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PRESIDENT'S CORNER. BY: Kerri Phillips

Welcome to new and long-standing members of NCSB! As your 2016 President, I am excited about the upcoming year. The Board of Directors met in March to plan the Fall Conference. Board members include Kerri Phillips as President; Alison Lemke as President-Elect; Gregg Givens, Past President; Amy Goldman, Secretary; George Purvis, Treasurer, Glenn Waguespack, Editor; Doreen Oyadomari, Event Planner; and Board members Nahale Kalfas and Vickie Pullins. In addition, a warm welcome is extended to the newest Board member, George Murphee. Robert Ranieri continues in his role as NCSB Administrator.

In January members of the NCSB Board of Directors held a conference call with ASHA to continue discussions regarding NCSB's involvement with licensure portability. As we continue to move licensure to the next level in consumer protection, licensure portability is an issue that demands our attention as licensure boards. What does this mean to state boards? This is a discussion that we plan to continue at the Fall Conference, a discussion that will be led by the keynote speaker as a representative of the Council of State Governments.

While our hands are full as practicing speech-language pathologists, audiologists, board administrators, public members, and board attorneys, I would like to encourage you to become involved in NCSB. In particular, I encourage you to participate in the upcoming conference October 20-22, 2016. The conference will be held in Santa Fe, and details regarding the hotel are elsewhere in this publication. Alison Lemke, President-Elect, is conference chair and asks that state boards provide her with issues that may be of interest to attendees. I invite all members to contribute to NCSB and to assist in expanding our membership. New, as well as long-standing member boards, repeatedly voice how beneficial it is to discuss issues and gain perspectives from across the nation. Thus, one of my goals is to keep state boards informed of timely issues and topics.

I believe that using electronic and social media assists in distributing information in a timely, cost-efficient manner to the membership. Our website, www.ncsb.info serves as the central information portal within NCSB. Additionally, Amy Goldman facilitates our presence on Facebook. Please consider joining our profile "NCSB" and help us share information.

While NCSB continues to facilitate discussions among state boards, we want to remain dynamic in 2016. Please join us in our mission to facilitate communication among state licensure boards. I am honored to serve as President this year and welcome you to become more involved in NCSB.

Respectfully,
Kerri Phillips
2016 NCSB President

28th ANNUAL NCSB CONFERENCE HELD IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

The 28th annual NCSB Conference was held in Charlotte, North Carolina October 8-10, 2015. Prior to the conference, a number of individuals participated in the Board Member Training where an administrative law presentation covered statutory authority, rulemaking and the disciplinary process. A mock disciplinary hearing with the audience serving as the hearing panel provided attendees with experience in tracing the disciplinary process from the initial letter of complaint to the testimony of witnesses to the imposition of sanctions. Following was a presentation utilizing ethical situations and dilemmas to provide experience in receiving, reviewing, and resolving complaints. Attendees received a flash drive reference manual that contained samples of state licensing laws, licensure board exams, and characteristics of licensure across the country.

Serving as the keynote speaker for the conference beginning on Friday, October 9, 2015, was Ellen Fagan, Director of Continuing Education at ASHA. Dr. Fagan's presentation focused on the timely topic of interprofessional education and how the professions are changing to address this need. Following that presentation, the attendees divided into small groups to discuss universal licensure and patient abandonment. Of particular interest was the next presentation addressing the FTC and its ruling against the NC Dental Board. This supreme court decision is sure to impact state licensing boards, and it is anticipated that future presentations will focus on this topic.

An update on the Praxis Exams was followed by a presentation on media inquiries and how boards should address these. Also discussed was an update on the NPDB and a panel discussion of administrators that discussed rules and regulations among the states. A Friday evening reception sponsored by the NC Board allowed the attendees additional opportunities for networking and discussing of issues facing regulatory boards.

Saturday morning began with the ever-popular state information exchange where representatives from states discussed successes and challenges pertinent to their respective boards. A discussion of telehealth and its impact on regulatory boards, as well as its impact on the professions as a whole, provided attendees with additional "food for thought" and ensured that this was a topic that will continue to be discussed by representatives from regulatory boards.

Utilizing comments from participant evaluations, the NCSB Board of Directors has begun planning the 29th Annual NCSB Conference which will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 20-22, 2016. Details about the preliminary program are included elsewhere in this publication.

NCSB SOLICITS NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

Each year at its Corporate Business Meeting, NCSB recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the professions through their involvement with licensure. Two awards have been established to honor individuals, and these include Honors of the Association and a Special Recognition Award. Briefly, Honors of the Association is intended to recognize an individual for his/her exemplary contributions to NCSB, to a licensing board in their state, or to an individual employed by an organization or other entity that addresses regulatory issues/concerns for the professions. The Special Recognition Award is given to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary commitment and contributions in the area of regulation at the state level. Criteria for these awards and detailed nomination procedures can be found at www.ncsb.info. NCSB encourages member boards to submit nominees for these two awards. Recipients will be recognized at the Business Meeting on Friday, October 21, 2016.

CALL FOR NCSB BOARD NOMINATIONS

NCSB is seeking nominations for fill the positions of President-Elect and one board member.

In keeping with the Bylaws, the President-Elect must be selected from the current Board of Directors. Directors eligible to serve as President-Elect are:

- ◇ Gregg Givens
- ◇ George Purvis
- ◇ Amy Goldman
- ◇ Glenn Waguespack
- ◇ Nahale Kalfas
- ◇ Doreen Oyadomari
- ◇ Vickie Pullins
- ◇ George Murphee

The requirements for a member of the Board of Directors are that the nominee be either a board member or an individual member from a state board that is currently an NCSB member. Such individual may be a licensed speech-language pathologist, a licensed audiologist, a board administrator, a board attorney, or a public member of the board.

A call for nominations will be sent to member boards in late Spring. Once the nominations have been received, an official ballot will be forwarded to member boards for voting. The individual will be announced at the Fall Business Meeting and will take office January 1, 2017.

IN MEMORIAM, EUGENE COOPER

NCSB was saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Eugene B. Cooper. For 30 years he served as chair of the University of Alabama's programs in audiology and speech-language pathology and as director of the University of Alabama Speech and Hearing Center. He will be especially remembered by NCSB as one of the "founding fathers" of NCSB. Dr. Cooper was a member of the first Board of Directors and was involved in professional licensure for a number of years. His input and insight were critical to NCSB in its formative years. NCSB extends its sympathy to the family of Dr. Eugene Cooper.

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDS FARB CONFERENCE

Vickie Pullins, NCSB Board Member, attended the FARB Forum held in Clearwater, Florida, January 28-31, 2016. With over 200 attendees from 25 states and 2 provinces representing 24 professions, the focus was on mobility and portability of licensure. The attendees took a look at this topic from a legislative perspective, legal perspective, and regulatory board perspective.

Why is this a relevant issue? One could consider the following: the physical movement of licensees, increased telepractice, and pressures from licensees, trade associations, consumers, and politicians. The most obvious question that comes up when discussing this topic is "Where does consumer protection arise?" In regard to the consumer, the issues of access to care, convenience, and confidentiality are raised. In regard to the licensees, the issues of demand, reimbursement, and business are foremost. And lastly, with regard to politicians, the issues of special interests and economics are most important.

The professions cutting the path for all of us are the professions of nursing, pharmacy, optometry, and architecture. A representative from each of these professions shared the challenges they faced when developing their framework for licensure portability.

Although there are legislative, legal, and regulatory perspectives on licensure portability, the most obvious driving force will most likely be economics. The most pressing question seems to be “At what point does state-based licensure reserved to the states under the 10th amendment police powers unduly burden interstate commerce so as to invoke the commerce clause and the right of the federal government to regulate a profession/occupation?” It was the consensus of the attendees that we must all get moving on charting our path toward licensure portability for our individual professions.

NCSB BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES GEORGE MURPHEE

During the Summer 2015 election, George Murphee, AuD was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. A licensure board member in Alabama, Dr. Murphee has been a private practice audiologist in Huntsville, Alabama, since 1976. Prior to that time, he worked through the VA Fellowship program in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa. NCSB is pleased to welcome him to the BOD and is looking forward to his contributions as a current member of a state licensure board.

Note: During that election, Nahale Kalfas was elected to serve her second three-year term on the BOD. As the attorney for the North Carolina Board, her legal advice has been invaluable to NCSB, and NCSB is grateful to have her continued input on all matters related to regulation.

29TH ANNUAL NCSB CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN SANTA FE

Plans are underway for the conference program for the annual Fall NCSB Conference. The conference will begin Thursday, October 20, 2016, with the annual Training for Board Members. As in the past, there will be a presentation by a board attorney followed by a mock disciplinary hearing. Then there will be a discussion of ethical scenarios with audience participation and an opportunity for attendees to discuss ethical issues experienced by their licensure boards.

The theme for the conference (October 21-22) is “New Horizons in Professional Licensure”, and the majority of the conference will focus on issues related to licensure portability. Leading the discussion on licensure portability will be Colman Eldridge from the Council of State Governments. Following his address there will be round tables with topics structured to reflect issues raised by Mr. Eldridge. He will be available to discuss these issues in detail as the round table leaders come together to report on their discussions.

Following the corporate business meeting and lunch, individuals from the university in New Mexico will discuss specialty licensure in bilingualism. There will be a Praxis update and then a panel discussing information and communication technology and the conduct of board meetings. To close the day, a discussion of the revised ASHA Code of Ethics will be presented.

Saturday morning will begin with the popular state information exchange where states discuss challenges and successes related to their licensure boards. A representative from each state is asked to present a 5-minute synopsis of issues pertinent to their state board. In response to comments from last year, there will be a session on patient abandonment followed by an update regarding licensure cases in the news.

The program is tentative at this point, and states are invited to provide suggestions for additional topics of interest and possible speakers. A schedule of events will be published in the next newsletter and will be detailed as well in the registration form sent to state boards in late summer.

NCSB SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO PARTICIPATE IN PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Round table leaders are needed for the session related to licensure portability. Volunteer to present how your state board is addressing this issue.

Volunteers are also requested to participate in the panel discussion relative to the use of information and communication technology and the conduct of board meetings and board business. If your board has experience in this area, please volunteer to serve on the panel and share your ideas.

Volunteers for these groups and for any of the other discussions may contact Alison Lemke at alison-lemke@uiowa.edu or call her at (319) 335-8736. NCSB hopes to involve more state boards as Alison plans speakers and panelists for the Conference.

DRURY PLAZA HOTEL AND SUITES TO SERVE AS CONFERENCE HOTEL

NCSB has been fortunate to sign a contract with the Drury Plaza Hotel for its 29th conference. At the rate of only \$109.00 per night, the hotel also offers:

- ◇ Complimentary hot breakfast each morning
- ◇ Refrigerators and microwaves in every room
- ◇ Complimentary cocktails and appetizers at 5:30 each evening (limit 3 drinks)
- ◇ Fire pits and terraces for informal gatherings
- ◇ Health club and spa
- ◇ Meeting rooms in hotel and also in surrounding building
- ◇ Award-winning restaurant
- ◇ Complimentary internet

The hotel is located at one end of the Santa Fe square next to St. Francis Cathedral and is within walking distance of restaurants and shops in the square. For more information on the hotel and its amenities, visit www.DruryPlazaSantaFe.com. Additional information regarding the hotel will be published in the next newsletter, and in the conference registration brochure.

NCSB PRESENTS POSTER SESSION AT ASHA

A poster session entitled “Professional Licensure: Leading the Way in Public Protection”, was presented at the ASHA Convention last November in Denver, Colorado. The poster session utilized maps to depict characteristics of state licensure, including hearing aid dispensing, the doctoral-entry level for audiology, support personnel, exemption-free licensure, continuing education, and telepractice. The session highlighted similarities and differences in licensure from state to state and was viewed by university personnel and students, as well as professionals currently serving on state licensure boards. NCSB hopes to submit information for a similar poster to be presented at the 2016 ASHA Convention in Philadelphia.

NCSB SOLICITS YOUR OPINIONS

NCSB wants to involve members of state licensing boards in the planning for its annual conference. Please comment on the following, and send your comments and feedback to the President-Elect at alison-lemke@uiowa.edu.

Please suggest possible conference locations, preferably in a state that is a member board. Remember that many areas are considered high-cost and are therefore not considered in deference to state board budgets.

What influences your decision to attend an NCSB meeting? Check all that apply, and feel free to share with past and present licensure board colleagues.

- _____ Location (state, city)
- _____ Location (near tourist attraction, shopping)
- _____ Location (ability to get direct or only 1 connecting flight)
- _____ Cost (travel expenses)
- _____ Cost (registration)
- _____ Cost (hotel)
- _____ Hotel amenities (internet, breakfast, other)
- _____ Program topics
- _____ Ability of my board to pay all/part of my expenses
- _____ Conference timing (days of the week/dates)
- _____ Other (please specify)

NCSB BOARD MEMBER CREATES COMMUNICATION DISORDERS SCHOLARSHIP

Doreen Brown Oyadomari received her undergraduate and master’s degree at Florida State University. As an undergraduate she received a scholarship to live in the dorm from the Southern Scholarship Foundation. She went on to receive a PhD and worked in the VA system where she retired as Chief of Speech-language Pathology at the Birmingham VA Hospital in 2006. In 2015, some forty-seven years since she left Florida State University, Doreen remembers how much financial aid meant to her and to her career. She has established a scholarship through the Southern Research Scholarship Foundation. The scholarship will assist with housing for individuals (either undergraduate or graduate) majoring in Communication Science and Disorders.

Doreen has provided invaluable service to NCSB as the unofficial “event planner” for the annual conference. She negotiates with hotels, plans meeting rooms and equipment, as well as meals for those attending the annual conference.

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