

LSPA Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired (LSVI), 2888 Brightside Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70820

Date & Time: Friday, May 15, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Elected Officers			
President	Chavez Phelps *	Region III	Brandon Wilks *
President-Elect	Amber St. Martin *	Region IV	Stephen Arnold *
Past President	Candice Dozier *	Region V	Michael Ortego *
Secretary	Katherine Wickstrom *	Region VI	Jamie Smith *
Treasurer	Nancy Alleman *	Region VII	Annie Folse
Region I	Debra Duhe *	Region VIII	Ben Nicholson
Region II	Merriam Kimball *	Quorum = 7	
Standing Committees			
NASP Delegate	George Hebert *	Student Rep.	Daina Lewis *
Child Services	Amber St. Martin *	Nom. & Elections	Fran Gilliland * & Tabitha Godwin
Prof. Development	Kevin Jones *	Public Relations	Keever Hoffman
Govt. Relations	Chavez Phelps *	Publications	Conni Patterson
Membership	Paul Anderson	Spons. & Exhibit	Ben Nicholson
Fiscal Advisory	Nancy Alleman *	Webmaster	Meagan Medley
State Delegate	Open	Historian	Open

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. by President Chavez Phelps.

II. Attendance

See above (* = present)

III. Old Business

- A. Amber made motion to approve minutes from March 6, 2015 EC meeting; second by Nancy. Unanimously approved to accept.
- B. Professional Development Task Force.
 - Chavez asked Kevin to appoint members to the Task Force. Kevin reported that Josh McCormack, from Claiborne Parish, is on the committee, along with Amber St. Martin. Chavez appointed Debra to serve, also. George volunteered to participate.
 - Chavez opened the floor for suggestions for the Task force to focus on. George suggested the development of a model FBA (procedure and forms). Kevin agreed that the task force could create models for various tasks in order to develop the profession. He stressed that anything related to professional development that produces an outcome could be fielded by this committee.
 - Chavez expressed the need to allow the members to communicate to the Task Force their areas of need. He proposed a roundtable session at the conference to be facilitated by the Task Force committee and allow members to give input for future

focus areas of the committee and to also give input regarding the current focus of documenting our impact on student outcomes and the development of an FBA model. Kevin recommended perhaps combining this roundtable with the student poster presentations to increase attendance. Chavez agreed to review the conference schedule and determine if that was feasible.

- Steven asked the task force to keep in mind a multi-tiered approach in developing the FBA model. Jamie recommended that task force identify a happy median between practical needs and scientific validity.
- Chavez suggested surveying membership to determine professional development needs. Nancy suggested sending an email blast as an initial step in seeking input from members. It was discussed that the use of Survey Monkey could be utilized to solicit input through the email blast. Nancy and George stressed that this input could drive the selection of future conference themes, webinars for the website, and possibly summer workshops.

IV. New Business

A. State Capitol Hill Advocacy Day:

- Representative Patricia Smith authored a resolution asserting June 2 as School Psychology Advocacy Day.
- Participants should go to the rotunda on June 2nd and ask to be directed to our table. We will not know the exact location until that day.
- LSPA and LPA will share rotunda. Chavez sought information regarding LPA's agenda since they will be there on the same day. Lucinda LaGrange stated that their purpose was the same as ours, merely visibility and awareness, and that they were not pushing any certain bills on that day.
- An online prep meeting has been scheduled for May 18, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Members who cannot attend the Advocacy Day are encouraged to call their legislators and let them know that we will be there.
- Chavez again asked region representatives to contact 10 members and ask if they would participate.
- Brandon asked if members have expressed difficulty with getting their districts to allow them the professional leave. He stated that his district does not allow their employees to attend capitol lobbying events. No other EC members have had difficulty with this.
- Kevin suggested offering travel reimbursement for students and members to encourage participation. It was suggested that the discussion be tabled until after the treasury report.

B. Louisiana State Board Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) Sponsored Task Force:

- Steven and Francoise attended to represent LSPA.
- Steven reported that it was a positive event, he felt that they were genuinely receptive their input, and that we should continue to attend in the future.

- They reviewed several bills related to mental health, but none of them directly impacted the practice of school psychology.
- They had specific questions about school populations and seemed attentive to their responses. Chavez suggested that we meet with them next year before this event to continue the momentum of School Psychology being invited to the table and our input being valued.

C. Baton Rouge Area Society of Psychologists:

- Chavez has been invited to a meeting next month that will include clinical psychologists. They are seeking information regarding how the LSSP will impact the practice of psychology in this state. He will attend and report a synopsis of the meeting to the EC.

D. LSBEP Professionalism Task Force:

- Amy Childress (representing LSPA) attended LSBEP Mar 6 meeting to address board's attempt to draft rules for professionalism – how to treat and interact with other mental health professionals. Board wants to address public perception that various factions of psychology in Louisiana are not collegial. Amy will keep us informed of their progress.

E. Senate Bill 54:

- SB54 has gone to finance committee May 18. Motion on the floor, but not everyone has voted. Discussion ensued. All of those in favor = 7; all those against = 2; abstentions = 2. Chavez will send letter to Senator Bloom over weekend voicing LSPA support.
- Discussion as follows:
 - Mike reiterated his opposition due to concerns that the decision to include K-3 was not data based and because he feels that school systems will begin falsifying data (i.e., just sending children home, but not entering it as a suspension). He voiced support for legislation that would add suspension rates to the school performance score formula.
 - Steven reiterated his opposition due to concerns that the suspension was not defined as in school or out of school and that if it was out of school, it would result in detention rooms being overflowed. He also voiced concerns about several terms within the bill not being operationally defined. He was concerned that the bill would do more harm than good.
 - George disagreed that it would do harm. He expressed that although the bill was not perfect; it was a step in the right direction to eliminate the practice of suspensions which is not an effective form of behavior management.
 - Debra agreed with George in that we know suspensions don't work.
 - Kevin voiced that he feels we are making data-based decisions, because there is a plethora of research showing suspensions are ineffective and negatively impact academic growth.

- Nancy voiced concerns that it will only look good on paper, because principals will still send students home; they just will stop entering it in the system.
- Mike voiced concerns regarding the motion. He reminded the EC that if we vote to endorse it, we are endorsing it as is; there are no guarantees that Senator Broome will use our suggestions for amendments.
- Amber voiced concerns that the bill listed social workers and counselors, but that school psychologists were not listed. Endorsing it would open the door to getting us included.
- Debra voiced that it should state referral to SBLC for mental health support, as all referrals should flow through SBLC.
- Vote: Yays-Katherine, Amber, Brandon, Chavez, Candice, Debra, Nancy; Nays-Mike, Steven; Abstain-Jamie, Miriam
- Chavez reminded the EC that Patricia Smith is on the education committee and willing to discuss any type of legislation that we may want to propose in the future.
- Nancy asked what the recommendations would be for Senator Broome. Debra asked that referral to SBLC be included with the list already emailed. Chavez read the list that was circulated in the email discussions, which was compiled from everyone's concerns.
- Chavez stated he would send the letter to Senator Broome over the weekend with our endorsement and concerns.

V. Regional and Committee Reports:

- **Region 1** - Debra reported that an LSP research consortium was held recently in her region with approximately 130 in attendance. Also, the TIERS group is creating some online webinars for those needing professional development.
- **Region 2** - Miriam emailed the district to solicit input. She reported that districts are concerned with conducting additional assessments for LAA consideration and discovering that they may meet a new exceptionality. The EC discussed this and the general consensus was that a reevaluation should be opened.
- **Region 3** - Brandon said the SPs in his district asked him to question the EC as to why Act 1 of 2012 specified language regarding school psychologists, but no other disciplines. The EC was not aware of such language. 'New NCSPs would not receive stipend' in revisions of law; other school personnel did not include this revision. Chavez reminded everyone that school psychologists now go through their districts to receive NCSP stipend.
- **Region 4** - Steven had no news to report.
- **Region 5** - Mike had no news to report.

- **Region 6** -Jamie reported that her district found funding for the NCSP stipend through IDEA funds. She also reported that Rapides Parish has 3 positions open. The EC encouraged her to send a job listing to Meagan to be listed on the website.
 - **Region 7** - Annie is on maternity leave; no report.
 - **Region 8** - Amber reported for Ben. School psychologists from Monroe City contacted her regarding concerns about the shortage of school psychologists. There are reportedly 5 positions opening in the region.
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- Debra asked the regional reps to please email her with anecdotal evidence of certification issues. She is collecting data so that she can provide feedback to state department of education as the certification criteria are re-written.
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- **Children's committee** - Amber asked for recommendations for this year's silent auction beneficiary. No recommendations were offered. She requested that the EC approve LouisianaChildren.org as the recipient. They are the parent organization over the Children's Advocacy Centers and CASA centers across the state. The EC unanimously agreed. Amber also reminded EC members to seek donations which are tax deductible.
 - **Government Relations** - chair not present; Chavez reported that a bill has been proposed to recognize annual School Psychology Week in November. Chavez requested permission to buy a table cover with the LSPA logo for advocacy day and to use at future legislative events. The EC agreed that this would be a good investment to promote professionalism.
 - **NASP Delegate** – George reported that he is still learning his role as delegate. He has been impressed with the organization of NASP and their dissemination of information. George highlighted the need for 5-year Strategic Plan. NASP will mail George some school psychology items for Advocacy Day.
 - **Fiscal Advisory** – Nancy distributed account balance as of January 1, 2015. Doing well; we did end in the black last year. Due to increase of conference fees.
 - A motion was made and passed unanimously to reimburse students at the current rate for hotel stay (if they had to drive more than 3 hours) and mileage for any students to encourage student participation in Advocacy Day. Another motion was made and passed unanimously to reimburse members that attend Advocacy Day to encourage attendance.
 - Nancy also reported that the website is going up on their fees. It was suggested that we have Meagan look into what services we were getting for the increase and if we needed to research alternatives. We will discuss options at our next EC meeting.
 - **Treasurer's Report** – approved. See attached.
 - **Student Representative** – Daina reported to EC the university student representatives: Nicholls- has not responded; LSU – name given (but she didn't have it with her); Tulane – Xiania; LSUS – Daina.
 - **Nominations and Elections** – EC needs to work hard during conference to fill two spots.

- **Public Relations** – Keever not in attendance. See Advocacy Day discussion.
- **Webmaster** - Meagan not in attendance. Changes needed on website; Chavez will discuss with Meagan.
- **Publications** - Conni sent out newsletter two weeks ago. Will email blast.
- **Sponsors and Exhibits** – Ben has contacted Pearson, Pro-Ed, Differential Learning, Think Social, Riverside, and WPS via email and phone calls, but so far has had no one respond. The EC discussed asking WPS to buy a table and perhaps give an overview for the ABAS III to entice social workers to attend. Chavez asked Amber to contact them. Kristen Johnson has requested table (Chavez).

VI. Other:

- **Conference Planning**-Chavez reviewed the confirmed speakers (e.g., Dr. Knoff, Macgow will give BASC III and WISC V overview for Pearson, Simoneaux). Planning continues. Next steps will be to invite presentation submissions within the next week or so.
- Nancy asked if we can have a computer kiosk registration station with laptop computers where people could register online and then only line up to pay her if needed (for example, if they had a check from their district and they weren't paying online). This would eliminate the buildup at the registration table.
- Nancy – received an email from Wild Apricot that fees are going up to \$70 per month; need to reduce number of administrators to five. If pay two years in advance, can lock current rate.
- Steven proposed a motion to make voting in emails a separate thread. If we discuss an issue in email, when we make a motion to move to a vote, the motion should be in a separate email thread, to provide clarity, reduce confusion, and help with tracking of the votes and the minutes. It was recommended to use terminology: "I call for the question." This was passed unanimously.
- **5 Year Plan** - In the minutes of the EC meeting held on August 23, 2013, it was decided that the EC should create 5 year plans to create continuity across presidencies and give the organization a common focus to work towards. Through discussion the EC agreed on these 3 goals for LSPA EC to achieve in the next 5 years:
 - Increase Visibility/Awareness of our profession
 - Provide a body of evidence of our impact on student outcomes
 - Increase communication/collaboration between our members and between our organizations and other organizations within the state
- The need to develop measures for our success was discussed. Chavez gave each member a graphic organizer to consider what goals or objectives we could set for our current positions that will help the organization work towards these goals during our tenure. It was agreed that this needed further individual thought and the development of the 5 year plan would be tabled until August.
- The next EC meeting will be August 14 in Lafayette. Chavez will contact the hotel to see if we can get a room there for our meeting for free. If that is not a possibility, Steven will

contact Lafayette schools and request a meeting place. A suggestion was made to invite Mike Comeaux (contact person at state department) to EC meetings. Chavez will contact to see if interested in attending meetings and/or will update us. Debra said that if we invite to these meetings we may be able to discuss our concerns.

VII. Reimbursement.

VIII Adjourned: 3:49 p.m.

Louisiana School Psychological Association
 Treasure's Report as of April 30, 2015

Balance on Hand as of <u>January 1, 2015</u>		\$22100.78
Conference	\$300.00	
Dues	\$210.00	
Total Receipts	\$510.00	
Disbursements <u>1360</u> To <u>1371</u>	<\$16829.24>	
TOTAL INCOME for the months of <u>January 2015</u> – <u>April 2015</u>		\$5781.54
List Any Interest	\$0.00	
List Administrative Charges	<\$0.00>	
Bank Fees	<\$0.00>	
Checks Printed	<\$0.00>	
Total Fees and Bank Charges		<\$0.00>
BALANCE ON HAND AS OF <u>April 30, 2015</u>		\$5781.54
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT		\$24681.40
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS AS OF <u>April 30, 2015</u>		\$30462.94