ArkSHA Board Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2021  
Zoom

Call to Order by President, Aleecia Starkey at 3:02 p.m.

Ashton Robbins, Student Liaison for the University of Arkansas was introduced.

Attendance:
Present: Aleecia Starkey -President  
Present: Amy Faith-President-Elect  
Present: Rachel Glade -Past President  
Present: Kelli Watts-Treasurer  
Present: Shayla McCullough-Secretary  
Present: Miriam Stafford -VP-Continuing Ed  
Present: Danni Welch-VP Elect Cont. Ed  
Present: Shelly Keller-VP SLP Services  
Present: Charia Hall-VP Aud. Services  
Present: Marilyn Porterfield-Best Management  
Present: Lauren Rogers-ASHA SEAL  
Present: Portia Carr-ASHA StAMP  
Absent: Cheri Stevenson-ASHA STAR  
Present: Randy Thurman-Lobbyist  
Absent: Courtney Sheppard-Lobbyist  
Present: Ashton Robbins: UA Student Liaison

Minutes: Minutes from the previous board meeting were reviewed by the board.  
A motion was made and carried by all to approve the minutes as presented.

Lobbyist Report (Randy Thurman):
• Emailed report on bills currently being followed—approximately 35 bills on the list.  
• Legislative session set to adjourn on April 9, 2021  
• There was no deadline for filing bills this session, but if any haven’t been filed already they “won’t go anywhere”  
• Quickest way to contact Randy is by text at 501-343-4823

Top bills currently being watched for ArkSHA:
• SB289: Conscious bill will be on the House floor, probably Monday March 15th, for final passage.  
• HB1316: Repeal of soda tax- since 1991 funds have gone into the Medicaid trust fund. Bill was amended and withdrawn for further consideration.  
• HB1428: New take on AR Works Bill- complex bill; will take 75% vote to pass—seems to have good support  
• HB1667: Universal Licensing- Filed in the past few days; State Chamber is on top of it too and working on a list of associations that would be against it—ArkSHA will be added to that list.  
• HB1553: Apprenticeships: Tim Boyd with ASHA recommended some changes--Shelly will get those to Randy to visit with the bill sponsor; Aleecia spoke with Carol Fleming to get AEA (Arkansas Education Association) on board/alert; AAEA is lobbying against in order to have public schools excluded

Other:
• Rachel will send information re: legislative advocacy efforts to be placed on the website, in the newsletter, and on social media

ASHA STAR Report (Cheri Stevenson): No report
ASHA SEAL Report (Lauren Rogers): No report
- Majority of conversations surrounding Interstate Compacts and COVID-19 protocols
- Mississippi and Louisiana are working on ISPs—receiving information from ASHA that hasn’t been pushed out yet regarding salaries
- Touching bases with LeeAnn

ASHA StAMP Report (Portia Carr): Report submitted
- **Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act (MAASA) of 2021** will enhance the Medicare benefit by providing critical direct access to services provided by audiologists. This legislation brings Medicare policy in line with evidence-based practices. It also allows seniors with Medicare Part B to have the same access to audiology care provided to veterans, federal employees, and Medicare Advantage beneficiaries. The legislation would also reclassify audiologists as practitioners instead of suppliers. Classification as practitioners under Medicare would enable audiologists to furnish services through telehealth, ensuring continuity of hearing health care in the time of public health emergencies such as COVID-19.
  - Information will be included in the newsletter and posted on social media to encourage support
- **Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) certification** – The MoCA is a cognitive screening tool that’s commonly used by SLPs who work in adult settings. The developer has developed specific guidelines requiring the person administering the test to participate in a training and certification program. After April 1st 2021, access to the test will be restricted to officially certified users. Health care providers who continue using the MoCA Test without being officially trained and certified will be held liable by legal action. ASHA recommends clinicians comply with the requirements established by the entity that created/maintains the test.
  - Information will be posted on social media to inform clinicians
  - Discussion surrounding ArkSHA co-sponsoring a training to ensure that Arkansas clinicians get certified

Board Reports

Treasurer (Kelli Watts): Report submitted
No new updates; **A motion was made and carried by all** to accept the financials as presented.

Past President (Rachel Glade): Report submitted
- **The Honors and Awards Committee recommended and the board voted to approve** changing the current award names making them more general for Arkansas and not match up with ASHA names. Recipients will still be considered for the comparable ASHA award submission. The Kleffner will be renamed the ArkSHA Clinical Career, the DiCarlo the ArkSHA Public Schools, and the Van Hattum the ArkSHA Clinical Achievement.
  - The committee will also review and convert the application process to electronic application only.
  - Award names will be updated on the website.
  - Award winners will be selected using blind peer review with rubric.

President-Elect (Amy Faith): No report
- Amy asked for feedback on the current membership survey shared with the board. It was asked that other recommendations/changes be sent by Monday March 15th
- Committee hopes to create a Marketing video
- Amy compared current membership by region to that of licensees in the state. Comparison chart shown-ABESPA vs ArkSHA membership by region
  - ArkSHA membership underrepresented across the state
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>ArkSHA</th>
<th>ABESPA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Out of State</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Arkansas</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Arkansas</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Arkansas</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Arkansas</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Arkansas</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Secretary: (Shayla McCullough): No report
- Working on the first quarter newsletter. The plan is to have it emailed mid-week next week (week of March 15th) so that it is received before public schools’ spring break.
- Reached out to Harding University for Professional and Student Members of the Moment to recognize

Vice-President for Speech Pathology Services (Shelly Keller): Report submitted
- Majority included in the Lobbyist report
- Will get content to Marilyn to update legislative area of website regularly

Vice-President for Audiology and Hearing Services (Charia Hall): Report submitted
- The Fundraising Committee recommended and the board voted to approve to include 1 convention registration and 1 annual membership for the Better Hearing and Speech Month “Give 5 Campaign” basket. Entries will begin at $5 with tiered packages.
- Spoke with Betty Bass’ son to update website
- It was also discussed that the most recent Betty Bass Scholarship Recipient will be asked to serve on this committee each year.
- A recommendation was mad by the committee and approved by the board to accept Deeni Sterling as a member of the Fundraising Committee.

The Hearing Health Advocacy Committee recommended and the board voted to approve giving one perpetual membership for the designated ArAA Liaison to serve on this committee.
- ArAA may also desire an ArkSHA member serve as a liaison on their board
- A recommendation was mad by the committee and approved by the board to accept Emily Ernest as a member of the Hearing Health Advocacy Committee.

Vice-President for Continuing Education (Miriam Stafford): No report
- Call for Papers is open and will begin being promotion in newsletter and on social media.
- Working on speakers for the convention—many confirmed, just waiting on contracts.
- Working on securing vendors/sponsors—ACH, Pediatrics Plus confirmed. Miracle Kids Success Academy will sponsor again this year.

Vice-President Elect for Continuing Education (Danni Welch): No report
- Working with Miriam on convention committee.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

ISP Advocacy Committee (Lauren Rogers): No report
- Working to get with LeeAnn for status of where they are and will have an update in May.

Membership Dues Schedule (Marilyn Porterfield for Kelli Watts): No Report

Hearing Loss LiveBinder Committee (Tracy Pate & Krista Scruggs): No Report

Literacy LiveBinder Committee (Andrea Hanson): No Report
Old Business

ABESPA Update (Aleecia Starkey):
- Elizabeth has asked that someone come talk about the Interstate Compact at their next board meeting on March 19th at 9am.
  - Aleecia, Rachel, Amy, or Shelly will participate on this call.
  - Want to gain support to work on revamping ASHA Interstate Compact to fit Arkansas

New Business

ArkSHA State of Affairs date for ASHA CE Submission
- Tentatively scheduled for Thursday April 22nd around 6:00pm
- 30 days’ notice needed for ASHA credit to Melanie Meeker
- Start thinking of areas you would like to discuss

Dates to Remember:
  a. Board meetings for 2021: 2nd Friday of the month at 3pm
    i. May 14, July 9, Aug 13, Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10
    ii. No board meeting in April or June
  b. ArkSHA State of Affairs- April 22
  c. CSAP: Spring: Richmond, VA; Fall: Washington DC

Adjourn – at 4:03 p.m. by President, Aleecia Starkey

Action Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Board Member Responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Send Legislative Advocacy info for website, newsletter, and social media</td>
<td>Rachel Glade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post info re: Medicare Audiology and MoCA certification on social media</td>
<td>Shayla McCullough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Send Membership/Marketing survey comments to Amy</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send content for Govt Relations to Marilyn for website updates</td>
<td>Shelly Keller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Think of topics want to cover during State of Affairs</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
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Via Email on March 30, 2021

- A recommendation was mad by the committee and approved by the board to accept Elizabeth Cleveland as a member of the Government Relations Committee.