Minutes of the OSPA Executive Board  March 26, 2007

Members present:
Rob Kubick           President
Krista Hickman    Secretary
Ann Brennan    Director of Legislative Services &  Professional Relations
Cheryl VanDenBerge Business Manager
Sue Johnston Central Representative, Fall Conference Co-Chair
Jay Bahnsen Central Representative, Fall Conference Co-Chair
Elaine Semper Elyria/Lorain Representative, Spring Conf Co-Chair
Valorie Walcott-Mendelson AFFIC Liaison, Raffle Hawker, Scholarship Fund Generator Extraordinaire
Kristen Prough Kent/Akron Representative, Awards Committee Co-Chair
Steven Vonderhaar Southwest Representative
Barbara Scholl Legislative Co-Chair
Chinnon Jaquay Maumee Valley Representative
Juliette Madigan Cleveland Representative / NASP Liaison
Mary Ann Teitlebaum OPA Liaison
Reuben Mosidi Nominations & Elections Co-Chair
Debra Liddy North Central Representative
Jeff York Web Site Administrator
Wendy Eckert Cleveland Representative
George Csanyi Nominations & Elections Co-Chair
Nancy Ruhe Northwest Representative
Terry Bendo Candidate for president-elect

Guests:
Greg Malony Director, Office for Exceptional Children, ODE
Steve Farnsworth Executive Liaison for the Office of Superintendency, ODE

Call to Order   10:12

Approval of Agenda
The agenda was approved with the addition of Award Committee (after OPA update)
Motion:  Christy Prough
Second:  Jay Bahnsen
Motion Passed

Approval of Minutes of January meeting
The minutes of the November Executive Board Meeting were approved as corrected.
Motion:  Steve Vonder Haar
Second:  Elaine Semper
Motion Passed

President’s Report  Rob Kubick

NASP president Carl DiMartino passed away last month. Carl was a past president of the Pennsylvania School Psychologists Association, had been president of NASP once before, and also served as NASP treasurer. Carl was a tremendously dedicated and talented school psychologist. Juliette Madigan sent a donation to the NASP Minority Scholarship in Carl’s memory on behalf of OSPA.

A recent issue of Highlights in Special Education contained an article by Don Saracusa and George Csanyi on the role of school psychologists in OISM.

Rob is looking for two school psychologists to represent OSPA at the NASP Public Policy Institute in Washington to learn how to use grassroots efforts to advocate for change. The basic training is July 15-18 and there are 2 additional days of comprehensive training.
Regional associations and the ancient Ohio map showing membership areas – Jeff York added counties to the map. Not surprisingly, there was some controversy regarding the regional boundaries. Rob e-mailed all the regional presidents directly. Northeast Ohio – Cleveland and Kent-Akron have some concerns. There is nothing in the OSPA constitution that says which counties belong to which regional. The borders will be adjusted as people lobby for their gerrymandered district.

Cleveland – Lake and Geauga counties should be included in the Cleveland region since 100% of the school psychologists from each already are members of the Cleveland Association. Kent-Akron – all but one person in Medina go to Kent-Akron

People of course can belong wherever they wish.

Maumee Valley – Williams, Defiance, Henry and possibly Hancock should be in Maumee

Valorie Walcott-Mendleson suggests that when this is straightened out, we put it in the constitution, along with a paragraph explaining how it came about, since things tend to be forgotten over time

**Motion** to change the map to reflect the Cleveland and Kent-Akron comments as noted above.

**Motion:** Kristen Prough  
**Second:** Juliette Madigan  
**Motion Passed**

**Business Manager’s Report**  
Cheryl VanDenBerg

**Motion to approve new OSPA members**

**Motion:** Elaine Semper  
**Second:** Reuben Mosidi  
**Motion Passed**

**Committee Reports**

**Fall Conference**  
Jay Bahnsen & Susan Johnston  
Jay and Susan are working on the brochure. One contract from a speaker has been returned – Doll.

**Nominations & Elections**  
Reuben Mosidi  
The ballot is ready. They have been waiting for one region that has not turned in a candidate. Candidates are:  
President Elect: Elaine Semper and Terry Bendo  
Secretary: Debby Liddy  
Five of six regions have candidates:  
Central: Luci Secord  
North Central: Billy Shire, Gail Weygandt  
Cleveland: Denise DiMaria-Lopardo, Tad Firch  
East central: Debra Buck  
Elyria-Lorain: Denise Eslinger  
Maumee Valley: Write in

**Motion to approve the slate of candidates**

**Motion:** Juliette Madigan  
**Second:** Chinnon Jaquay

**Spring Conference Committee**  
Elaine Semper & Sal Karanough-Schuler  
They are working ahead for 2008. About 90 have already registered for Spring 2007, which is better than last year at this time. We have a lot of people coming up with poster sessions. Be sure to visit them!

**Research & Technology**  
Jeff York  
Recently there was a brief comment on the list serve, indicating the commenter thought there was some censoring. There is, for the record, no censoring of content on the list serve. The only control on the list serve is that Erick Merkle has to accept the name when someone first signs on to the list serve.

**NASP Update**  
Juliette Madigan  
NASP has over 6000 registered for the conference in New York.  
Elections – Gene Cash from Florida is the new NASP president elect. His background is in mental health
Summer conference brochures are not out for the July NASP summer conference in Cleveland, but they are on the website. The conferences are expensive, but one speaker will be Russell Barkley (who is really, really good…but who charges BIG bucks to speak).

Juliette has received information regarding people taking courses on-line at e-schools who want to take internships in Ohio. She has been telling them to contact one of our universities to see if they can intern through a university. This opens up a whole new area for us.

Discussion:
- The only way to access the state internship money is to have taken an Ohio university-approved program and be monitored/sponsored by one of our universities. It would also depend on whether the distance learning program was affiliated with a NASP approved program in another state. Ann would strongly discourage interns coming into Ohio and using Ohio tax dollars for their internship or we will risk losing the money.
- We will need to talk about whether we need to have anything (position, policy, etc.) that speaks to distance learning. Could someone with on-line training get an NCSP and then get an Ohio license? The short answer is yes.
- What if they are not accessing the state money, and the program is NASP approved, and what if OSPA never heard about an internship situation. Allegedly this has already happened in Ohio. MaryAnn has concerns even if the out-of-state interns are not seeking internship dollars. We have a good internship program in Ohio and we have a reputation in other states. An Ohio internship means something.
- Deb Liddy found a college that offers a PhD on line. She already met the doctorate requirements for that program by what she already did at Kent State for her Ed Specialist degree. She is beyond the time line, but if she had applied earlier, she could have gone to 2 seminars and had her doctorate! This says a lot about our training programs in Ohio! The program Deb mentioned is run by 2 Kent State grads. The Kent State EDS is the same as many universities’ PhD.
- Ann says there is an IUC-adopted process for out-of-state interns. They need to go through Jim Evans (UD). It would be helpful to keep anecdotal information about where the out-of-state interns are.
- There was discussion of “pockets” around the state where there are a lack of training/internship opportunities. The internships tend to be in districts with a lot of psychologists, but most jobs are as singletons.

OPA Update
- OPA is financially secure. There is a 9% cut in Medicaid/Medicare funding.
- Parity is still an issue.
- OPA is buying a new office building. Westerville, downtown Columbus, and several other sites being considered.
- They are still working on tele-health guidelines.
- They are looking at insurance for small private practices — possibly doing something as a group.

Awards Committee
Ray Horn Award — Lucy Simm
Cathy Telzrow
Best Practice Award – Paula Tucker and Maria Kraus for best practice in LEP Identification

Motion to accept the awards committee recommendations for the awards
Motion: Deb Liddy
Second: Nancy Ruhe

Brief discussion of recognizing the interns at the Spring conference. The category on the registration is student/intern, so Cheryl has no way to know who the interns are. Suggestion that Caven McLaughlin at Kent State may have all the interns listed.

Unfinished Business
None

New Business

Organization of New Committee for Ohio Scholarship

The Ray Horn thing – Cindy Reighard and Val are trying to work up something. Cathy Telzrow interviewed him on tape.
Ohio Scholarship – Val is recommending that the board invest some money and hire a CPA who has experience with setting up this kind of thing. We do not want to lose our tax exempt status. Also, these things don’t just run on their own. We need the CPA to tell us what this will be. She does not want it to be a burden to future OSPA officers. There are several people on the executive board and several from IUC who want to be on the committee. They will meet soon to draw up criteria for scholarship eligibility. We need board approval to identify a CPA in Columbus who has experience in this area. Ann suggests contacting someone at the Columbus Foundation.

**Motion for Val to do legwork to identify the people who could do this and the initial consultation cost:**

**Motion:** Elaine Semper  
**Second:** Krista Hickman  
**Motion passed**

Break at 11:06 for discussion of the Achieve Report

**Legislative Issues**  
Ann Brennan

Ann is happy to report that ODE has been asking OSPA to respond to a large number of issues, including the intervention guidelines, which she believes are posted on the web. She will make sure we get a copy of the guidelines. They are not regulations/rules.

ODE has also asked OSPA to work with a small group to come up with guidelines for subgroup size for AYP.

ODE has asked the feds to approve an alternative AYP model.

Major issue in next 6 months will be the Ohio Rules revision process. Rob has identified a task force for OSPA to respond to this. ODE is expecting to have a draft in April.

**Budget bill** was introduced 2 weeks ago, the intern funding is in the budget bill, but is underfunded for fiscal year 2009, because the Shawnee/UD intern group is not funded in that year, and will leave a $400,000 gap. The governor’s educational policy director is aware of the gap and called Ann to notify her and find out how much more money we will need. So somebody is looking out for us!

**Special ed voucher bill** – similar to last session’s bill, but extends the voucher to preschool. It doesn’t appear to be a high priority in the Senate at this time.

Bill that allows school district to determine the school year in terms of hours instead of days – appears to be on its way to approval in the house. Can’t reduce school day to less than 5 hours, but would give flexibility to schools by allowing school districts to extend school days in hours, rather than take calamity days.

**Credential Review Board** – Ann expressed our concerns about making sure the credential review board is credentialing psychologists to the level that school psychologists currently have to have. The board does each review on a case by case basis, takes a body of evidence, and the board says yea or no—even if the person is not certificated. They do this in all categories. There have been two psychologists who have been through this process. One eventually withdrew and the other is still in process. Ann talked to the board about using a set of common criteria for credentialing school psychologists. They suggested that OSPA come up with criteria for them to use. The interpreters did this and that is what the board uses. Discussion:

- Would it not be useful to look at the competency list for interns? That is a pretty comprehensive list of skills to be demonstrated by the end of internship when they face certification. Val thinks that would be a good source to draw from.
- The first year the board was in effect, they only licensed out of state candidates, and only teachers. Mostly they were out of state candidates that held alternate licenses in their state, and then came to Ohio. Now they are considering people within Ohio. It’s not a widely known review board and let’s keep it that way!
- Do we want to come up with something for the board to use? Ann thought she’d get together a small group of trainers.
- There is an area in southeast Ohio that can’t get anyone to come take a psych job.
- Jennifer Kangas says that incomers who hold NCSP are automatically licensed in Ohio. Apparently that has been the practice for some time. They accept that as an equivalency license.
- Is there reciprocity? If a person has the state board of psychology School Psychologist license? Ann says “No.” You have to have the internship and be trained in an Ohio-approved school psych program.
- The other providers (speech, OT, PT) do have reciprocity because the training is the same as both.
- Juliette thinks it was the executive board that shot down the School Psych state license board license as reciprocity because of the expense to our members.
For the good of the cause:
Val – Something on the listserv got her thinking. There are things that we do / interpret / have been told that effect how we do things. How many school districts have the MFE and IEP in the same meeting? Who is on a Multif actedored Evaluation Team (which doesn’t exist in IDEIA)? Who does what? Who meets to determine eligibility? Maybe we should find out what the standard of practice is. Should we do a survey to find out? MaryAnn – Ohio Coalition says it is OK to do both on the same day as long as you notify the parents and document parent input at the meeting.

Juliette – she was telling a group about the new forms from the state we have to use. The auditors want a planning form, but the state doesn’t have a form.
Reuben – sometimes when the state proposes changes, they assume that some of the better things would be kept.
Val – are we doing things legally? If we are going to be world class, shouldn’t we be evaluating ourselves?

Ann – wants to elaborate more on the small groups working on the initiatives. For the Rules revision process, the task force will be the responders who will draft a response based on OSPA’s positions and the executive board will then provide feedback. She doesn’t know how fast the timetables for feedback will be.

George:
As of last week, all single fiscal agents being created by House Bill 116 have been created. ODE is still working on performance agreements with those fiscal agents. As of July 1, 2007 the RSITs, SERRCs, etc. will no longer exist. From May to late June, School districts will have a choice and will be choosing which fiscal agent they will go with. Once they choose, they keep the agent for one full year, but after 2009 there will be no change of agent allowed. OSIM is not likely to exist by name, but the work will continue. (Ann - the regional providers need to be sure to explain that the process is continuing, just the name has changed.) SERRCs were funded by federal money and RSITs were funded by state money. There may be a delay in when money flows to the new fiscal agents, which may in turn delay hiring personnel.

Looking at aligning professional development of OSPA with what the department of education is proposing and what the universities are doing for pre-service. Then will be discussing possibly creating a 3-5 year professional development plan for the association. Rob asked George to do this. Trying to get these people together to look at what we offer on-going state wide with professional development. He thinks we have had a great run lately. IUC is asking if we have a long term guiding plan. We don’t. Would like to get feedback from other interested parties. Ann thinks it could be a real help, and draws from some discussion we had a few years back. MaryAnn shares that one reason she enjoys coming to OSPA is because it differs from what she is getting from the SERRC. She feels that diversity of opinion, information, conversation and disagreement is healthy. Our independence is important to her, and if we are just going to reflect ODE, she will stop coming. Juliette if we can get professional development from the state through SERRCs, why pay OSPA? There is a bottom line to it for us. MaryAnn did try to get university people to come out to do systemic training in school buildings, only one university was willing to come – Ursaline. Effective professional development in on-going, hands on, not big meetings. Rob says maybe we will plug in and meet needs the others aren’t meeting. OSIM is not likely to exist by name, but the work will continue. (Ann - the regional providers need to be sure to explain that the process is continuing, just the name has changed.) SERRCs were funded by federal money and RSITs were funded by state money. There may be a delay in when money flows to the new fiscal agents, which may in turn delay hiring personnel.

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Reuben – making interns feel a little more welcome at our conferences. One of the things Maumee Valley does very well is intern recognition. They recognize the interns at their meetings in the fall.

Steve Vonder Haar – his region is going to have a 3 part conference in the fall. They are inviting clinical psychologists – they will present what school psychologists do, the clinical psychologists will present what they can do for the schools, and an outside presenter will present a successful model.

Greg Malone – Director of the Office of Exceptional Children, ODE
Greg comes from Alaska, where he was director of their office of exceptional children. The broad issues are similar. He is a school psychologist by background. U of Oregon undergrad, Peace Corps, Catholic Seminary, Hawaii and program for the Homeless, School Psych degree from Illinois, itinerant school psych for around 5 years in Alaska, worked for their state department, opened his own business, consulted with the state on school improvement. Alaska was 3-21 and he had preschool directly in his agency.

One of his foci is how we improve outcomes for all kids, after school as well as during school.

Issues:
Upcoming rules review: RTI, OISM, interventions – how will that be best represented in the new rules so that it is not over regulated and still emphasizes intervention and student based decision making, particularly in LD identification. He is in favor of minimal regulation with lots of guidance.

Medicaid – there may be possibly, maybe, could be, good news re: the reimbursement program.

SPDG – the former state improvement grant – OISM – the new 5 year grant is looking at leadership development at the district level -literacy and behavioral improvement through building principal capacity. The proposal was submitted to the feds last week.

(Snow days! The only time school was closed in 15 years he was in Alaska was when the grizzly came in the front door and they all left out the back door! What’s with predicted snow days in Ohio?)

The annual performance APR SPP review is based on the state’s 5 year performance plan – 20 indicators, ranging from the beginning to the end of the process of special ed. They have to report every year to the feds and adjust the plan. There is a process in place. They are collecting feedback from parents and stakeholders. They have to identify corrective action:

   Disproportionality – how are we addressing this at state and local level.

Resources will be increasingly directed toward the findings of the annual performance reports – the questions regarding funding will be: how does it address the state report and what is the bang for the buck?

Greg says he is very collaborative in a professional sense. A good working relationship is important to him. He may or may not agree or act on our input, depending on how it aligns with the state’s directions.

Motion to adjourn:
Motion: Reuben Mosidi
Second: Sue Johnston
Motion Passed

Adjournment 2:57