

# THE OSHA COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON SPEECH-LANGUAGE & HEARING ASSOCIATION

2020 Issue 4 (Winter)

## Letter from the President

by Janet Wagner



As we enter the home stretch of what has to be one of the most memorable years in history. I want to give everyone a huge round of applause for persevering through the difficult times, continuing to grow, and staying positive. This has not been an easy year, but it has been a year that taught us something about ourselves and our community. So please take a bow—you deserve it.

Thank you to everyone who attended our first fully virtual OSHA Fall Conference. At the beginning of 2020, we had every intention of having an in-person conference; however, COVID-19 had other plans. With fewer

than 13 weeks to spare before the conference was scheduled to start, Rik Lemoncello, his committee members, Court Street Consulting, and Darla Torkelson (SpeechTherapyPD) pulled off nothing less than a miracle and transformed the entire conference to a very successful online platform. By launching a fully virtual conference, OSHA was able to provide an amazing line-up of presenters on a variety of topics with the same amount of CEUs in a format that kept us all safe.



Ring in the New Year, please welcome our new slate of officers on the OSHA Board:

- President Kelli Murdock Eickelberg
- President Elect Melissa Link Cole
- Past President Janet Wagner
- VP of Scientific & Educational Affairs Megann McGill
- Committee Chair Teresa Roberts

*Inside!*

Executive Board members who will be returning include:

- VP of Finance Kerry Mandulak
- VP of Governmental Affairs Elizabeth Ebensteiner
- Secretary Audrey Gutzwiller

As my closing thoughts in wrapping up the OSHA Strong theme, I encourage all of you to think about what might be within your personal bandwidth for 2021. We have many opportunities to get involved and support our community. Become an OSHA member and/or join a committee. There is something for everyone.

*Stay healthy and safe!*

*Janet*

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## 2020 OSHA Virtual Fall Conference *Success*

by Rik Lemoncello, PhD, CCC/SLP, VP for Science and Education

Several years ago when I agreed to run for the Vice-President of Science and Education position on the OSHA Board, there was, of course, no way to foresee that my third year of this three-year term position would bring the added challenge of a global pandemic. That said, one of the Board's goals has been to develop the tools to make our Fall Conference also available for online live streaming and post-conference viewing. The annual OSHA Spring Conference has demonstrated feasibility and success with this model. Nothing like a pandemic to make this happen for the annual Fall Conference! I am pleased to report that our first ever fully online live conference was a resounding success.

I extend my sincere thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to the more than 350 participants who attended the live, online Fall Conference. The staff, Board members, and volunteers who made the conference happen appreciated your patience, grace, and flexibility as we all navigated these uncharted waters. We had a very successful conference with 35 different concurrent sessions and 24 poster/technical sessions to share new findings, reinforce best practices, and call us to action in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. A few technical glitches were quickly resolved by our amazing staff and volunteer teams, and each session occurred as scheduled. I look forward to reviewing the conference feedback, sharing the data with the Board, and using it to make decisions about future OSHA conference options.

This conference could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of many folks collaborating behind the scenes. I am so grateful to Darla Torkelson and her team at PDconvention.com, who ran the conference technical website. This event also could not have happened without the organization, attention to detail, customer service, and follow-through from our hard-working OSHA staff at Court Street Consulting: Laoreal Williams and Kate Cochran. Many thanks to the OSHA Board members who stepped up to volunteer as moderators for our live sessions, and to the other OSHA volunteers who filled in as room moderators and live customer support representatives. THANK YOU!

Finally, I would like to welcome Megann McGill, PhD, CCC/SLP, as the newly elected Vice President of Science & Education to the OSHA Board. Dr. McGill will be taking over this role for the next three years, and I look forward to collaborating with her conference planning team and passing on the reins. I know she will continue to bring amazing presenters and educational opportunities to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Thank you, Dr. McGill, for your interest in this important work—who knows what 2021 holds in store for conferences!?



**Good news!**  
**Recorded sessions will be available  
for on-demand viewing very soon!**

*Continued on page 3.*

**If you attended the live conference:**

- Thank you for your participation in the live event and for your flexibility with follow-up ensuring your certificates of attendance were accurate. At this point, all finalized certificates have been completed. If you have not received your certificate, or still need to correct errors, please contact [info@pdconvention.com](mailto:info@pdconvention.com) **ASAP**.
- Not all presenters gave consent to record their sessions. If you would like to watch the 26 recorded sessions and visit the 24 poster/technical sessions, you will be able to purchase an **“educational pass”** for **\$25** to access the post-conference site. The additional fee covers the cost to be able to offer ongoing technical support if needed.
- Participants can earn a total of 15.5 hours of CEUs (1.55 ASHA CEUs). If you already hit the maximum during the live conference, you will not earn any new CEUs. If you did not reach the maximum during the live conference, you can earn up to 15.5 total CEU hours. A new certificate will be available after completing on-demand sessions.

**If you did not attend the live conference:**

- **Spread the word!** Any SLP wishing to view the 26 recorded sessions and visit the 24 poster/technical sessions will be able to purchase a “CEU pass” for **\$290** (OSHA members) or **\$360** (non-members) to access the on-demand conference sessions.
- Participants may earn up to 15.5 hours of CEUs (1.55 ASHA CEUs) by viewing the recorded sessions on-demand.

Please stay tuned for details, instructions, and the link to access the on-demand conference site.

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## A Light in the Time of Darkness

by Sara Starlin

When the Almeda Fire ripped through the towns of Phoenix and Talent, staff from Phoenix-Talent School District jumped into action, including Kelly Reid, one of the district's speech-language pathologists. Though initially evacuated from her own home, she stepped in to collect food donations, gather supplies for families, and connect families to resources. Using supplies from a DonorsChoose.org project, she and a team took toys and social stories to kids living in temporary housing, helping to explain about the fire and giving them some sense of normalcy. Kelly has volunteered with World Central Kitchen and Red Cross to hand out food, recently helping to distribute about 800 burritos! Because she knows that pets are an important part of her students' lives, Kelly has also been collecting cat food and making blankets for the pets that have been separated from their owners. Through all of this, Kelly has continued to do her job as a speech pathologist at an elementary school!

## *10 Tips for Telepractice Assessment*

from the OSHA Telepractice Advisory Committee

- **Connect** on video with clients and/or their parents/guardians before the session to review the technology needs, test audio/video, and review general expectations.
- **Practice** your assessment tools via telepractice before your evaluation session.
- **Consider** writing a script for telepractice evaluations, including what you'll say, what you'll ask parents/guardians to say/do, and when/what you'll share (via screen share or document camera).
- **Use** publisher websites to understand how you are allowed to use test materials you already own or how to access digital assets. (To start, Google the specific "publishing company" and "letter of no objection.")
- **Provide** a blanket or comforter on hardwood floors to minimize noise from toys and manipulatives when working with young children.
- **Consider** headphones for older children and adult clients to reduce distractions, maintain attention, and separate caregivers from content of the evaluation.
- **Plan** out the caregiver's role in reinforcers and behavior management for assessments with heavy caregiver involvement.
- **Tempted** to skip the oral mech exam? With caregiver support for additional lighting and camera position, you can get up close and personal on your video platform. Include details in your report on what you were and were not able to observe.
- **Set** aside time to debrief with the caregiver or facilitator afterward to keep side conversations to a minimum.
- **Obtain** consent prior to providing any telepractice services. This is required of SLPs and audiologists in Oregon. The consent may be verbal, written, or recorded and must be documented in the patient/client's permanent record.

The OSHA Telepractice Advisory Committee (TAC) is a resource for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and other health professionals interested in telepractice across the state of Oregon. TAC is available to respond to clinical practitioners, consumers, and administrators with current, relevant, and ethical advice related to telepractice.

Do you have questions or ideas about telepractice in Oregon? Are you interested in joining the Telepractice Advisory Committee? Contact us at [OregonTelepractice@gmail.com](mailto:OregonTelepractice@gmail.com).



## 2021 Changes to Medicaid Reimbursement

By Cynthia Green

As many of you may have seen, the proposed 2021 Medicare outpatient fee schedule includes significant cuts to reimbursement for SLP and Audiology outpatient services. CMS projects a 7% decrease in payment for outpatient audiology services and a 9% decrease in outpatient SLP services in 2021.

The proposed changes also include some increases for SLP evaluation codes (roughly a 10% increase for the codes 92521-92524), as well as new CPT codes for audiology and permanent expansion of CTBS (Communication Technology Based Services).

**For more extensive information on the proposed changes, please see:**

<https://www.asha.org/News/2020/2021-Medicare-Part-B-Proposed-Rule-Includes-Coding-Changes-Significant-Payment-Cuts/>

**For more information on the ASHA Advocacy effort:**

<https://www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/medicare/Potential-2021-Medicare-Part-B-Payment-Reductions/>

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# Images in the History of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology in Oregon

by James Huffman, Warren Johnson, John Tracy, and Glenn Weybright  
OSHA History Committee

**Robert English, D.Ed.**  
1919-1992

## Education

B.A., University of the Pacific  
M.Ed., University of Oregon  
D.Ed., University of Oregon

## Recognitions

ASHA Fellow  
Honors of Oregon Speech-Language  
and Hearing Association, 1976

Robert English taught speech communication in the Beaverton School District in 1950 until he moved to Portland State University in 1965. For many years, he coached local television celebrities in hygienic and efficient voice use and articulatory precision.

The founding of Portland State College (now Portland State University) grew out of the Portland Extension Center/General Extension Center for which English taught courses, beginning in 1958. In 1964, Dr. English participated in a summer speech clinic held in Shattuck Hall on the PSU campus. Later that same year, he was chosen as the founding chair of the Speech and Hearing Sciences Program within the Speech Department, which he led for 10 years. About that same time, he received a federal grant enabling him to hire faculty and purchase equipment. Further growth under English was supported by government grants and university funding. Word came back from the U.S. Office of Special Education in Washington, D.C., that his grant applications were so well written that all subsequent ones were funded in full. This was great news, since earlier ones were only partially supported. In 1968, Dr. English led the development of the Master's degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences and later the initial accreditation by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Former graduate student and advisee Glenn Weybright said about English: "He was a loyal friend and advisor. He was a mentor before it was trendy. He was interested in my growth and development. He taught me to write tightly and study harder than I ever thought possible. He encouraged me and nagged me. He was my friend and enemy at the same time, and I loved him for it."

From the beginning of English's tenure at PSU, he consistently showed he was a good judge of faculty and students for the program, according to Robert Casteel, PSU Professor Emeritus. Casteel went onto say of Dr. English: "In a nutshell, he was a great judge of people, an outstanding writer, and a dedicated leader."

Dr. English saw a need to train more audiologists and speech-language pathologists to meet the growing number of children and adults identified with communication disorders. Today, he would be viewed as a strategic thinker, which includes embracing the future, and a mentor/coach. By choosing strong students and the right faculty, he had the vision to create a solid training program that would sustain itself. He developed the funding for it first through federal support and later through a university budget. He also considered student learning as a top priority. He coached students out of their comfort zones to rise to levels of competence beyond their expectations. Dr. English embodied many characteristics of a successful leader and teacher in higher education and the professions.

*Continued on page 8..*

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