



MICHIGAN SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING  
ASSOCIATION

July / August 2025

Newsletter

Vol. 50, Number 9

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## From the President

Dear MSHA Members,

I hope this message finds you well and that you're able to enjoy some relaxing time this summer.

I am writing to update you on the current financial situation of our association and to outline key measures being taken to ensure our long-term sustainability.

MSHA has been navigating financial challenges that have developed over time. Since taking office in March of 2025, I've prioritized addressing these issues directly with transparency and a strong commitment to protecting the future of our association.



After a thorough review of our financial position, the board and I concluded that difficult, yet necessary, decisions were required. These choices were made with careful deliberation and with the goal of preserving MSHA's mission, values, and ability to serve its members.

Key decisions include:

- **Transition to Self-Management:** MSHA will no longer be working with our current management company, with the contract ending on June 30th, 2025. We are shifting to a self-managed model. The updated MSHA contact information is now reflected in the newsletter and on our website.
- **2026 Conference Update:** Due to financial constraints, the in-person 2026 conference in Detroit has been cancelled. We are actively exploring alternative formats, including the possibility of a virtual conference on March 19–20, 2026. More information to come.

We understand that change can be challenging. Please rest assured that every decision has been guided by our commitment to the long-term health and stability of MSHA. We are focused on building a solid foundation for future growth.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our board members for their dedication and volunteer service. As we move into a self-managed structure, your contributions will be more important than ever, and they are deeply appreciated.

We will continue to keep you informed and welcome your thoughts, questions, and support as we navigate this transition together. Your active engagement in the association will be fundamental for MSHA to overcome these challenges and thrive in the years ahead.

Thank you for your understanding and continued commitment to MSHA.

Warm regards,

Ana Claudia Harten, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
MSHA President

# Advocacy & Legislative Updates

## Federal Updates:

Click the links for important information and resources from ASHA: [Executive Orders Impacting Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology](#) & [2025 ASHA Public Policy Agenda](#).

## State of Michigan Updates:

[SB 230](#) calls for up to \$20,000,000 in 2025-2026 for LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) professional learning for educators in pre-K, kindergarten, grades 1-3, and additional elementary school educators and pre-K to grade 12 certificated special education personnel with endorsements in learning disabilities, emotional impairments, or speech and language impairments.

[SB 180](#) maintains unit rates in effect from FY2020 for medical consultants performing disability determination services, including SLPs.

[HB 4484](#) modifies coverage policies for SLPs.



## Calling all MSHA members who are working in a school setting!

Your Public Schools Committee would love to know what's going well in your local settings, what barriers exist, and how MSHA can make your workloads a little lighter.

Please take 5 minutes to complete our Spring survey and let us know what you need:

<https://forms.gle/BsixpiK4CNJ8bCrr7> .

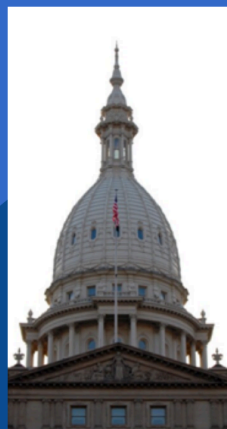
Thank you for all of the ways you support your students and families everyday!

## Coming soon! MSHA CE Library!



MSHA is currently developing on-demand Webinars to keep you informed on the latest trends and help with your CE needs.

Look for more information to be announced very shortly!



## Kudos Alert!

A big shoutout to our MSHA VP of Advocacy, Kelli, for delivering oral testimony in support of Rep. Meerman's HB 4509 (Audiology & SLP Interstate Compact) on 6/25/25 in Lansing! Thank you for being a strong voice for our profession and access to care!

#MSHA #Advocacy #HB4509



Kelli Pierce, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
VP of Advocacy



## Support Our Mission

Your donation helps us connect, empower, and advance our community through meaningful programs, advocacy, and resources. Every gift makes a difference - thank you for supporting our work!

Check donations can be sent to:

MSHA

P.O. Box 45, Buchanan, MI 49107-9998

To make a donation via credit card, please scan the QR code below



The **Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA)** is a tax-exempt 501(c)(6) organization, EIN 23-7179613. Contributions to MSHA are not tax-deductible. No goods or services will be provided in exchange for the contribution.

## MDHHS Therapy Provider Liaison Meeting

**When:** Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-1:30pm.

**Purpose:** Offer providers an opportunity to discuss Fee-for Service (FFS) Medicaid policy concerns and issues.

[Here is the link for the official Medicaid L-Letter](#)

Providers interested in attending this virtual meeting may register by emailing their name, email address, organization/office name, and telephone number to Adriena Hall at [krulhalla@michigan.gov](mailto:krulhalla@michigan.gov).

## MSHA Outstanding Health Care Clinician Award

Nominate a deserving clinician for statewide recognition!

Visit [MSHA Awards](#) for more info and to complete a nomination form.

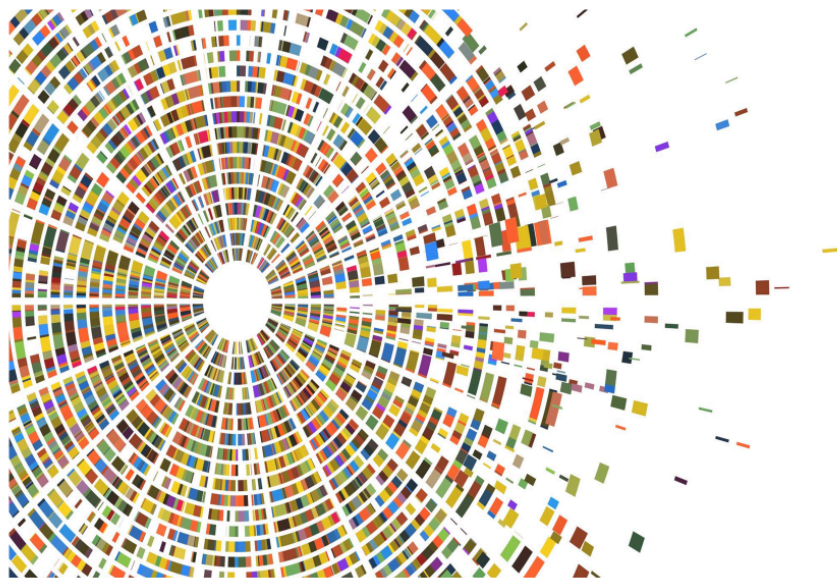
Deadline: August 1, 2025





# Public Schools Committee Update

## Calling All MSHA Student Members!



*The Student Affairs  
Committee wants to hear  
from you!*

## Student Affairs is here to help!

Contact the Student Affairs  
Committee with your  
questions - We are here to  
serve YOU!

Kathy Rigley:  
[Katherine.rigley@wmich.edu](mailto:Katherine.rigley@wmich.edu)

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Are you interested in a mentorship program?

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Are you curious (or nervous) about graduate  
school?

---

Want to learn more about the SLP or AuD  
profession?

---

Would you like guidance on how to seek job  
shadowing opportunities?

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Are you wondering about the job market and  
what to expect after graduate school?





# Volunteer with MSHA – We Need You!



The **Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association** is looking for passionate volunteers to support the mission of our organization - assistance, awareness, & advocacy in communication sciences & disorders

Complete [this survey](#) to express your interest!

Advertising space in the **Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) e-newsletter** is available as a service to our members and the broader community. The inclusion of any advertisement does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or promotion by MSHA of any company, organization, product, or service mentioned or advertised.



**Lawrence Kashat,  
MD, MSc**  
**LARYNGOLOGIST**

Dr. Lawrence Kashat, a laryngologist at Mid-Michigan ENT in East Lansing, collaborates with speech-language pathologists across the state to create personalized, comprehensive treatment plans.

Dr. Kashat completed his Bachelor of Medical Science at the University of Western Ontario in 2009, followed by a Master of Science at the University of Toronto. He earned his medical degree from MSU's College of Human Medicine in 2016. Dr. Kashat went on to complete his residency in Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery at the University of Connecticut. He then pursued advanced fellowship training in laryngology at the University of Michigan, finishing in 2022.

**If you have patients in need of specialized care for voice, airway, or swallowing disorders, Dr. Kashat has immediate availability.**

## Clinical Expertise

- ▶ **Voice**  
Hoarseness, the aging voice, voice fatigue, professional voice care, neurologic voice care, vocal tremor, spasmodic dysphonia, vocal fold nodules/polyps/cysts
- ▶ **Throat**  
Lump in throat, throat irritation and drainage, throat pain, cancers or lesions of the throat, tonsil problems, recurrent strep infections, throat clearing, allergies, throat tightness
- ▶ **Airway**  
Airway obstruction, cough, trouble breathing, pediatric obstructive sleep apnea, tonsil enlargement

### REFER A PATIENT

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MSHA Virtual Healthcare Conference

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SPEECH PATHOLOGY

PROMISE, PRACTICE, AND  
PROFESSIONALISM

Identify current and emerging  
applications of AI in clinical  
speech-language pathology.

Evaluate the potential benefits  
and limitations of AI in  
supporting clinical decision-  
making.

Describe key ethical and  
professional considerations  
when integrating AI into  
clinical care.



**Richard Zraick, Ph.D.,  
CCC-SLP, CHSE**

Co-presenters: Dr. Sam Atcherson and Dr.  
Bonnie Slavych

**September 25, 2025**

**6:00 - 7:30 pm**

**Register Now:**



*CE credit pending  
organization approval*

### Registration fees:

MSHA Member  
\$35.00

Non-Member  
\$60.00

Students  
\$15.00

**Register**  
**Now!**

*Contact Us*

*Follow Us on Social Media*

P.O. Box 45, Buchanan, MI 49107-9998

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**Conference Inquiries:** [conference@mislha.org](mailto:conference@mislha.org)  
**CE-Related Inquiries:** [CEAdmin@mislha.org](mailto:CEAdmin@mislha.org)

Executive Board & Advisory Assembly

