

PSHA Committee on Dysphagia  
June 1, 2005

Planning Meeting  
4:00-6:00pm  
Ken-Crest Services  
Plymouth Meeting, PA

*Present:* Jim Lemma, Deb Diraddo, Irina Brailovski, Anne Pittenger, Hannah Bell, Pam Smith

Anne distributed a flyer about a free workshop at LaSalle. The Basics of Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES). The presenter will be Cesar Ruiz. Email him at [ruiz@lasalle.edu](mailto:ruiz@lasalle.edu) for information. The flyer does not state if CEUs are offered for the workshop.

*Practice act* and impact of the practice act on our practice. Currently PSHA and PAA have met to have a “united front” as the medical societies have voiced opposition to the SB 119.

*Committee restructuring of PSHA.* Where does dysphagia committee fit within the newly approved committee structure? We are not a separate committee in the constitution, but we are a subcommittee of the speech pathology committee. The reasoning, as explained by the ad hoc “committee on committees,” is that if PSHA had a “dysphagia committee,” then they would have to also have committees such as the “articulation committee,” “fluency committee,” etc. We ARE listed on the volunteer interest/committee pool form so that at least members will know that this group exists.

*CEUs statewide.* A number of ideas were generated regarding increasing the opportunities for members statewide to obtain CEUs through dysphagia committee activities. Teleconferencing and the use of videotaping of CE activities were suggested. Perhaps corporations would be willing to let us use their teleconferencing equipment in exchange for marketing for new grads and students, who would be encouraged to attend the event. Genesis, Ken Crest were companies that were suggested. Pam will find out from Anne Gilbertson if and how it might be possible to obtain CEUs from videotaped CEU activities. Irina and Hannah will look into asking Genesis/Ken Crest about equipment use.

Hannah discussed that many activities fulfill ASHA certification maintenance requirements; they don’t have to be ASHA CEUS, but one must maintain record of attendance and activity content. Find more information at <http://www.asha.org/about/membership-certification/certification/standard7-SLP-guide.htm> (I have read this link and I encourage everyone to do so.)

*ASHA CE requirements, PDE Act 48 requirements, licensure CE requirements:* Each time frame is different. Everyone must maintain their own records.

*Ideas for future CEU activities:* Medicare/third party/codes. Joanne has volunteered to do a workshop on this. More appropriately titled Legislation and Reimbursement. The committee appreciates Joanne's willingness to volunteer for this and we will pencil her in for October 19. This date is pending Joanne's schedule permitting as she was not present to so indicate.

*Evidence based practice* was another topic idea for a workshop. The Temple Community already has this as a topic for CE; a flyer was circulated. I cannot locate any information about this event online. Anyone who has a link, please post it to pshadysphagia@yahogroups.com.

*Statewide workgroups.* A member submitted an idea to collect data on water protocol, Instrumentation protocol. This actually would be best accomplished via a working group to develop the questionnaires, distribute, and compile/analyze the data. It would be a great way to involve the whole state and we present the data at a SID 13 meeting in the future. Anyone who is interested in working on this project please email Pam Smith at lobsterpam@aol.com.

As a result of our CE activities, the committee does have a few hundred dollars in the bank. As this is our committee's money, we should be thinking about what we would like to do with it to enhance our committee's activities.

*Competencies in dysphagia assessment and treatment.* What are people learning in school and how does it translate into on-the-job competencies? Magee has a skill set for employees; a CF must start from the basics; for an experienced clinician there is a waiver but a CF must start from scratch. Magee is in the process of developing a means to review competencies annually.

*Insurance Denials:* BC personal choice, medical assistance, AETNA are denying anything cognitive! SLPs cannot even use cognitive tests and must put everything in language terms. They were denying all 97000 codes.... Started using the 92000 codes. Intermediaries are scrutinizing reports and one of the most disturbing findings is that "Returning to work is a privilege," impacting any therapy working toward that end. ASHA is working on this issue, but a big problem is that there is no empirical evidence to support efficacy of cognitive therapy. This issue supports the ABSOLUTE NECESSITY for our field to research and publish empirical evidence that our treatments are effective..

*The list serve* has 38 members. It is usually fairly quiet, but it is new and is working well for those who take part. We could start asking more questions on it and provide the opportunity for everyone "out there" to respond.

*Specialty recognition from ASHA.* Reasons for individuals not pursuing specialty recognition included "it has nothing to do with my job; not possible to get 300 hours working in academia; doesn't do anything regarding intervention, nothing to do with pediatrics; not hospital based; little interest, good for some people; am I appropriate for

this anyway?? How much does it cost?" Here is information from the ASHA web site on specialty recognition in general.

<http://www.asha.org/about/credentialing/specialty/faq.htm>

Here is information on specialty recognition in swallowing. Everyone is encouraged to read this and we will discuss it further in September. Perhaps we could locate someone who has specialty recognition to discuss the process and whether they feel it was beneficial to obtain.

<http://www.swallowingdisorders.org/>

Our next meeting will be September 14 and this will be a planning meeting. Anyone interested in participating in a statewide work group, please email Pam Smith or post your interest at [pshadysphagia@yahoogroups.com](mailto:pshadysphagia@yahoogroups.com).

October 19 will be a CE event. Joanne Wisely will speak about Legislation and Reimbursement

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Smith, Ph.D.