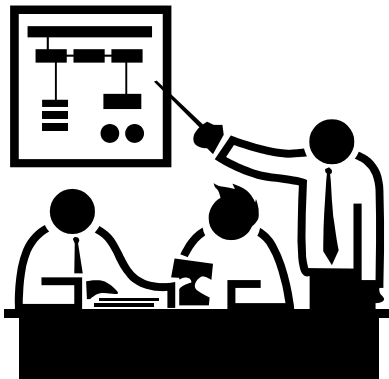


WSHA News

Summer

2003



CONVENTION 2003 REPORT

October 2-4, 2003

Casper, Wyoming Holiday Inn

2.0 CEUs pending approval

Speakers: 12 speakers have been contacted and have accepted a commitment to present at the convention. Topics for audiology, medical-, school- and 0-5 population-based speech-language pathology will be presented. Please see for speaker information and topics at the end of this article.

Hometeam: Tom Rowley is heading up the hometeam committee. He has a commitment from 10 Casper area SLPs and audiologists to help with planning and logistics during the convention. Tom has some exciting ideas for entertainment and is planning a theme of Wyoming history. He promises that we will appreciate Casper as we never have before at a convention. You don't want to miss these special events! Tom would like to encourage any SLPs or audiologists from the Glenrock and Douglas area to contact him to volunteer for the hometeam. He is also looking for representation from private practice and medical-based practices. Contact him at

crowley@trib.com or 307-235-5985 evenings.

Advertising: Brochure will be printed and mailed in July.

Additional CE Opportunity: We have coordinated with the Communication Aid Manufacturers Association (CAMA) to schedule their workshop the day before our convention, Wednesday, October 1 in Casper, Wyoming at the Holiday Inn. This workshop will include a general session on AAC, lunch, and breakout sessions to allow individuals participating in the training to learn more about AAC options and available products. This workshop has been approved for .4 ASHA CEUs. You can check out their website for more information at

www.aacproducts.org. Choose Casper, Wyoming at the prompt for "city location".

Topics and Presenters:

Colleen Noe, Ph.D., CCC-A, James H. Quillen VA Medical Center, Mountain Home, TN and Christina Roup, Ph.D., CCC-A, VA Martinez Research, Martinez CA will co-present on hearing aid outcomes and speech perception with amplification. They will also present a short session for SLPs and hearing aids.

Kirstin Beach, Ph.D., CCC-A, University of Wyoming, will coordinate an Audiology Grand Rounds with a call for case study presentations.

Scott Wright will present "Understanding Classroom Acoustics." Topics will include new ANSI specifications, available acoustical material and where to buy it, and proper reverberation time for classrooms. A hands-on session will simulate classrooms on a computer program called

EASE. Participants will insert various acoustical materials to determine what it will take to make these rooms meet ANSI specs.

Maureen Thompson, M.A., CCC-A, Director, Private Health Plans Advocacy, ASHA will present on the process of advocating and negotiating with private health plans for coverage of speech-language pathology and audiology services. Participants will learn who the various "players" are and gain insight on the current state and federal health care environments. The elements of effective persuasion will be provided along with tips on preparing effectively and initiating contact.

Paula Horner, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, University of Redlands, Redlands, CA presenting "Neonates, Infants, and Toddlers at Risk: A Continuum of Care for the Speech-Language Pathologist." Topics will include the role of the SLP in the neonatal intensive care nursery and the clinical management, identification, assessment, and treatment of at-risk infants, toddlers, and their families.

Sara Rosenfeld-Johnson, CCC-SLP, Talk Tools TM, Tucson AZ, will present on a unique oral-motor therapy approach, used in treating clients of all ages with all types of muscle-based articulation disorders including adult apraxia/dysarthria.

Nickola Nelson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI will present on a writing workshop approach with language impaired students. Techniques will be presented for implementing an inclusive computer-supported writing process to language intervention. Videotape excerpts and sample

children's language will illustrate the process.

Gail Richards, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston IL, will present "Language and Learning, Assistance from the Brain." This presentation will present a paradigm shift from behavior to neurology. The path to more effective learning must include ideas to stimulate brain development and focus. Participants will be challenged to think about teaching and learning from a new perspective.

Roger I. Burgraff, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Redlands CA, will present "SLP: Take Charge of Your Day!" This is a purposeful and powerful workshop on how to get tough on time. SLPs will learn practical new procedures to logistically maneuver and protect their limited time, conquer the frustration of too many immediate tasks, decisively manage each day's activities, including paperwork, and interact with others to promote positive, productive, peak performance. Dr. Burgraff is well versed in school regulations and is an expert in addressing multi-task issues and time-management.

Janelle Weeks, M.A., CCC-SLP, Natrona Co. School District, Casper WY will present an overview of two thematic units which use a team-teaching approach for various grade levels (K-6). Both of these yearlong themes (called the "Communication Lab") are language based, with an emphasis on literature, writing, and social communication skills. Participants will learn a variety of methods, activities, resources, assessments, and implementation related to district outcomes. Workshop format will be lecture, with participation activities and opportunity for questions. It should be noted that while intended for elementary classrooms, these themes are easily adapted to older grades.

Dana Graham, M.S., CCC-SLP and other SLPs from Sweetwater County School District #1 will present "Teletherapy: Incorporating Technology into Speech-language Therapy". They will describe how their school district applied teletherapy for speech-language services this past year. ASHA is advocating the use of technology to improve the therapeutic services provided to individuals who are homebound or living in remote locations. Participants will be encouraged to understand the use of computer and video equipment as a method to increase service delivery time, improve client outcomes, and decrease the time demands made on overburdened professionals.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Presidents Message
By: Mary Streib

As you know the Wyoming Speech/Language/Hearing Association is dependent upon volunteers time, work and expertise to operate. ASHA has designated 2003 as the year of the volunteer. Most all other states have paid staff to run their state associations. WSHA is unique in its size and the importance of volunteers to our operation. Volunteers are the most important resource WSHA possesses. These volunteers allow WSHA to continue to exist year after year.

Volunteering is a member benefit for each and every WSHA member! I would like to support the notion that volunteerism is dedication to the welfare of others. Those who volunteer deserve our sincere thanks and admiration. The WSHA website will soon be listing current WSHA volunteers and some of their volunteered activities that keep WSHA a viable organization. Please take the time to look up this information (www.wsha.info) and thank your colleagues and peers whose names appear.

There are many benefits to volunteering for your profession. You get a feeling of accomplishment. You make new friends, gain enjoyment and have fun! Volunteers make a difference, have an impact, and gain recognition. As a volunteer you learn management, and leadership skills. Professional involvement through volunteerism results in personal achievement. Finally, most employers value volunteerism outside of the work place.

I would like to invite each and every speech language pathologist and audiologist in Wyoming to make a difference, have an impact, and accept the invitation to become a volunteer for WSHA. To those who are currently volunteering their time and expertise, "Thank You!" Your contribution is priceless. WSHA could never financially support the time and efforts of its volunteers. Please look at the list of WSHA Board members in this newsletter issue. Each of these individuals is a volunteer. In addition, look at the list of SLP's and Auds. in Cathy Ross' convention update. These are the volunteers who are giving time, energy and lots of effort to the upcoming WSHA annual convention.

You have the opportunity to volunteer to fill some important positions in WSHA currently, and in the near future. The position of president elect will be open at the fall convention for the 2004 year, as well as treasurer. WSHA currently has open positions for the State Education Association Liaison and for the Region VII representative (Laramie and Cheyenne). Please contact me ASAP if you are interested in any of these positions.

"Thank you" to WSHA speech language pathologist and audiologist that are currently volunteering their time, energy and resources for our great state association!

Positions Open in Wyoming

Teton County School District #1 Jackson, Wyoming

Position: Speech-Language Pathologist

Location: Teton County School District #1, Jackson, Wyoming

Starting Date: August 20, 2003

Responsible To: Director of Student Services

Salary Base: Salary information is available on the district web site. \$2000 yearly addition to salary for Certificate of Clinical Competence. www.tcsd.org

Closing Date: May 30, 2003. All applications submitted by this date will be considered. The position will remain open until filled.

Application Materials Required:

District Application Form and Teacher Questionnaire, cover letter addressing qualifications required for the position, resume, three letters of recommendation, official college transcripts

Direct Application Materials To:

Della Walsh (307) 733-2704
Teton County School District #1
PO Box 568

Jackson, Wyoming 83001

www.tcsd.org

Teton County School District (TCSD) in Jackson, Wyoming has an opening for a Speech-language Pathologist who will be responsible for assessing students suspected of having speech-language disorders. Skills in conducting student evaluations, developing individualized education programs, implementing specialized instruction, monitoring student progress, and consultation are required

TCSD includes one high school, one middle school and five elementary schools in Jackson and outlying communities that serve a student population of 2,277 students. Our dynamic speech-language pathologists enjoy small caseloads and collaborative relations with school staff.

Jackson, Wyoming is located only four miles south of beautiful Grand

Teton National Park and 25 miles south of Yellowstone National Park. Jackson residents enjoy many recreational activities including downhill and cross-country skiing, hiking, climbing, and mountain biking.

Teton County School District is an equal opportunity employer

Converse County School District #1

Converse Co. School District #1 has an opening for: Speech Clinician. The position is for the 2003-04 school year. Salary is based upon education and experience; range is from \$26,440 to \$53,060. Contact is: Joyce Pierce, Superintendent Secretary, 615 Hamilton St., Douglas, WY 82633-2615; (307) 358-2942.

Gottsche Reband Wellness Center Thermopolis, Wyoming

SLP or CFY position available with benefits at Gottsche Reband Wellness Center in Thermopolis, Wyoming. Website is www.gottsche-rehab.com. The SLP or CFY will become a member of our multidisciplinary team in our Dynamic Rehab & Wellness Center in Rural Thermopolis, Wy. The 55 year old center provides an integrated service to the school district, hospital, SNF, the mentally challenged and in our Out-Patient Facility. Position offers competitive salary, over time and benefits.

Fax resume to 307-864-2857, or contact the Director of Gottsche Rehab Center, P.O. Box 790, Thermopolis, Wy 82443, 307-864-2146
email address is rehab@trib.com

WSHA Website

www.wsha.info

Check out our improved WSHA website. New information is posted almost every week, so

check frequently. We have been comparing our site with those of other states and our goal is to make our site informational for our members and others who might be interested in our state organization. Here is a listing of some of the information contained on the site:

- WSHA mission statement and contact information.
- Membership and dues information and form.
- Past newsletters since January 2003.
- Professional links.
- Executive Board contact information and pictures.
- Calendar of events of interest to WSHA members.
- Code of Ethics (under construction)
- Continuing Educational opportunities.
- Board meeting agendas and minutes.
- WSHA announcements.
- Speech-language pathology and Audiology positions available in Wyoming.
- Photos
- Regional News.

The improved WSHA website will host Wyoming SLP and Audiology position openings at no charge. We would like to include news items under Regional Information that you might like to share with everyone. This can include reports from regional reps about regional activities or information about something that is happening at your worksite. If you have information to be added to our website, for example: position openings, CE opportunities, calendar information, pictures of SLPs, audiologists, or students in action at your worksite, please send information or pictures to Cathy Ross at rossfamily@wyom.net Encourage anyone looking for jobs to check out our website.

Mary Streib and I just returned from the Council of State Speech-Language Hearing Association Spring Conference where we attended a session on state

association websites. We learned that many associations are using their websites as their primary means of communication with members. We will continue to improve our website by adding ASHA Legislative Council information, ASHA alerts, and information from our state legislature which may impact our profession. I welcome any feedback and suggestions to improve the website.
Cathy Ross
WSHA President-Elect

Region 1 and 2 Spring Workshop 2003

Twenty-five SLPs and OTs from WSHA Region 1 and 2 met at Big Piney Elementary School on May 7, 2003 for an informative, multidisciplinary spring workshop. Six presenters shared their knowledge of a variety of topics including Literacy for Preschoolers, Teletherapy, Eligibility and Dismissal Criteria, Sensory Integration, and a Round-Table discussion of intervention ideas. Participants earned .5 ASHA CEUs. Response from participants was enthusiastic and everyone hopes to meet for a similar format next spring. For information on organizing a similar workshop in your region, contact Christa Vandervort, Region 1 Representative, at vandervortpc@wyoming.com or Angela Lupher, Region 2 Representative, at alupher@wyoming.com. Special thanks to Nancy Colton for hosting this group.

Cleft Palate

The Cleft Palate Team will meet in Casper September 25, 26, 2003. Call Trish O'Grady at Dental Health in Cheyenne at 307-777-7947 if there is a person under the age of 18 who may need the team's services. Ceyle Perry at UW and Diane Kasler at Wyoming Medical Center are two of the speech-language pathologists serving this team. Feel free to

contact them if you have questions.

WSHA has an Executive Secretary!

And ooh, what a secretary she is! Meet Gaelynn Hunsaker! Gaelynn is the new executive secretary for the Wyoming Speech/ Language/ Hearing Association. Gaelynn recently moved to Casper from Laramie. In addition to her work for WSHA she is also working at Casper-Natrona Public Health as a secretary. Prior to her work with WSHA Gaelynn worked in the speech pathology/audiology profession as a clinic secretary at the UW Speech and Hearing Clinic, and before that as a secretary for a private audiology clinic.

Gaelynn is also busy with her audiologist husband, Shane (you may have heard of him) and her four children. When she has spare time Gaelynn enjoys reading, doing needlework and crafting.

Gaelynn has contracted with WSHA for the year and her services are directed through the WSHA president. Please welcome Gaelynn to WSHA when you meet her!

Debbie's Students Shop 'til They Drop!!!!

For the past several years my speech and language students have been exposed to a small business operation at our elementary school that allows them to handle money and greet customers. Living in a small community, school tools were not always readily available, and so I decided the speech and language classroom would be responsible for providing a school store. The store is housed on a rolling cart donated to us by the school library. Twice weekly the store can be found in the hallways between the early morning bells for fifteen minutes of student shopping. On Wednesday we are located in the

primary wing and on Fridays in the intermediate wing. I assign students from my program to work for a specific day and time giving them an opportunity to practice good communication skills. The speech and language students make inquiries regarding the customer's supply needs, provide them with information about the cost of the supplies, count money and practice social language. Some students don't arrive on the playground early enough to always make their schedule but it gives them a taste of job responsibilities and commitment. Often the social conversations I am able to observe between my students and their peers in this relaxed setting provides me with good insight about what skills have generalized and what skills need more work. Either the special education aid or myself is always there to supervise the exchange of money.

The store was initially financed by my speech budget. I purchased the bulk of supplies through my supply budget and donations from staff. Since that time all money earned is spent to replenish the supplies, and we require no funding. Our store carries spiral notebooks, pocket folders, pencils, pens, highlighters, markers, crayons, colored pencils, pencil grips, scissors, rulers, paints, erasers and glue. During certain times of the year our cart is decorated with lights to attract shoppers to our "Purple Light Specials!"

For further information, contact Debbie at: Debbie Kinniburgh
Saratoga
Dkinniburgh@crb2.k12.wy.us



Tempe's Tempting Tidbits!

YOU CAN GET CONTINUING
EDUCATION HERE IN THE
WONDERFUL STATE OF
WYOMING THIS SUMMER.
WHAT A CHOICE!

CENTRAL AUDITORY PROCESSING: A COHERENT APPROACH

with Jack Katz.

Presented by Campbell County
School District June 12 and 13,
2003.

\$50/day or \$100 for both days
Contact Heather Zahn at 307-687-
1912, ext 121 or Special Services
Center, 109 Gurley Ave. Gillette,
Wy 82716 ASHA CEU's pending
approval

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WHO USE AAC TO TALK, READ AND WRITE IN CLASS

with Dr. Susan Blockberger

Presented by the University of
Wyoming July 12, 2003

Contact Dr. Mary Hardin Jones at
307-766-5710.

ASHA CEU's pending approval

AUDITORY & LANGUAGE PROCESSING DISORDERS: ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTION STRATEGIES, INCLUDING SECTION OF ADHD

with Dr. Gail Richard

Presented by WSHA. Summer
Conference at Holiday Inn at
Sheridan, Wy August 18, 2003
7 contact hours

Contact Tempe Murphy at 307-
752-7346 or tempe@fiberpipe.net
ASHA CEU's pending approval

3rd Annual Jackson Hole Child Language Institute with Ron Gillam, Ph.D Lynda Miller, Ph.D James R Patton, Ed.D

June 26, 27 and 28. Sponsored by
Teton County School District.

Subject matter includes: Narrative
Assessment and Intervention,
Section 504 in the classroom and
Classroom Management
Strategies for the Inclusion
Classroom. 1.5 ASHA CEUs and 1
elective enrichment credit through

the U of WYO. For more
information contact at Cathy Ross
PO Box 20,000 PMB 25179
Jackson WY 83001
Phone: 307-733-8287
Fax: 307-733-5514
Email: rossfamily@wyom.net or go
online: [www.neonrose.net/
jackson/info.html](http://www.neonrose.net/jackson/info.html)

LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO
STAY CLOSE TO HOME AND
FULFILL YOUR CONTINUING
EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.
YA-HOO!

WSHA 2003 Convention Call for Posters

The WSHA Convention Committee
announces the call for posters for
the 2003 convention at the Holiday
Inn in Casper, Wyoming, October
2-3. Proposals that reflect the
multi-faceted diagnostic and
therapeutic challenges that
characterize the communicatively
challenged population are invited.
Case studies, program
descriptions, innovative materials,
therapy ideas, quantitative studies,
and qualitative studies are
welcome. Please be advised that
the convention committee seeks
presentations that will fit
appropriately into a 15-minute time
slot. WSHA will offer a \$25
presentation award for the first
eight proposals submitted and
presented. Student proposals
must be co-authored by a faculty
member per ASHA guidelines.

Poster Format:

Please use poster board visual
presentation format with free
standing poster/tack board, which
will be placed on 3' X 6' tables.
Displays should be presented in a
professional manner with graphs,
lettering, and photos sufficiently
large to be viewed from a distance
of 3 feet. Keep text to a minimum
with use of bulleted points and
brief summaries. Handouts are
highly encouraged to be distributed
in conjunction with the
presentation. You will be required
to stay with your poster board
during the poster/vendor session
Thursday, October 4, 3:00-5:00.

Proposal Guidelines:

Please include the following
information:

1. Cover Sheet including the
following information:
 - First author name, affiliation,
address, daytime phone,
second author name.
 - Instructional Level:
___ Beginning,
___ Intermediate,
___ Advanced (required for
CEU application)
2. Abstract page including the
following information:
 - Title and short summary of the
major aspects of the
presentation to be printed in
the convention program
 - Learning Outcomes-list at least
2 outcomes participants will
gain from session attendance.
 - Biographical Information for
each presenter.

Proposal Submission and Deadline:

Please submit proposals by June
30, 2003 to:

Cathy Ross

PO Box 20,000 PMB 25179

Jackson WY 83001

Phone: 307-733-8287

Fax: 307-733-5514

Email: rossfamily@wyom.net

From Your Legislative
Councilor: *Nena Germany-
Greer, Evanston*
General Information

American Heart Association needs you to help fight for funding-

The American Heart Association
has developed and launched their
first issue-specific web site
devoted to increasing awareness
about the need for increased
federal funding for heart disease
and stroke research. To engage
people, this new site includes
many specific topics, including
women and heart disease, children
and heart disease, stroke and
others. A prominent feature of the
site is the inclusion of survivor
stories to add passion and "faces"
to research. In addition to serving
as an educational tool, the site

enables visitors to easily contact their Members of Congress about the importance of funding NIH heart and stroke research. Please take a minute today to visit the American Heart Association's new research microsite www.researchsaveslives.org <<http://www.researchsaveslives.org>> and urge your own legislators in Washington, D.C. to increase NIH funding so critical heart and stroke research opportunities are not lost. Even more important, forward this to colleagues friends, family and neighbors, and consider letting your patients know about it.

Department of Education Issues NCLB Guidance for Charter Schools

The U.S. Department of Education has issued guidance on the impact of the new Title I requirements on charter schools. Charter schools are public schools of choice that are freed from many of the traditional rules and regulations governing other public schools in exchange for greater accountability. The guidance provides general information on how No Child Left Behind (NCLB) impacts charter schools, including details on accountability requirements; public school choice; supplemental educational services; and teacher and paraprofessional qualifications. The department also will soon issue new guidance on the Public Charter Schools Grant Program. For guidance, go to:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OII/choic/e/charterguidance03.doc> or
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OII/choic/e/charterguidance03.pdf>

ED Releases NCLB Proposed Rules on Students with Cognitive Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has published proposed regulations on Title I of the ESEA for the academic achievement of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The notice appeared in the March 20, 2003 *Federal Register* that can be found on the Web at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2/422/14mar20010800/edocket.access>

[.gpo.gov/2003/pdf/03-6653.pdf](http://gpo.gov/2003/pdf/03-6653.pdf).

These proposed regulations would clarify statutory provisions regarding state, local education agencies (LEAs), and school accountability for the academic achievement of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and; are needed to implement changes to Title I of the ESEA made by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Comments are due to ED on or before May 19, 2003.

ED is specifically interested in comments on a number of issues, including the following:

- Whether, in proposed Sec. 200.13(c)(1), existing scientific research, state/LEA or national data, and the current state of knowledge support setting the cap at 1.0 percent for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose achievement can be measured against alternate achievement standards for determining adequate yearly progress (AYP) at the LEA and state levels.
- What, if any, significant implementation issues pertaining to the definition of "students with the most significant cognitive disabilities" in proposed Sec. 200.1(d)(2) would arise at the state, LEA, and school levels. Specifically, the Department requests comments on what current recordkeeping and reporting requirements would states and LEAs use to comply with this provision and whether additional information or data will be necessary for compliance.

ASHA is reviewing the proposed regulations and comments will be available on ASHA's Web site. For more information, contact Catherine D. Clarke, ASHA's Director of Education and Regulatory Advocacy, by e-mail at cclarke@asha.org or by phone at 800-274-2376, ext. 4159.

Healthcare

New K Codes for Digitized Speech
Generating Devices - three new

"Temporary 'K' Codes" for speech generating devices (SGDs) will become effective July 1, 2003 and can be found on the CMS Web site at:

http://cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/AB03044.pdf.

HIPAA Regulations Enforcement

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

Privacy Regulations have left many providers wondering how the government will know that they, as a covered entity, have met the HIPAA requirements. Compliance with both the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) rule and the Privacy rule will be primarily complaint driven. Complaints to the Secretary must be 1) filed in writing, either on paper or electronically, 2) name the entity that is the subject of the complaint and describe the acts or omissions believed to be in violation of the applicable requirements of the privacy rule, 3) and be filed within 180 days of when the complainant knew or should have known that the violation occurred, unless this time limit is waived by OCR for good cause. Individuals wishing to file a complaint are instructed to contact the OCR office in their area.

2003 Medicare Audiology Fee Schedule-

2003 Audiology Medicare Fee Schedule Available The 2003 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for Audiologists, now available to ASHA members on ASHA's web site at http://professional.asha.org/resources/reimbursement/MFS_index.cfm

2003 Speech-Language Pathology Medicare Fee Schedule Available

The 2003 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for Speech-Language Pathologists, now available on ASHA's Web site at http://professional.asha.org/resources/reimbursement/MFS_index.cfm

**Department of Defense
Proposes Expanded TRICARE**

Hearing, Speech & Rehab Benefits

The Department of Defense (DoD) released a proposed rule that proposes several changes to TRICARE's health benefits program for members of the military and their family as authorized by the passage of the Defense Reauthorization Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-107). It can be found at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/pdf/03-9153.pdf>. ASHA remains

concerned with several aspects of the proposed rule. ASHA will recommend that: -TRICARE benefits cover rehabilitative therapy for any speech, language, swallowing, hearing, and/or balance system disorder resulting from illness, disease, injury, and cognitive, congenital, and/or developmental delays. -Audiologic rehabilitation, vestibular rehabilitation and cerumen management be added to the definition of "rehabilitative therapies. Your input is strongly encouraged to help facilitate the implementation of appropriate coverage criteria for hearing aid devices, AAC devices, as well as rehabilitative therapies under TRICARE. Please submit your comments no later than June 16, 2003 to Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, TRICARE Management Activity, 16401 East Centretch Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9066. For further information or questions, please contact Maureen Thompson, ASHA's Director of Private Health Plans, at 800-498-2071, ext. 4431 or by e-mail at mthompson@asha.org.

CCCs & Supervision Emphasized in New Medicaid Audiology Standards

The proposed rule on Medicaid audiologist qualifications, published in the *Federal Register* on April 2, 2003 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), will help ensure that audiology services paid under the Medicaid program are provided or supervised directly by audiologists. In brief, an audiology

state license will be the basis for qualifying for Medicaid payment providing that the state's licensure standards meet or exceed the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) or the Medicare definition of audiologists (1993 CCC-A standards). Audiologists who reside in states without licensure, have lesser licensure standards, or who exempt audiologists from licensure by institution or setting (such as schools), will also be required to document that they have the CCC-A or meet the Medicare statutory standards to qualify for Medicaid payment. The proposed regulations mirror the major policy issues advocated by the Association. A letter dated March 24, 2003 from Dr. Ochsner was sent to all audiologists briefly describing ASHA's involvement and policy positions in the rulemaking process. ASHA urged CMS to undertake the Medicaid rulemaking to issues advocated by the Association. ASHA urged CMS to undertake the Medicaid rulemaking to recognize audiology as a separate profession, strengthen state licensure requirements to reflect the use of the CCCs, tighten and conform the current equivalency loophole to the Medicare standard, and ensure better supervision of audiology services by audiologists. The proposed regulations on Medicaid audiologist qualifications can be downloaded from: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/pdf/03-8021.pdf>.

Confusion over Privacy Rule Compliance

With all the myths of HIPAA Privacy rule compliance circulating, many speech-language pathologists and audiologists are still unclear as to whether or not they are considered covered entities for the privacy regulations. Under the federal regulations, only health care providers who submit health care transactions such as billing electronically or use a clearinghouse for this purpose are required to comply with the privacy regulations. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has developed a coverage decision-making tool to assist health care providers that can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa>

[/support/tools/decisionsupport/default.asp](http://support/tools/decisionsupport/default.asp).

Policy Manual Components

If you are a covered entity, there are many activities that should be underway to ensure compliance. One of those activities is the development of a Policy Manual. Information of development of a Policy Manual can be found at: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/WEDIpapers/smallproviders.pdf>

ANY
CHANGES IN
NAME,
ADDRESS
(HOME AND
WORK),
PHONE
NUMBER,
AND
ESPECIALLY
EMAIL
ADDRESSES
NEED TO BE
SENT TO
JUDEE!!!!!!!

CONTACT HER AT:

jleugers@vcn.com

Thank you SO much. Judee

UW Corner

The faculty in the Division of Communication Disorders have been very busy this year attempting to interpret (☺) and meet the new HIPAA requirements as well as address the new ASHA certification standards that will go into effect for all speech-language pathology students entering our program this coming Fall semester. Here's an update on what's new in our neck of the woods-

New Home! The Wyoming Legislature met in February 2003 and appropriated \$12.5 million for construction of a new College of Health Sciences building. At a total cost of approximately \$18 million, this building will offer state-of-the-art, interdisciplinary teaching facilities and will house our division as well as Nursing, Pharmacy, Social Work, the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, and WWAMI. Construction is tentatively scheduled in Summer 2003 with a public groundbreaking ceremony in Fall 2003. (Drawing provided by Malone Belton and Abel P.C. of Sheridan and Gillette.)

Audiology Update. Like so many other universities across the country, UW had to develop a plan for meeting the new certification requirements in Audiology that mandate a doctoral degree by 2012. We decided against developing an AuD degree at UW. Instead, we are planning to integrate our clinical training program in Audiology into an Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Ph.D. on campus. We are hoping to have this unique five-year (post B.S. degree) program up and running by Fall 2004.

New Faces. We will be welcoming several new faculty and staff into the Division this coming year. Rhonda Fleener will join the faculty as a clinical supervisor in audiology on July 1, 2003. She brings a wealth of experience to the students and we are delighted she has chosen to join us. We have also hired a new faculty member who will be joining the academic faculty in audiology in January 2004. More about her in a later newsletter. Finally, Roxie Knopp came on board May 1st as our new Clinic office associate. Roxie is a veteran of the UW system and we are fortunate to have found her!

Newsletter. We are in the process of developing an annual newsletter to keep our alumni and constituents better informed about the division's growth as well as faculty/student activities. You should receive your copy within the next few months.

WSHA Scholarships. The Division would like to thank WSHA for awarding two UW students with scholarships this Spring. Recipients of these scholarships were Anna Anderson and Cara Hofeldt. Both students are finishing their first year of graduate school in speech-language pathology and these awards will assist them in purchasing textbooks for their summer and fall classes.

Summer Workshop Reminder. WSHA will be co-sponsoring a workshop with the Division entitled, "Supporting students who use AAC to talk, read, and write in class". The workshop will be held on July 12th from 9 am – 3 pm in the Senate Chambers at the

University of Wyoming Union. ASHA CEUs offered. Registration is \$50 (\$60 after July 3rd). For more information or to register by phone, call Denise at 1-877-733-3618 ext 4.

Future Summer Workshops. The Division is hoping to offer two summer workshops in the future (one in audiology and one in speech-language pathology). Let us know if there are special topics you would like to have offered and we will put it on our list. A heads up for next summer-we are hoping to offer a workshop on clinical supervision. This topic seems particularly timely in light of the new ASHA standards!

WYOMING SPEECH & HEARING ASSOCIATION

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2003**

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The purpose of the Wyoming Speech-Language-Hearing Association (WSHA) is to implement and advance training programs and practices in the field of speech-language pathology and Audiology in order to enhance services throughout Wyoming and promote the maintenance of current knowledge and skills.

***** Just a reminder that if you are receiving the Newsletter in paper format and would like to receive it via Email -- contact Gaelynn Hunsaker at gaelynnhunsaker@hotmail.com. Thank you.



Be sure and mark your calendars. The deadline for articles for the Fall Newsletter is **SEPTEMBER 1, 2003**. All articles need to be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, Jeanne Raney, by that date.