



WSHA NEWS

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2006 WSHA Conference **Follow-Up**

President-Elect, Lynda D. Coyle

WOW! What a great conference! I want to begin my follow-up with more THANK YOUS to those who helped put on a successful event. First, my thanks go out to the UW Students who volunteered during the 2 and ½ day event. Their energy and enthusiasm exceeded my expectations. It was a treat to watch undergraduates and graduates alike interacting with professionals, acting confident and yet humbled by the presence of such seasoned members and versatile presenters. These students are the best ambassadors we have for our University program and for our state. Secondly, I want to thank all of you (over 88 registrants) who came to the 2006 conference. Without your participation and of course, your money for the raffles and silent auction items, there would be no conference. I appreciated your willingness to explore “cafeteria” dining again and your understanding in the conference accommodations – you really had a chance to see the ‘old’ and the ‘new’ at the University of Wyoming on this visit! The following vendors also made it possible for WSHA to have a successful outcome: Tish Ramirez and Brian Pekka from Phonak; Cristen Markos and Nancy Plant from Cochlear Americas; Shane Hunsaker from Audio Enhancements; Scott Shultz from MSR West and Karyn Longstreet from Therapy Products.

One of the greatest moments at the conference was the immeasurable generosity of the WSHA members towards one of their own. Over \$900 was raised for Ann Van Trump (Regional Rep) so that she

and her family can be together in her final days of battling cancer. Second to this was the generosity of the members who contributed to the WSHA student scholarship fund, including the winner of the 50/50 Raffle, Tempe Murphy, who donated her winnings of \$175.00. This amount along with others’ donations added an additional \$680 to supporting a UW graduate in the Division of Communications program. Totals from the silent auction and general raffle were \$1362 and \$429, respectively.

WSHA continues to look for members who want to get involved and do their part in making the association a stronger presence in the state and nationally. Over 35 of you already paid your 2007 membership dues in advance! The revised WSHA Constitution and By-laws were voted on and passed by the members at the business meeting. This is one of the first steps to ensuring that WSHA continues as a recognized association by ASHA. Next year should be equally as exciting in Casper and in Salt Lake City in 2008 for the IMASH convention. I am confident that together, as thoughtful committed citizens, we can change the world – or at least *our* little part of it!





**2006 Honors
of the Association
Tempe Murphy**

**Sheridan County School District #2,
Sheridan, WY**

From Shane Hunsaker as he presented this award at the WSHA Business Meeting

The person receiving this award can be heard cheering for the Sheridan Bronco's on any given Friday night, In the Spring when we are wondering where in the world is Matt Lower, we are wondering where this person will be traveling during summer break. This person can be heard far and wide at WSHA conferences yelling "yahoo! Give me more raffle tickets." You had better watch your silent auction bid, because she will be right beside you down to the last second bidding on many silent auction items. Tempe Murphy has given many years of dedicated service to WSHA and is a huge supporter of the organization through her service on the board filling almost all positions over the years and is presently the continuing education coordinator, and has been elected as LC representative on a national level with ASHA. Therefore it is with great pleasure we recognize Tempe Murphy as the 2006 Honors of the Association recipient.



**2006 Volunteer
of the Year
Cathy Ross**

Teton County Schools, Jackson, WY

From Lynda Coyle as she presented this award at the WSHA Business Meeting

'Volunteers are people who give of themselves and their time to do something in relation to a cause in which they believe; people who by their actions, not their words, are ready to help where help is needed; and people who are ready to serve where service is wanted.' ~ Author Unknown

Cathy Ross has served the WSHA organization as a president-elect, president, past-president and currently serves as Public Awareness Chair and maintains the WSHA website. She has always been a person who, when asked, was willing to step up to take on a job that needed to get done. She serves as a role-model to others in demonstrating the spirit of the 'volunteer': she shows up and she says, 'yes' to what needs to be done. Cathy's support has been wide-spread not only in WSHA but throughout her professional career as she has volunteered to supervise graduate students, organized a Legislative Day in Cheyenne to advocate for the needs of SLPs around the state and continues to mentor future speech-language pathologists by engaging them in on-going research and sharing her passion for her work. WSHA is honored to have Cathy recognized as this year's Volunteer of the Year for 2006. Congratulations, Cathy!!

Update on Newborn Hearing Screening in Wyoming

Michael A. Primus, Ph.D., University of Wyoming
 Nancy R. Pajak, M.S., Wyoming Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program

Newborn hearing screening in Wyoming was initiated in 1994 and is administered through the Developmental Disabilities Division of the Wyoming Department of Health. A legislative mandate for screening took effect in 1999. Reflecting the national "1-3-6 Plan", the Wyoming program aims to accomplish hearing screening of all infants by one month of age, audiological diagnostic testing by three months for infants who fail the screening, and enrollment in early intervention by six months for infants with hearing loss.

Screening is performed with an automated auditory-brainstem-response procedure in 20 of the 21 birthing hospitals in the state. The remaining hospital uses otoacoustic emissions in addition to automated auditory-brainstem-response as a screening procedure. A first screening occurs prior to discharge, and failing infants undergo a second screening at the same facility 7-10 days after birth. Ninety-eight percent of newborns are screened (Table 1). Infants not screened are primarily those transferred to another hospital, and these infants may receive screening at that hospital. Nationally, the current screening rate is about 90%.

Approximately 3.5% (211 of 6100 screened infants) fail the first screening and are referred for a second screening. Approximately 0.35% (21 infants) fail the second screening and are referred for audiological diagnostic evaluation. Infants who fail both screenings typically are found to have hearing impairment. Nationally, 2.1% are referred for audiological diagnostics (CDC, 2005).

Based on program data the incidence of congenital hearing loss in Wyoming is approximately 1:340 newborns, and this ratio is in line with national estimates of

incidence. The probability of hearing loss in infants who have failed the first screening is much higher, 1:10. Probability after failure of the second screening is 4:5. The high risk associated with screening failure indicates the importance of effective follow-up (i.e., for every 10 children "lost" after the first screening, one child with hearing loss has likely been lost to the program; and any one child lost after a second screening is likely hearing impaired). A substantial effort by professionals in Wyoming has minimized the number of children lost to follow-up. In the two-year period, 2002-2003, 10 (3%) of 323 first-screen failures and 0 of 41 second-screen failures were lost. Six of these 10 infants moved out of state. Probability suggests that 1 of the 10 infants has a hearing loss. Wyoming's success in follow-up is considerably greater than that experienced in the U.S. overall. Nationally, 45% of referred infants, as reported, fail to receive audiological diagnostic evaluation (CDC, 2003, 2005).

REFERENCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2003, October 17). Infants tested for hearing loss --- United States, 1999-2001. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 52(41), 981-984.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5241a1.htm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2005, October). DSHPSHWA data summary: Reporting year 2003. Version F.
http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/2003/Data/Summary_03F.pdf

Table 1. Newborn hearing screening data for Wyoming

YEAR	Total births	% Screened	First-screen Failures	Second-screen Failures
2002	6060	98.7 %	2.6 %	0.4 %
2003	6137	98.4 %	2.8 %	0.3 %
2004	6238	98.1 %	4.5 %	0.4 %
2005	6419	98.0 %	3.9 %	0.3 %

An Investigation of Treatment Intensity

Teresa Ukrainetz, Ph.D., University of Wyoming

Teresa Ukrainetz, a professor in the Division of Communication Disorders at the University of Wyoming, and Cathy Ross and Heide Harm, speech-language pathologists in Teton County School District, are carrying out a research project this year examining the effect of treatment intensity.

Speech-language services in the schools typically provide small group intervention for an array of language skills for 30-60 minutes of intervention weekly over the entire year. Unfortunately, this model of language intervention often results in little gain in learning over that of the regular classroom. We know that intense quality treatment can make a difference. However, resources do not allow us to simply provide more treatment. Emerging evidence suggests that short-term periods of intense treatment can have sizeable, maintained gains in learning. However, prior research comparisons have not held constant factors such as total treatment time, treatment targets, and quality of intervention.

For kindergartners with low-level literacy skills, this study will examine how short-term concentrated phonemic awareness treatment compares to long-term dispersed phonemic awareness treatment, and whether either model provides more gain than the incidental learning achieved through daily life and treatment focused on other language targets.

The results will provide evidence toward changing school speech-language service delivery to a periodic short-term concentrated model. Parents and educators must have clear evidence of significant and maintained benefit to support the scheduling inconvenience of blocks of intense treatment and the absence of treatment for a portion of the school year. This study will provide valuable information, especially as special and supplementary education services are

undergoing re-organization with federal initiatives, such as No Child Left Behind and Response to Intervention.

State Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology

By: Sue Torney

My name is Sue Torney. I am currently the lead speech language pathologist for STRIDE Learning Center, a child development center, in Cheyenne. I received my undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University and my master degree in communication disorders from the University of South Dakota. I was appointed by Governor Freudenthal in September as the newest member of the State Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology. In addition to serving on the board, I am also serving as the liason between WSHA and the state board. As the liason, I hope to be able to be your "voice" in sharing concerns that you as practicing pathologists/audiologists might have in regard to our current Wyoming licensing rules and regulations. I have been living in this beautiful state of Wyoming since July 2004. My husband and I, along with our two daughters who are now 5 and 7, moved to Cheyenne from Dallas, Texas where I practiced as a SLP in several suburban school districts for 8 years. It was a huge adjustment coming from a state with over 2,000 practicing pathologists to a much smaller number of licensed pathologists here in Wyoming. I find that smaller number to be an asset vs. a liability, however. Because we have such a small population, you as SLP's and audiologists have a greater chance of being heard. The state board meetings are open for anyone to attend. I also am including my e-mail address and phone number. Please feel free to contact me so that I can share your concerns or information with the board.

I have always loved our work as speech language pathologists and hope that my passion for our profession will help me serve you well as your liaison to the state board of examiners. My contact information is: Sue Torney, email: sue@stridekids.com phone: 307-632-2991.



NSSLHA Thank You!

The University of Wyoming NSSLHA Chapter would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all those who supported us while attending the WSHA conference! Through the sale of T-shirts and baked goods, we were able to raise over \$400. This money will go towards purchasing a pair of hearing aids for a Laramie resident who would otherwise be unable to afford them.

We still have a limited number of T-shirts available! If you haven't gotten yours yet, just contact one of the NSSLHA officers at the addresses below.

Thank you again for your generosity!

Meagan Cole
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A Letter from Mary McCarty

Dear fellow members,

I regret to inform you that I need to step down as President of WSHA. Due to some family issues I am not going to be able to devote any time to the organization. As per our by-laws, Lynda Coyle will assume the presidency early, although she has already been carrying most of the burden since taking office. I hope to be an active member again in the future; unfortunately I just don't know how long my situation will last.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary S. McCarty, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech/Language Pathologist
Goshen County Schools
Wyoming Speech/Hearing Association

You are invited
to the **University of Wyoming and WSHA**
Open House
at the ASHA Convention on
Friday, November 17th from 7:30 – 9:30 pm
in the Hibiscus Room at the Intercontinental
Miami.

★ Congratulations to **Tempe Murphy** who was elected **ASHA Legislative Council Representative from Wyoming**.

★ Make your plans now for WSHA Convention 2007 in Casper Wyoming September 27-29.

★ Check out the WSHA website for pictures from the 2006 WSHA convention and current announcements. www.wsha.info

If you have an item to post to the website or to the newsletter, please contact Cathy Ross, Public Awareness Chair, at cathyross@bresnan.net

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