

## **KSHA LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR THE 2012 SESSION**

### **Special Education and K-12 Funding**

A large number of KSHA members work in public schools across the state serving thousands of children with communication disabilities. The last few years during hard economic times public education has experienced severe cuts. KSHA supports a restoration of cuts as state revenues are restored.

### **Medicaid Funding**

KSHA supports care for Kansans that is accessible, evidence based, and uses our tax dollars wisely.

### **Children's Initiative Fund (CIF)**

KSHA supports full funding of this program that supports early childhood programs like Early Head Start, the Infant-Toddler Program (Tiny-k) and Parents and Teachers.

## **KSHA**

The Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSHA) is the State Association of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists.

### **KSHA MISSION**

The mission of KSHA is to empower and support audiologists, speech-language pathologists and speech, language, or hearing scientists and to advocate for persons with communication and related disorders.

### **KSHA MEMBERSHIP**

KSHA membership includes over 1000 audiologists and speech-language pathologists, as well as student affiliates from the four training institutions in Kansas: Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, University of Kansas, and Wichita State University. Audiologists and speech-language pathologists are licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment: Health Occupations Credentialing.



**KSHA • 6001 CHEROKEE DRIVE • FAIRWAY KS**

**To locate an audiologist or  
speech-language pathologist near you,  
please call**

**913-362-0015 or 800-248-KSHA  
or e-mail [ksha@ksha.org](mailto:ksha@ksha.org)  
[www.ksha.org](http://www.ksha.org)**



- 1. YOU SPEAK FOR KANSANS**
  - Tips for saving your voice and your hearing.
- 2. THE PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN HELP**
  - Audiologists
  - Speech-Language Pathologists
- 3. 2012 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**
  - Special Education and K-12
  - Medicaid
  - Children's Initiative Fund (CIF)

## AUDIOLOGISTS

are professionals who specialize in the evaluation, diagnosis, and management of:

- hearing and hearing loss
- tinnitus (noises in the ears)
- dizziness and balance disorders

As of 2007, all newly graduating audiologists will be required to have a doctoral degree (Au.D. or Ph.D.). Audiologists are also advocates for hearing loss prevention.

## TO PROTECT YOUR HEARING

- Limit exposure to loud sounds
- Wear hearing protection when in the presence of excessive noise
- Turn down the volume when listening to music players or TV
- Alternate noisy activities with periods of quiet



## SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS (SLPs)

are professionals who specialize in the evaluation, diagnosis, and management of communication and swallowing disorders. SLPs must hold at least a Master's degree.

## MOST COMMON COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

- **ARTICULATION:** inability to say certain sounds
- **LANGUAGE:** may have difficulty following directions, vocabulary may be limited, problems producing grammatically correct sentences; language impairments in children may negatively affect their academic skills
- **FLUENCY:** difficulty producing flowing speech
- **VOICE/RESONANCE:** pitch, loudness and/or quality may interfere with ability to communicate
- **SWALLOWING:** difficulty swallowing liquids or solids effectively; if not addressed can create other medical problems.
- **COGNITIVE:** may have difficulty with memory, executive functioning, problem solving - necessary for independent living and returning to work



## TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY VOICE

- Stretch your shoulder, neck and facial muscles
- Drink 2-4 liters of water a day
- Avoid smoking.
- Use alcohol and caffeine in moderation.
- Monitor medications
- Don't overwork your voice
- Replace humidity. Keep home and office at a relative humidity of 40% or more
- Watch what you eat. Frequent heartburn and a sour taste in your mouth may mean stomach acids are spilling over into your larynx, which may lead to voice problems.
- Use a microphone