

A Vision of the Ideal SLP of the Future

Panel Presentation
SLP Summit
New Orleans, LA
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Objectives and Expectations for This Session

- Set the stage for the next round of breakout discussions.
- Roundtables are guided through a series of (logically linked) topics; we presenters are merely to get the dialogue started.
- Started morning by considering the current and changing environments of SLP.
- Now we will create a picture of a clinician *IDEALLY* equipped to succeed in those environments.
- Each take about 20-25 minutes, with time for Q & A.
- Panel comes from different perspectives; points of view; overlaps and departures; comments related to specific work settings but also bring “big picture,” broader perspectives into the discussion.



Look at the cast of the shadows



Perspectives

- Medical Speech-Language Pathology
- Early Intervention
- Settings other than Public Schools
- Administrator
- Graduate Educator
- CAA







SLP Work Environments.....

- What do these the settings require?
- Threats/issues?
- How will SLPs be “valued” in those settings?
- Ideal traits?
- How we might better insure ideal abilities are acquired?



Demographics – ASHA 12/06

- Clinical Service Providers – 81.9%
- Health Care Facilities – 35.5%
 - **Hospitals – 14.1%**
 - **Residential – 7.8%**
 - **Outpatient Clinics – 13.6%**
- Schools – 55.4%
 - **Special School – 2.3%**
 - **Preschool – 9.5%**
 - Elementary School – 25.5%
 - Secondary School – 3.1%
 - Several Schools/Unspecified/College & Univ– 15%

Children's Hospitals

- Family focused, family supported model
- Families in crisis
- Multi-cultural, multi-lingual (nonEnglish) populations
- Young (very young) mothers, prematurity, FTT, and LBW and VLBW
- Physician and nurse led multidisciplinary teams
- Nurse specialists (e.g. Lactation Nurse)
- Overlapping scopes of practice (PT and OT)
- Environment of highly skilled professionals; trained specifically in **medical sciences** at medical centers
- Fast paced; think, respond, speak, write quickly
- Both electronic and paper record retrieval/documentation.



Children's Hospitals

- PICUs & NICUs
- Tracheostomies; enteral or tube feeding; monitors
- Consultation model, drs' orders; heavily directed toward dx and management of swallowing/feeding and to a lesser extent determination of cognitive status/communication status
- Communication, cognition and swallowing/feeding within the context of an array of genetic syndromes and acquired medical disorders, frequently catastrophic in nature and can be terminal conditions.
- Treatment plans determined by LOS and discharge plans
- Cost factors are important (staffing shortages, new graduates)

Adult Hospitals and Medical Centers

- Life changing events for families and patients
- Families in crisis
- Multi-cultural, multi-lingual (nonEnglish) populations
- Physician and nurse led multidisciplinary teams
- Consultation model, drs orders; emphasis on dx and management of dysphagia and cognitive status
- Highly skilled, **medically trained professionals**
- Fast paced; think, speak, and write quickly
- Electronic documentation
- Risk Management
- Trauma, Stroke/Neuro, Rehab, H & N CA, Acute Med/Surg Unit Teams
- ICUs, Burn Units



Adult Hospitals and Medical Centers

- **Cognition/communication and swallowing within the context of the primary medical conditions rapidly changing hour to hour**
- **Metabolic disorders, nutritional disorders, dementing diseases**
- **Medications and impact on cognition/communication**
- **Screening tests, nonstandard assessments**
- **Patient safety (swallowing)**
- **Infection control**
- **Regulations and standards JCAHO and Compliance office**
- **Cost for service delivery (less expensive staff)**



The ASHA Leader, July 20, 2004

Early Intervention

- Family-Centered/
Supported Model
(mandated IDEA)
- Families in crisis, grieving/loss
- Medical and developmental conditions
- Relinquish professional
roles, transdisciplinary
- Family supported tx
- Goals established by the families
- Multi-cultural, multi-lingual (nonEnglish)



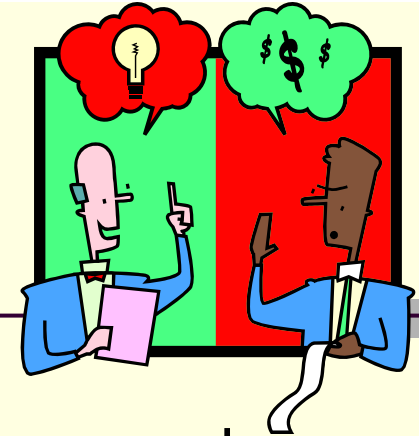
Early Intervention

- Very young children
- Young (very young) mothers/new parents
- Grandparents
- Behavioral management
- Services are provided in a “Natural” Environment (home, day care center), other service options
- Swallowing/feeding disorders & nutritional deficiencies
- Generalist and have specialty training and skills (cochlear implants/aural habilitation, AAC, autism)
- Eligibility criteria, testing, and service delivery are addressed in Part B and C statutes of IDEA.

Threats and Issues

- Economics of health service delivery; policy and politics (IDEA, CMS)
- Encroachment (psychologists, deaf educators, OTs, PTs, nurse specialists, etc.)
- Credential creep - (PharmD, DPT, OTD, AuD)
- SLPs primarily work with professionals trained in medical centers (physicians, nurses, allied health)
- Delivery in natural environment, little experience
- Service delivery in interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary model, little experience
- Value of SLP services is constantly being judged.

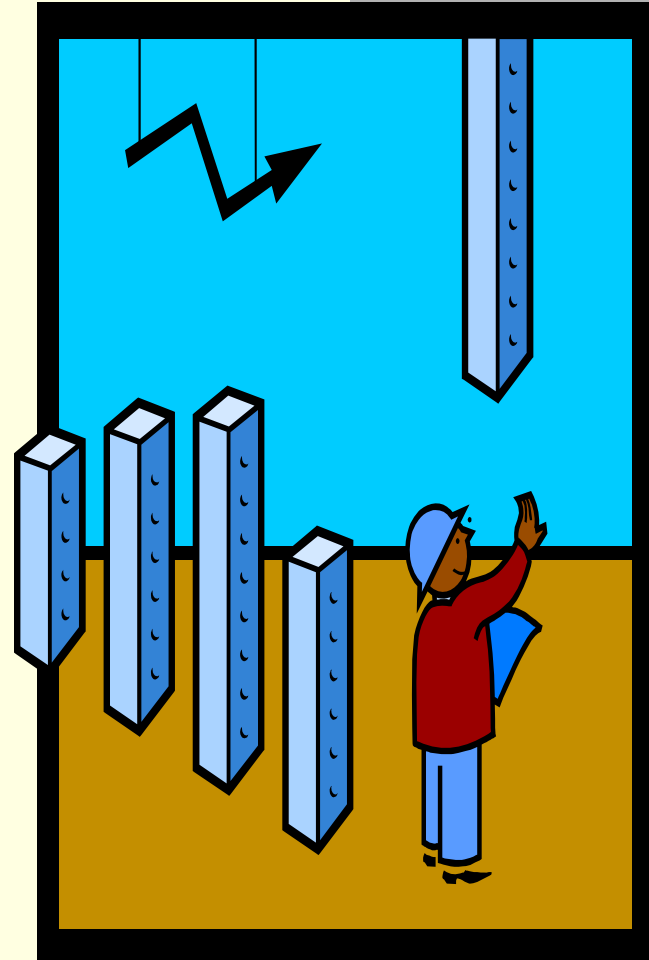
Intangible Threat: Challenge to demonstrate our VALUE



- The VALUE of the speech-language pathologist's services within any work setting lies with the extent to which we bring **unique expertise** and skilled technologies, that no other professional group has, to fulfill an area of need no other group is prepared to address.
- Do the SLP services **significantly** enhance the quality of care and outcomes? Do we make an **important and meaningful** difference in the lives of our clients?
- Does the service reflect **current, cutting edge information and technology**?
- What is the cost : benefit, are **we worth what we cost**, is there a compelling reason for the program or facility to incur the costs for this service?

Past Predicts the Future: The bar continues to raise.

future?



Ideal World



- Compassion, empathy, and respect for others
- Objectivity and professionalism
- An ability to follow rules and ethical principles
- Problem solve independently
- Flexibility; the ability to adapt to the environment
- Curiosity and self motivation; seeks out answers
- Creativity and innovation
- An ability to speak and write intelligently, effectively---and efficiently
- An ability to express a logical argument

Ideally...

- Self awareness and self regulation (Emotional Intelligence)
- Critical thinkers and have a scientific attitude (objectivity, hypothesis testing)
- Comfortable with reading and applying the research literature; life-long learner
- Highly familiar with and able to use and adapt technologies to our needs
- Good interdisciplinary communication and collaboration with other disciplines; respects and values other disciplines
- Understands how the ways in which they contribute to the success of the organization; understands business practice

And....

- An appreciation of *and* an ability to respond appropriately to diversities and individual differences
- Solid grounding in communication *SCIENCES* and *DISORDERS* (anatomy; neuroanatomy; human development; speech science; linguistics, phonetics & phonology; genetics and developmental disabilities; family systems; counseling; theory-based, evidence based practices across all disorders; Med-SLP, etc.).
- Leader and a team player; supports collaboration
- Positive attitude and a good work ethic
- Sense of humor
- Speaks more than one language
- *Career* oriented attitude (degree, license, and CCC provide the privilege of entry into a profession not just a ticket to a job)

VISION of IDEALS

Shooting for: multilingual, multicultural, tech-savvy, business-minded, humanist-leader-clinician-scientist



Thanks

The word "Thanks" is rendered in a bold, bubbly, purple font with a thick black outline. The letter 'h' is replaced by a brown hand with fingers spread, pointing upwards. Three bright green, jagged shapes resembling sparks or lightning bolts emanate from the top of the hand. The text is set against a light blue, trapezoidal background that tapers from left to right. The entire graphic is centered on a pale yellow background. A thin purple horizontal line is positioned above the text, and a grey rectangular bar is located on the right side of the purple line.