

ArkSHA Board Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2020
Zoom

Call to Order by President-Rachel Glade at 2:32 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Rachel Glade-President

Present: Aleecia Starkey-President-Elect

Present: LeeAnn Griffith -Past President

Absent: Kelli Watts-Treasurer

Present: Shayla McCullough-Secretary

Present: Aletha Cook -VP-Elect Continuing Ed

Present: Miriam Stafford-VP Cont. Ed

Absent: Shelly Keller-VP SLP Services

Present: Donna Smiley-VP Aud. Services

Present: Marilyn Porterfield-Best Management

Present: Lauren Rogers- ASHA SEAL

Present: Cheri Stevenson- ASHA STAR

Present: Portia Carr- ASHA StAMP

Absent: Randy Thurman- Lobbyist

Absent: Courtney Sheppard-Lobbyist

Minutes:

Minutes from the previous board meeting were reviewed by the board. No changes were noted.

A motion was made and carried by all to approve the minutes.

Lobbyist Report (Randy Thurman/Courtney Sheppard): No Report

ASHA STAR Report: (Cheri Stevenson):

- Melissa Stone, director of DDS, reported that all guidelines put into place will stay in place until Governor Hutchison declares the COVID-19 emergency is over. Their website will not be updated at this time, but they will provide a notice with the end date.
- If there are SLPs that deal with EIDT or ADDT from more of an administrative standpoint or classroom standpoint, the extra pay for those clients has been approved by CMS. DDS has made the decision to run this payment through the billing system rather than just have facilities turn in a list. This will be much more efficient and assured of getting paid accurately. However, it will slow up those payments. These payments include the extra \$15.00 per day for the clients that are attending the program in person; \$15.00 for any Face-to-Face Wellness Checks and \$7.00 for Non-Face-to-Face Wellness Checks.
- If concerns arise regarding evaluation date extensions with EQHealth, Melissa Stone should be emailed.
- The Bryant School District superintendent reached out to DDS and Cheri was asked to respond about the requirement that school-based SLPs have their ASHA CCC's in order to bill AR MCD. There was an issue at the state level with some districts pushing back on paying for their SLPs ASHA CCC's. Donna Smiley was also contacted about this issue by a superintendent who knows her personally. Donna provided said superintendent with some written evidence regarding the cost of ASHA CCC's, the cost of ASHA members (without the certification charge) as well as language copied from the AR MCD manual. This document will be shared with ArkSHA Board members. There was discussion about incorporating this info into the ISP hearing with legislators and shared on the Board portal and website.

ASHA SEAL Report (Lauren Rogers): Report submitted

- Arkansas concerns, practices, and questions are similar to those being posed in other states in regards to best serving clients due to COVID-19.
- ASHA is a proponent of school choice. Resources for each state are provided on www.edchoice.org
- New Hampshire state association hosts "virtual glass of wine" weekly to share ideas, COVID-19 updates, have breakout sessions, etc. Discussion surrounded this being a membership event with giveaways and for therapists to discuss what they are working on due to positive feedback about town hall meeting.

ASHA StAMP Report (Portia Carr): Report submitted

- CMS announced the expansion of telehealth services for audiologists and speech-language pathologists to Medicare Part B beneficiaries on April 30th. Payments are retroactive to March 1, 2020, and for the duration of the public health emergency.
- Congress only approved 4 audiology CPT codes and 6 SLP CPT codes, none of which covered dysphagia or cognition. ASHA is currently advocating for the expansion of other codes, especially dysphagia and cognitive communication codes.
- Private Practice/Outpatient Clinicians should bill following the same coding guidelines as in person services.
- Clinicians in SNFs are not able to bill services offsite. However, CMS has provided flexibility by allowing the use of telecommunications if the clinician is in the same building or outside the patient's window.
- Hospital Outpatient Department (HOPD) Clinicians are only able to bill if the hospital registers the patient's home as an extension site during the pandemic. This is unclear and the ruling is vague. ASHA is currently working with APTA and AOTA to seek guidance.
- Home Health currently has no provisions for providing telehealth in this setting.
- If service providers collected payment from clients directly, those funds should be returned and Medicare billed instead.
- ASHA began advocating for telehealth through Medicare in November 2019 and will continue to advocate for it to be a permanent option, not just during this time.

Board Reports

Treasurer (Kelli Watts): Marilyn gave a brief report of the financials. Dues received are comparable to 2019 numbers. The Spring CSAP meeting has been cancelled; therefore, no expense will be required.

A motion was made and carried by all to accept the financials as presented.

Past President (LeeAnn Griffith):

- The 2019 Poster Ambassadors would have typically had a photo taken with the overnor when signing the May is Better Hearing and Speech Month Proclamation, but that will not happen due to COVID-19. The board agreed that as things with COVID-19 social distancing improve, and hopefully closer to the convention, we can still figure out a way for them to have a photo with the governor.
- It was also discussed that we consider recognizing Eddie Schmeckenbecher at the annual convention for his service as the governor's sign language interpreter during his daily briefings.
- The Honors and Awards deadline is currently July 15 but will be changed to August 1.
- The board briefly discussed the timeline for board nominations with interest in announcing the new board members at the annual convention in October. Interested individuals (based on 2019 annual convention survey results) have been noted for each open position and will be reached out to. This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

President-Elect (Aleecia Starkey): Still having difficulty recruiting members for the Marketing Committee. Please share names of anyone interested in serving to her.

Secretary (Shayla McCullough): The deadline for second quarter newsletter articles is June 12th. An email will be sent out detailing what has been included in the past. Posts have been made regularly to all social media accounts highlighting Better Hearing and Speech Month.

Vice-President for Speech Pathology Services (Shelly Keller): No report

Vice-President for Audiology and Hearing Services (Donna Smiley): No report

Vice-President for Continuing Education (Aletha Cook):

- Donna sent Patty Prelock's information to ADH to help with promoting the convention. Information was also sent to Jeff Adams and Sheila Smith to increase the convention attendance on that Wednesday evening.

- The Call for Papers was extended to May 15. To date the majority of submission received were student presentations.
- Discussion surrounding web-based/virtual options for the convention if not able to host in person. Aletha, Miriam, and Marilyn will work on possible options and pricing. If recorded sessions, closed captioning needs to be available.

Vice-President Elect for Continuing Education (Miriam Stafford): Working hand-in-hand with the Convention Committee.

Committee Reports

Communications & Technology Ad Hoc Committee (Aletha Cook): No report

Northwest Arkansas Outreach Committee (Rachel Glade on behalf of Amy Faith): Information from their last meeting is posted on the board portal. A conference in Spring 2021 is in the works.

ISP Advocacy Committee (LeeAnn Griffith): ISP hearing postponed to the Fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee continues to meet and are working hard to prepare materials for when they can have the ISP hearing. Janet Deppy from ASHA still plans to attend.

Membership Dues Schedule (Marilyn Porterfield on behalf of Kelli Watts): List of states that are similar in size to ArkSHA compiled and will begin checking with how they manage their dues structure and calendar.

Hearing Loss LiveBinder Committee (Rachel Glade on behalf of Tracy Pate & Krista Scruggs): No report

Literacy LiveBinder Committee (Rachel Glade on behalf of Andrea Hanson): No report

Old Business

ABESPA Update (Rachel Glade): ABESPA has proposed rule changes published on their website with a deadline of May 15th to respond with comments. The Executive Committee reviewed the changes and submitted a few comments. Rachel is also getting with ASHA to evaluate some of the proposed changes.

New Business

Policies & Procedures Plan of Action (Rachel Glade): Going to do a run through of the P&Ps for the June board meeting and will get to the board for review. Examples of other association's policies and procedures were pulled to compare. These will be posted to the board portal.

Strategic Plan (Rachel Glade): Will start a draft to present to the board in June or July.

Directors & Officers Insurance Quote (Marilyn Porterfield): Great American Insurance covers ASHA and offers a discounted policy under them that is 75% of the premium (\$250.50).

A motion was made and carried by all to move forward with purchasing D&O Insurance.

2020 Board Meeting Dates:

- Board meetings for 2020 (via Zoom unless noted): June 12; July 10; Aug 14; Sept 11th; October (At Convention); Nov 13; Dec 11
- CSAP: November 18, 2020- San Diego, CA
- ArkSHA Convention: October 14-16, 2020 at the Embassy Suites Little Rock

Adjourn – at 3:47 pm by President, Rachel Glade

Action Items

Task	Board Member Responsible
Email STAR, SEAL, and StAMP updates with bulleted points to be shared with the membership	Cheri S., Lauren R., Portia C.
Email link to contact legislators to urge Congress to add Medicare telehealth codes	Portia C.
Email Randy and Courtney about contacting the Governor for poster ambassador meet-up prior to or at the annual convention	Marilyn P.
Post honors and awards deadline on social media	Shayla M.
Highlight 2019 ambassadors on social media	Shayla M.
Share names of individuals interested in serving on Marketing Committee	All
Social Media post for Member and Student Member of the Moment nominations	Shayla M.
Research virtual/web-based options for annual convention	Aletha C., Miriam S., Marilyn P.
Reach out to speakers to gauge approval of recorded sessions with a separate contract	Aletha C.
Post policies and procedures examples to the board portal	Rachel G.