



## ASHA Public Policy Agenda Framework

- Each issue objective assigned to priority levels:
  - Highest Priority
  - Priority
  - Monitoring
  - Planning
- Based on:
  - a) Importance to the ASHA members and those they serve;
  - b) Immediacy and likelihood meaningful action will occur.
- These priorities are **not absolute**, and can be **adjusted according to opportunity, importance to membership, and resource availability.**

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## ASHA's Public Policy Agenda 2011 Development Process

*Based on ASHA member input to the  
Government Relations & Public Policy Board*

March-May:	Request to ASHA Committee Chairs & State Presidents
May-June:	Member Input Solicited ★★★ input ↑ over 2000 comments (20% increase over previous year) ★★★ Online survey
July-August:	GRPP Board Deliberations
September-October:	ASHA Board of Directors Review & Vote to Accept
November:	Approved 2011 PPA available to share at 2010 Convention

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## 2011 PPA – Request for Input

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## Process

- Our goal is to ensure member and staff input in the identification and prioritization of issue objectives for the Association's Public Policy Agenda.
- ASHA's Public Policy Agenda must be approved by the annual convention in November.

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## Do Your Homework

- Review the 2010 ASHA Public Policy Agenda at [www.asha.org/Advocacy/briefs-agenda/Public-Policy-Agenda/](http://www.asha.org/Advocacy/briefs-agenda/Public-Policy-Agenda/)
- This agenda has been instrumental in focusing ASHA's advocacy efforts that have lead to a number of successes in 2009 & 2010

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## Submitting Your Input

- ✓ Simplified process using Survey Monkey.
- ✓ Visit ASHA's Web site to complete the survey at [www.asha.org/News/Advocacy/2010/Public-Policy-Agenda-Input.htm](http://www.asha.org/News/Advocacy/2010/Public-Policy-Agenda-Input.htm)
- ✓ Submissions must be received by June 30, 2010
- ✓ Additional notices will be e-mailed to members as well as posted in the June 8 issue of *The ASHA Leader* and other ASHA e-newsletters

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## ASHA's Public Policy Agenda

### *2011 Outreach & Input*

- Letters to state presidents & Government Relations chairs
- All members solicited via e-mail (at least twice)
- Listservs, e-newsletters & *The ASHA Leader*
- Question on PPA Outreach:  
How can we further encourage state input into 2011 Public Policy Agenda?

## ASHA's Public Policy Agenda

### *Recent Changes*

- Access & Coverage -
  - SLP supplier status (July 1, 2009 Implementation)
  - Move towards comprehensive Medicare audiology benefit
  - Extension of therapy cap exceptions process through 2010
  - Inclusion of habilitative services and devices in HCR
  - Exclusion of hearing aids from HCR medical device tax
  - Procedural codes being converted from practice expense to professional work.

## ASHA's Public Policy Agenda

### *Changes since Last Year*

- Quality & Utilization -
  - CMS studies on therapy cap alternatives
  - Eight NOMS FCMs recognized for Medicare Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)
  - NOMS recognized as approved registry for PQRI reporting
  - Audiology Quality Consortium convened and developed three measures adopted by CMS for PQRI.

## ASHA's Public Policy Agenda

### *Changes since Last Year*

#### Workforce Incentives (Shortages) -

- ❑ \$26,000 federal earmark for Nevada Coalition for Personnel Shortages to address shortage issue
- ❑ NV received recognition for the Federal Teacher Shortage Area Loan Forgiveness Program. SLPs recognized to receive loan forgiveness for working in Title I schools.
- ❑ \$12 million + in state and local salary supplements

## 2010 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

### *Audiology*

## 2010 Public Policy Agenda: *Audiology*

### Audiology-Related Objectives

- Federal-level strategies
  - Expanded Hearing Benefits in Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans (FEHBP)
  - Expand Medicare coverage of audiology diagnostic & rehabilitation services
  - Increased professional development through dissemination of information about research-based practices in audiology; and
  - Increasing Early Hearing Detection & Identification (EHD) federal grants to states, as well as for reimbursement for early intervention services

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## 2010 Public Policy Agenda: *Audiology*

### Audiology-Related Objectives

- State and Local-level strategies
  - Influencing Medicare local payment policies
  - Supporting health plan and insurance appeals
  - Promoting EHD legislation to increase payment & coverage of intervention services
  - Promote funding increases for IDEA Parts B & C
  - Reducing IDEA paperwork
  - Support laws and regulations for improving classroom acoustics and amplification systems using ANSI 2002 standards in school building construction.

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## Questions on Federal, State & Local Audiology-Related Objectives

- What are the greatest challenges for audiologists in your state?
- How will expanded private insurance coverage for hearing aids impact audiologists in your state?
- To what extent do audiologists in your state incorporate rehabilitative services into the delivery of care?
- How effective and uniform are school-based hearing screening programs in your state?

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## 2010 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

*Speech-Language Pathology*

## 2010 Public Policy Agenda: SLP

### SLP Education-Related Objectives: -Federal-level strategies

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization
  - Effective use of multiple measures to assess student progress
  - Consider legislative or regulatory remedies for inconsistencies created between ESEA and IDEA
  - Promote the use of speech-language pathologists in literacy
  - Support a parent's right to know provider qualifications
- Link the CCC's with salary increases
- Conform federal and state policies that regulate the use of support personnel to be consistent with ASHA criteria for appropriate training, supervision, and the delineation of job responsibilities.

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## Questions on SLP Federal Education-Related Objectives

- What elements of the ESEA standards should be changed or aligned with IDEA?
- Would your state be interested in promoting state legislation or regulations to increase participation in early intervening activities using the Response-to-Intervention (RTI) model?
- How would school-based members be impacted with the expiration of access to federal stimulus funds.

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## 2010 Public Policy Agenda: SLP

### SLP Education-Related Objectives

#### - State-level strategies

- Work with state associations to engage key stakeholders on personnel vacancies in schools
- Collaborate with state associations in dealing with threats to reduce state certification & licensure
- Promoting EHDI legislation to increase payment and coverage of early intervention services, enhance follow-up and tracking, and family support services, as well as state Medicaid and private health plans across the age span.
- Promoting funding for IDEA Parts B & C.

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## 2010 Public Policy Agenda: SLP

### SLP Education-Related Objectives

#### - Local-level strategies

- Assisting members facing cuts when ARRA funds are no longer available, IDEA funds and attributing Medicaid funds to SLP Programs
- Advancing salary supplements for CCC Holders
- Reducing IDEA paperwork
- Promoting caseload size/workload policies

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## Questions on SLP State & Local Education- Related Objectives

- How are shortages of SLPs impacting the members of your state association?
- What encroachment threats is your state facing from new or other providers?
- How are Medicaid funds being utilized in school districts within your state?

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## 2010 Public Policy Agenda: SLP

### SLP Health Care-Related Objectives

#### - Federal-level strategies

- Repealing or implementing an alternative to the Medicare outpatient therapy cap
- Increasing EHDI federal grants to states, and reimbursement for early intervention services
- Ensure that appropriate professional work and technical components for audiology and speech-language pathology services are included in Medicare fee schedule payment rates
- Promote access to telepractice services.
- Defining rehabilitative services under new health care reform regulations.

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## 2010 Public Policy Agenda: SLP

### SLP Health Care-Related Objectives

#### - State and Local-level strategies

- Influencing Medicare Local Payment Policies
- Supporting Health Plan and Insurance Appeals
- Influencing State Licensure Policies

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## Questions on SLP Federal Healthcare- Related Objectives

- Is the therapy caps exception process providing appropriate care to Medicare Part B beneficiaries?
- Are (or could) tele-services for SLPs being utilized in your state?
- How will the passage of HCR legislation impact the provision of speech-language pathology services through coverage through private insurance and schools. Is there a need to better define medical vs. education services?
- What are some of the greatest Medicaid challenges in your state?

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## **2011 Public Policy Agenda**

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- ❖ Go to the ASHA Web site to view ASHA's 2010 PPA:  
<http://www.asha.org/about/legislation-advocacy/briefs-agenda/2010PPA.htm>