**Report on National Coalition Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services (NCPSSERS) for OAPSA Conference Sept. 20, 2019**

**NCPSSERS** met **virtually** via Zoom on July 11, 2019 and in person (as well as Zoom) on Sept. 12, 2019 at ASHA Executive Offices in Rockville, Maryland. I was in attendance at both meetings and actually attended in Maryland in person.

In a nutshell, in July, we worked on how to improve our recruitment and retention information/resources and reviewed and made suggestions on a draft infographic. We also reviewed a draft letter to be sent to Senators Alexander and Scott encouraging them to

* Protect and Expand Access to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
* Expand definition of educator to include SISP (Specialized Instructional Support Personnel) so federal grants such as TEACH and Teacher Quality Partnerships are accessible to more special education personnel
* Maintain and Expand Quality Graduate Education Programs
* Address the Critical Shortage of Special Education and SISP Personnel

In September, we reviewed changes in the proposed letter and infographic and for each of those points in the letter we now offer rationale and examples. Consensus of group was that we needed more examples for that letter and so we are trying to find more examples and even considering more surveys. (Example: to find out average amount of student loan debt remaining with various groups such as OT’s, PT’s, etc.)

Ohio’s Related Service Workgroup had not planned to meet after our February 2019 meeting until the fall of 2019. The pieces of our report were finished by February and ODE needed to add some pieces we had just finished in the report and do a final proof but it was done. We had expected it to be given to legislators well before the June deadline but that just didn’t happen. At State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children in August we were told the Superintendent was reviewing the final report and that it didn’t have to go to the legal department. If you go to ODE’s website and type in Search Box “Related Services” you can find the resources we developed You can also get to that same page by going to our OAPSA website, hit the link for Sp Ed & Related Service Staff Shortage and then when you get to that page go to the left hand margin and click on the words Ohio’s Related Service Workgroup to Address Personnel Shortage. The full video we made would be appropriate for New Staff Orientation, to inform administrators and staff about the various related services areas, and to recruit both High School and College students into those related service positions. The long video has also been broken up into individual sections for each area. So, for example, if you click on SLP’s, you will see the information we prepared about SLP’s, you will see the video clip that is designed for SLP’s and you will see the one-page flyer about SLP’s that is printable. I suspect when our group meets again, we will want to do some more tweaking of those videos to correct some inadvertent errors made when they were made accessible. But they are available to you right now. The notice at ODE’s website says that “a report on the work and recommendations will be posted here by June 2019 but that hasn’t happened yet.

Due to Kim Monachino’s Leave of Absence followed by her retirement, Joe Petrarca, Associate Director for Office of Exceptional Children, is in charge of that Related Service Workgroup now. I have sent him some of the OAPSA reports that I had prepared to bring him up to date and connected him to our consultant for that group, Rob Radway. While our work group had planned to meet twice this year, Joe has enthusiastically suggested we meet 4 times this year.

As a result of OAPSA’s participation as a member in the National Coalition OAPSA has added a section to OAPSA’s web site to include articles of interest on Special Ed and Related Service Shortages. It includes information about Ohio’s Workgroup on Related Service Shortage and a link to ODE’s web page addressing the work of that group plus a link to NCPSSERS website which has a wealth of resources. It’s a great resource tool for you to get statistics related to the shortage and does include the memorandum that went out in the spring from ODE regarding options to deal with the shortage of school psychologists.

Respectfully Submitted,

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