

NH SPEECH-LANGUAGE HEARING ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
2/11/14

PRESENT: Todd, Vicki, Erin, Pam, Gina, Barbara, Laura

1. Last months minutes: said that a Board member had asked Gina for a recommendation for a slp in Meredith but it was a school speech path looking for a private provider in the Meredith area.
2. We have decided to cancel the March conference. Would like to consider having a single speaker event in the late spring/early summer. It is important to us that the subject be topical and current and that we make the best decision we can for the membership and then move forward. Gina suggests the naturopath who is treating autism, taking into account genetics and nutrition in conjunction with occupational therapists. His name is Dr. Jared Skowring. We think that we need to offer at least 6 CEUs to get enough people to come so we wonder if he could put together a 7 hour offering. This is a different management approach to autism that might be of great interest to our members. Gina will contact him tomorrow to see what he thinks. We are aware that it would appeal more to school based and private practice folks than to medical-based slps. June thinks that this topic would be of interest to more than slps – to ots, parents/families of people with autism, etc. We can contact the president of the NH Occupational Therapy Association and other groups to send out an eblast. SpEd Directors could also be alerted to this. Laura mentioned she had been to an evening event for a few hours that was held in a small venue. She sees this as a possible new venue for getting CEUs and wonders if it would be worth considering. There were about 50 people there. She could work all day and then attend. She found it very convenient. People also said Sat. conferences tend to be well attended.
3. Board Positions: Todd is trying to reach out to ASHA – Susan Adams is our regional person. He wants to get ideas as to how to get more interest in what we are doing. He's contacted the surrounding state organizations. Maine's president said they're at about 15% membership and having similar challenges. The VT president also said they're having difficulty getting members active and involved. Our task is to think about what we want to look like next year and in two years time. Our audience doesn't see us as valuable like they did years ago. Todd feels that we are doing a lot of things for our membership. Barbara wonders if our membership is mostly older practitioners or not. Todd could not answer this at this time. Gina feels we are all working towards things but that we do it in a vacuum - nobody sees it, feels it, cares about it. She is feeling very frustrated about this.

Todd would like to try to fill some of the Board positions this year. Gina envisions that we consider changing what we look like as an organization. June suggests a retreat to have time to discuss this big topic.

- We have concerns that if we are not a viable entity, then the Dept. of Ed. might want to step into making changes to our profession.....Laura shared that she was very involved with the Dept. of Ed. in the past. Alternative 4 years ago was only approx. 20-30 people. This was in the early 2000's. Laura is on the licensing board now and she said that there are a lot of slps in the state that are licensed – there is not a critical shortage. UNH has a loud voice and is very protective of their program.
4. Continuing Ed: Vicki was contacted about CEUs. Starting with this licensing cycle, 50% of our CEUs must be physically attended. If you have to have 30 hours every two years then ½ of the 15 hours need to be clinical and 7.5 have to be in person. That is about 1 ½ conference that must be attended in person every 2 years.
 5. Membership: renewals should be starting 3/1 Erin reminded us. She suggests we eblast a reminder. She wonders if we should think about a reduced fee? Todd would like to not change our fee, he feels it is reasonable and his research shows that we are right in the middle of what state's charge. Todd suggests Erin touch base with Cass about this when Cass returns from vacation. Gina says that research shows 20 or so eblasts are necessary before they have effect!! Todd suggests Erin send an eblast and not wait for Cass to get back.
 6. NH Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders met last week. They are continuing to work on needs assessments associated with the grant they are a part of. Orientation was offered to 2 members, June being one of them.
 7. Vicki passed out copies of our constitution. All the members at tonight's meeting have a copy now. We need to update this.
 8. SLP advisory council seat to ASHA. It is a 2 year thing. Todd got an email from ASHA saying that the NH advisory council seat is vacant and did he know of anyone that might be a good candidate? Todd will forward the email to the board. Is anyone interested in doing this? Vicki would be interested in doing one year of it but plans to only be in NH for one more year.
 9. Erin: She asked how many people Gina's proposed topic for the spring conference could accomodate? Gina said 20. Erin wonders that if Jared can't do a full day, what about he does a ½ day and Gina does a ½ day? She wonders if that can be a possibility? Gina doesn't think Granite State College would be a problem. However, if we get 90 folks who come to Jared's part, and Gina does the other half then there are only 20 free-standing plugged in computers. If folks bring their own devices, there is danger that the bandwidth at the college wouldn't be able to handle it. Vicki suggests the tech people at the school might be able to answer that.
 10. Laura said that she has to resign from the Board. She started in 1999. She has devoted many years and many hours to our organization and we thank her for that! She will continue her work with the NH State licensing board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING 3/11/14 at HealthSouth