



Newsletter

A Publication of the Colorado Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Spring 2017

Inside This Issue

- ❖ Update on Sunset of Colorado's Speech-Language Pathology Act
- ❖ CSHA Summer Convention
- ❖ STAR Update
- ❖ Update from the Colorado StAMP
- ❖ CSHA Membership Drive



Scan this QR Code with your smart phone and check out CSHA's website. Get information on upcoming events, renew your membership, find links to important resources, and much more. If you have questions or suggestions on how CSHA can serve your needs better, please send us an email to csha@cshassoc.org or call us at 855-727-2836.



Colorado Speech-Language and Hearing Association

From the President



If you had to choose only two qualities to get you through times of change, the first should be a sense of self-worth and the second a sense of humor.

- Jennifer James

Greetings from your CSHA Board of Directors!

We hope our members will continue to find the *CSHA Newsletter* informative. In 2017, we are striving to keep our members up-to-date on activities of the Board and provide information relevant to you. Email blasts, Facebook posts and the newsletter are all the means with which we communicate with our members. Your feedback is always welcome!

CSHA has been busy this past quarter supporting the successful outcome of the Sunset process for SB 17-108 which continues the regulation of speech-language pathologists by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA) for five more years. The CSHA board would like to thank Kathy Boada and Hayley Swihart for clearing their busy schedules and testifying before the Senate Health and Human Services Committees in support of the bill. CSHA welcomes member feedback on SB 17-108; it is a work in process. The importance of maintaining state certification is in alignment with ASHA's goal to support an interstate compact bill which would make it easier and faster for clinicians to transfer their license to a new state. It also gives speech-language pathologists a stronger platform when advocating for reimbursement and billing issues at the state level.

CSHA is also working on providing more continuing education opportunities at discounted rates for members. Please be on the lookout for another awesome summer Convention coming up this year. Another CE opportunity will be one-hour webinars accessible through the CSHA website. We are looking for local talent so please contact CSHA if you are interested in presenting.

The CSHA website is now completely redesigned, but we are continuing to add to it. In the near future, look for sections on "Frequently Asked Questions," helpful links to legislature, licensing and information of interest to the profession. We often receive communications from undergraduate and graduate students looking for opportunities to acquire community hours or graduate supervised hours. Mentoring students is a great way to support future professionals so please provide CSHA with your contact information if you would like CSHA to pass it along to students.

The Board is committed to serving our members however we can. Your Board consists of professionals with a depth and variety of experiences. Many of you have reached out to ask for guidance or support on a variety of issues and we do our best to be responsive. Thank you for your ongoing support and tell your friends, peers and co-workers about joining CSHA!

Liliana Stagakes
CSHA President



Update on Sunset of Colorado’s Speech-Language Pathology Practice Act

SB17-108 was introduced in the legislature and was unanimously passed by the Senate. Next, it will go through committee hearings and a floor vote in the House.

CSHA has been working closely with its lobbyist and stakeholders to suggest minor amendments to the statutes. It should be noted, the four-page document on the State of Colorado’s website only shows the current changes; the complete bill may be found on the Department of Regulatory Affairs’ (DORA) website. After the bill passes both the House and Senate, CSHA will continue to work with stakeholders to provide input on the rules.

CSHA will also continue to explore how to make it easier for speech-language pathologists who have a CDE license to interact with DORA. Keep in mind, certification at the state level does not replace ASHA certification. Rather, it gives consumers an in-state resource for quality and practice concerns.

CSHA will continue to keep members informed of the bill’s progress in the legislature.

Allison Foster

Vice President Public Policy

STAR Update



I have been in the role of State Advocate for Reimbursement (STAR) since the summer of 2016. In that time, I have learned a great deal about reimbursement, Colorado Medicaid and advocacy

at the state and national level. ASHA provides a network of STARs across different states who collaborate, through the support of ASHA, to advocate for reimbursement of speech-language and hearing services with Medicaid and private insurance at the state level. As the STAR for Colorado I will collaborate with key members of the Colorado Medicaid staff and work with CSHA’s lobbyist to advocate for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists (AUDs) in the legislation and through Medicaid. I also act as liaison to the CSHA Board and to CSHA members and Colorado SLPs and AUDs who have questions about billing and reimbursement. This year I hope to collaborate with the OT/PT associations to work with Medicaid and to clarify questions regarding Colorado rules and benefit standards. I have also recently taken on the role as the Colorado Advocate for Habilitative Services with ASHA as well. To contact me with questions or collaboration please email me at: STAR.cshassoc@gmail.com

Jenny Vail-Stencel

Colorado STAR

CSHA Summer Convention!

The CSHA Summer Convention will be held Saturday, August 5, 2017. This one-day Convention will take place at Children’s Hospital Colorado – Anschutz campus.

We will maintain our successful format from the fall 2016 Convention – a two-track system with adult medical track and pediatric track. Watch for a save the date reminder coming soon.



We are in full support of the IMASH 2017 Convention, hosted in Boise, Idaho on October 4-7, 2017, but we understand that not everyone can fit the trip into their schedule. Of course, you can certainly do both!

Kathleen L. Mays

Vice President for Education

Update From the Colorado StAMP



With the change in administration, there has been a communication freeze from Center for Medicare Services and the Department of Health and Human Services. We are anxiously awaiting updates as far as potential changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how that will impact Medicare reimbursement for speech therapy services. The February national StAMP call discussed alternative payment models within the ACA as it stands today, with a focus on Accountable Care Organizations (ACO). An ACO’s main objective is to focus on the overall cost and quality of care across various healthcare settings. The biggest change for speech-language pathologists will be to ensure documentation with an increased focus on:

Efficiency – diagnoses must be accurate using the least number of tests possible

Value – recognize that services create expenses rather than revenue in risk management models

Clinical Outcomes – standardized testing and evidence-based resources to improve function

Data – functional outcomes, length of stay, guest and family satisfaction scores, etc

With pending potential changes to the ACA, we don’t know exactly how things will shake out. However, it is best practice for us to focus on value-based, quality care by taking a look at the areas listed above.

For more information on the most popular ACOs in your area, go to: Beckershospitalreview.com/lists/100-accountable-care-organizations-to-know-2015.html

Darcy Borella

Colorado StAMP

CSHA Membership Drive Your Chance to Win a \$50 Gift Card!

Do you have friends who aren't members of CSHA? If you recruit a new member before April 30, 2017, your name will be entered to win a \$50 Visa gift card. Just have your friend list you on their CSHA membership application under "referred by." New members can join online or print an application at <http://www.cshassoc.org>. The website describes all the benefits of being a CSHA member which includes:

- State-level advocacy for the profession
- Continuing education events hosted in Colorado
- Communication to members on important issues



Each person you recruit gives you an additional chance at winning the gift card!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**Tell a
Friend!**

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CSHA Newsletter General Information

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Deadlines for CSHA Newsletter

Spring February 15
 Summer May 15
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Material should be typed and double spaced. Articles for general information should not exceed 400 words. Letters to the Editor should be 200 words or less. All articles are subject to stylistic editing. Submit articles to the CSHA Central Office at csha@cshassoc.org

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| | Member | Non-Member | Dimensions |
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| Full Page | \$200 | \$300 | 7.75" wide x 10" high |
| Half Page | \$150 | \$200 | 7.75" wide x 5" high |
| Quarter Page | \$100 | \$150 | 3.75" wide x 5" high |
| Business card | \$50 | \$75 | 3.75" wide x 2.5" high |

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