

MSHA Business Meeting 3/29/2012

Since our last conference, I have been busy completing the ASHA Leadership in Healthcare Program. I was selected for this program last Spring based on my personal leadership statement and project submission which was to create a guide for future MSHA VP's of Healthcare. This included an initial face-to-face at the ASHA Healthcare Conference in Maryland and was a year-long commitment filled with Leadership Webinars and Team Meetings. The purpose of this program was to assist me in developing my skills as a leader. It was a very fulfilling experience. I am pleased to announce that I graduated from the program this month. As I continue to serve as VP of Healthcare additional information will be added to the guide as needed. The MSHA Healthcare Guide was developed to serve as a "living" document with the understanding that future VP's will make revisions as necessary. The most important thing that I learned while developing the guide was that the role and responsibilities for VP of Healthcare are not that complicated. It is the time commitment that poses the biggest challenge. That being said, a wise woman once told me, "Many hands make for light work." That is why I would like to encourage you to get involved and join a MSHA committee if you currently do not.

I had the privilege of nominating the two individuals who were appointed and currently serve in our MSHA STAR and SMAC positions. I collaborate with them regularly to discuss speech pathology and audiology services in our state. I would like to encourage each and every one of you stay current with healthcare issues and contact me if you discover any new policy changes in MS that may adversely affect your services. The Healthcare Committee was established to assist with these matters. In order to better assist you, please be prepared to supply us with appropriate documentation representing the changes.

I coordinated legislative day at the Capitol this year. We used a different approach which included handing out MSHA Logo coffee mugs to the legislators in the rotunda while advocating for services. This was in lieu of a sit down breakfast as we have done in previous years. Legislative day was very successful and we plan to continue to utilize this new format. I would like to encourage your participation with legislative day next year. Our visibility in the Capitol is important.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine D. Gibson, M.S., CCC-SLP