

2003 ANNUAL REPORT
Vice President for Clinical and Professional Affairs
Carol T. Lee

Thank you to the SCSHA membership for my opportunity to participate in the function of our state organization! The past year was indeed a dynamic one in which many changes were implemented. I have learned a great deal from the other members of this Board and look forward to the second year of my office. We are fortunate to have the degree of professional dedication which is reflected among the leadership of SCSHA, at both the Board and the committee levels. Committee activity under this vice presidency follows:

Ethical Practices/Professional Standards---Chaired by Crystal Murphree-Holden, this committee developed and revised the ethics complaint form which is now available on the SCSHA web site. The committee receives and monitors all professional ethical concerns expressed by SCSHA members. Members are encouraged to view/use the complaint form on the web site if the need arises to address an ethical violation.

Hospitals/Rehab Facilities/University and Community Clinics---As chair of this committee, Carol Pollock has attempted to survey a sampling of hospitals and rehab facilities in the state regarding salary range of SLPs, types of procedures offered, and fees charged for procedures. Plans are to build upon this initiative next year by expanding the contents and list of recipients of the survey and to determine the best method of delivery (postal service vs. e-mail) to facilitate the greatest response. The initial survey, sent to a small sample of hospitals, was done via e-mail with poor response.

Medicaid (Ad Hoc)---Chaired by Sarah Scarborough, the Medicaid committee has attempted to gain information regarding reimbursement rates for SLP and Audiology services in SC and to compare those rates to reimbursement rates in neighboring states. Identifying and making contact with Medicaid information sources within SC has been a challenge. Notification was received by Medicaid providers in SC that service rate reductions and program reductions would be effective as of 1/1/03 due to the midyear 5% budget reductions to all state agencies.

NOMS---SLPs in our state are encouraged to participate in ASHA's National Outcomes Measures Study! Beth Fleming has served as the chair of this committee and reports the following:

K-6: 12 registered facilities and 12 registered users
Adult: 8 registered facilities and 34 registered users
Pre-K: 6 registered facilities and 4 registered users

Hopefully, these numbers will increase as a direct result of the training at all levels which is included in the annual Conference sessions.

Private Practice---Eula Boylston chairs this committee. Through an open forum held at Conference she hopes to increase communication and support among those professionals who are currently in private practice or contemplate entering private practice in the future. The identification of common interests and needs for future professional development is being targeted.

Research---Julius Fridriksson has pulled together a group of professionals around the state interested in encouraging research among SLPs and Audiologists. He has targeted educational training programs and medical facilities and is encouraging collaboration of research efforts in

our fields. Increased interest is the desired outcome of a panel discussion on research at Conference.

Schools---Gail Murph has worked diligently to increase communication between SLPs in the schools and the state Dept. of Education. Her committee has requested the use of the SCSHA listserv to more promptly and directly deliver communication from the state department's Office of Exceptional Children to individual SLPs in the schools. The details of how to technically create this link are currently being addressed.

State/Federal Agencies---Pam Pendleton's committee is concerned with past and future state budget cuts which may demand position reductions among state agencies. Much is dependent upon Governor Sanford's method of addressing health care service provision in state agencies. The combination of agencies under one umbrella is a possibility.

Student (Ad Hoc)---Interested students in training programs around the state are currently being sought for this committee which is designed to function as a liaison between students in SLP and/or Audiology and SCSHA. The student's perspective is sought for convention planning and to provide input to SCSHA on issues of concern in the student community. Ideally, a representative from this committee will serve as an ex officio nonvoting member at SCSHA Executive Board and Council meetings. Current representatives are Ervina Armstrong of SC State University and Cheryl Moody of Columbia College. If you are a student interested in learning about and participating in the function of your professional organization, please contact the VP for Clinical and Professional Affairs directly, your university's student organization advisor, or the SCSHA office (scsha@scsha.com). Students in all our state's training programs are welcome!

First Sound---I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as the SCSHA representative to the First Sound advisory council meetings during the past year. This is a program coordinated through DHEC which monitors the statewide newborn hearing screenings in SC. As of October 17, 2002, a total of 76 infants in SC have been identified with a confirmed hearing loss through the efforts of the First Sound program. Follow-up/early intervention on these infants is being tracked. Our state efforts have been lauded as being ahead of those of most other states in this endeavor. A presentation at the annual Conference by representatives of the First Sound program provided SCSHA members with more details on the function and progress of this impressive initiative.

Many thanks to the committees and their chairs for all the time and dedicated service offered this past year!