Summer Institute** Diane Simpson is asking for help planning and implementing the Summer Institute. The next Summer Institute will be held the summer of 2015, but planning will need to be done several months ahead. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Diane Simpson at [speechpath@3rivers.net](mailto:speechpath@3rivers.net)

**Fall Convention Information**

The Fall Convention will be held at Ruby’s Inn in Missoula October 16-18th, 2014.  
 To date the following has been planned:

Thursday	Friday	Saturday Morning
SLP Topic: Common Core	SLP Topic: Telepractice	SLP Topic: Passy-Muir Valve
Members Meeting/Lunch	MAG Luncheon	SLP Topic: Dynamic Assessment
Student poster session		
Professional poster session		
MSHA Social with Auction		
Montana Mixer		

Audiology Presenters: Catherine Drescher in Missoula and Crystal Dvorak in Billings will be working together to recruit our speakers. They would like your input regarding topics and/or preferred speakers. If you have any suggestions, please contact Catherine at [cdrescher@rmeec.com](mailto:cdrescher@rmeec.com) or Crystal at [crystal@rehderhearing.com](mailto:crystal@rehderhearing.com).  
 Vendors: We have a smaller space for vendors this year, but so far David Rubinstein from TinyEYE Therapy, Inc, will be exhibiting, and Oticon has also expressed interest in exhibiting.



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 Association  
 PO Box 1065  
 Glasgow, MT 59230

Phone: 406-228-3530  
 Fax: 406-228-3689  
 Email: [msha@fmdh.org](mailto:msha@fmdh.org)  
 Website: [www.mshaonline.org](http://www.mshaonline.org)  
 MSHA on Facebook

***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 Political Action representative.

**Executive Board Members**

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

How many MSHA members do we have currently?

- 22 Audiologists
- 4 Dual (Speech Pathologist/Audiologist)
- 106 Speech Pathologists
- 53 Students
- 2 Speech aides

**187**

We need your renewals to be a strong organization! Thanks for your support.

If you have ideas for topics in the Communicator please email [msha@fmdh.org](mailto:msha@fmdh.org) and share your requests.....