

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

EB Office: Advocacy

Vice-President: Kelli Pierce MA, CCC/SLP

1. Primary Accomplishments/Legislation in the year 2016 - 2017:

- SB 655 – ABA licensure bill
 - Met with Rep. Callton in October 2016 to discuss licensing/registration of behavior technicians
 - Met with DHHS representatives in November 2016 to discuss their concerns with licensing of technicians
 - Agreed to let bill pass without interference WITH the caveat that MSHA work with committee in development of general rules
 - CURRENT STATUS: bill passed December 2016; plans to meet re: registration of behavior technicians and
- SLP General Rules – Updated
 - Rules/changes went into effect in March 2016
 - Confusion re: physician supervision requirements for “physically invasive procedures;” updated rules are in conflict with other statutes
 - CURRENT STATUS: gathering information and clarification re: impact on SLPs practicing in the state if physician needs to be physically present; requesting information from SLPs/MSHA members around the state to include in our request to the board to revise the rules to match the statute for general supervision
- Auto No-Fault Reform
 - Bill introduced in June 2016 (at the end of the session before summer break) to cap claims benefits
 - After work from lobbyists, constituents, and multiple organizations, bill fell flat and did not pass
 - CURRENT STATUS: Will continue to monitor as this issue continually comes up
- Information on State of Michigan website re: ASD diagnosis and treatment
 - Began discussions with Tammy Morris of the Autism Alliance of Michigan re: misleading information about Autism benefits in the State of Michigan
 - Information on the website implies that ABA is the only treatment needed and available in the state
 - Scope of practice concerns noted on the website
 - CURRENT STATUS: Will continue discussions with AAOM and other contacts to remedy the situation, provide consumers in the state with accurate information, and advocate for the field of speech-language pathology
- Proposed Medicaid policy changes for SGDs – 1636-DME
 - Letters of opposition provided to Medicaid by MSHA, as well as many other organizations and facilities
 - CURRENT STATUS: No information found re: passage of these changes



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2. Major Challenges:

- Information re: autism and coverage continues to be misleading on State website
 - Focus remains on applied behavioral analysis as the treatment for ASD. Minimal information provided re: speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc.
- Confusion re: impact of SLP rule changes – specifically physician supervision of physically invasive procedures
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3. Plans/Directions for 2016-2017:

- Increase membership and participation in the committee
- Continued monitoring of legislation
- Discuss need/impact of Day at the Capitol/Advocacy Day in spring 2018
- Increase involvement in ASHA initiatives at the state level

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelli Pierce MA, CCC/SLP

VP for Advocacy, Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association