What an amazing fall we have had in North Dakota. We recently held our annual 2-day Fall conference in Minot, North Dakota hosted by Minot State University. Thank you to Minot State University and the School Psychology Graduate Program for hosting our organization.

Our Mission at NDASP is to empower school psychologists by advancing professional standards and effective practices to promote healthy environments for all students and to improve student learning, behavior, and mental health.

In line with our mission, our theme for our Fall conference was “Propelling Success for All: Implementing Comprehensive Services using the NASP Practice Model.” Last year NDASP adopted the NASP Practice Model. Our goal is to provide high quality conferences that support your growth in the 10 Domains of Practice.

The first day of the conference we focused on joining our members together around the strategic plan for NDASP and gaining specific skills related to public policy, single subject research designs and technology. Thank you to Dr. Joe Engler, Minot State University and Dr. Lisa Stewart, Minnesota State University-Moorhead for their contributions to the first day.

The second day we were privilege to have Dr. Steven Feifer share on the Neuropsychology of reading and written language disorders. We learned practical knowledge and skills to increase our identification and practice with students who struggle with learning.

At the Fall Conference we were also able to share our new Ad-hoc committee: Early Career/Graduate Student Committee. Matt Steinborn and Kylie Klassen were appointed as co-chairs of this committee. Matt Steinborn is a practicing school psychologist with West Fargo Public Schools in West Fargo, ND and Kylie Klassen is a graduate student at Minot State University. Congratulations to them both for joining in NDASP leadership.

The following is a description of this committee. The Early Career/Graduate Student committee will be a non-voting ad hoc committee with the primary function of supporting the mission of the North Dakota Association of School Psychologists. Responsibilities include collaborating with and assisting the executive committee in planning and organizational efforts central to the mission of the organization. The Early Career/Graduate Student committee will be co-chaired by one early career professional (5 years or less as a licensed school psychologist) and one graduate student from Minot State University.

NDASP was awarded a grant to attend a 4 day training at the NASP office in Bethesda, MA focused on Behavior and Mental Health. I was privileged to attend along with our President-Elect Dr. Joe Engler and our Public Relations Chair Tamara Waters-Wheeler. As we move forward in building our skills related to the NASP Practice Model’s 10 Domains of Practice we will be talking more about how we are behavior and mental health professionals in the school setting.

We are excited to announce our NASP President, Dr. Todd Savage, will be the speaker at our annual Spring Conference.

We want to hear from you. This is a member organization and we want to meet your needs as members. Please let me know how I can better represent you and bring trainings that can support...
News from our NASP Delegate

NASP 2 You ... from your North Dakota delegate –

Terese Schaefer

On a beautiful September 2015 weekend, I spent my days attending the 2015 NASP Leadership Assembly training. Instead of highlighting my witnessing the implementation of truly amazing parliamentary procedure, I think it is important to share some exciting things happening in NASP.

As delegate I was gifted with a new publication: NASP Practice Model: Implementation Guide. North Dakota NASP members are at an all-time high (52 members).

The new NASP website will have its debut the week of our state convention.

North Dakota was 1 of the 5 states chosen to attend training on advocacy and role identification as school psychologists providing mental health.

Thank you all for your dedication to the profession!!

NDASP Practice Model—Domain 1

Data-Based Decision Making and Accountability

School psychologists have knowledge of varied models and methods of assessment and data collection for identifying strengths and needs, developing effective services and programs, and measuring progress and outcomes.

SAVE THE DATE: April 22, 2016

NDASP SPRING CONFERENCE!!

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Todd Savage
NASP President

“Connecting the Dots”
Featured NDASP Member: Shanna Morlock

Shanna is a school psychologist employed by Morton-Sioux Special Education Unit in Mandan. She is currently working on her PhD in Teaching and Learning from the University of North Dakota. Shanna’s role at Morton Sioux is varied and includes assessment, intervention implementation, collaboration with teachers and administrators, and consultation on student progress. She lives in Wilton and likes to spend time with her family, watch NDSU Bison football games, and travel.
Ana Silva – First Year School Psychology Graduate Student

After I graduated in Psychology in Brazil, I spent part of my academic life and one year as professional focused in the Industrial and Organizational Psychology field. This experience opened my eyes for the need of a second language; it was then that I decided to come to the USA for six months. After meeting my husband in the USA, I decided to stay in the country and continue my education.

Having a great passion for children, I decided to look for a career in Psychology where I could work with this age range, as well as, use my previous knowledge and cultural background.

The School Psychology area suited my needs and I decided to go for it. I’m in my first year of my graduated program and have big plans in mind for the future. I would like to work with immigrant children and/or parents, and if it is possible help the field of School Psychology in Brazil with cross-cultural studies.

The field of School Psychology is still growing in Brazil. Even though I had the discipline of School Psychology and an internship of six months in the field in my undergraduate program, it is not a major area.

Recently, a federal law was approved and from now on, every school will have to have a School Psychologist, which is big victory for my country and the field of School Psychology.

Faith Kihuha – First Year School Psychology Graduate Student

My first encounter with children was in 2008. I had just completed high school and I was volunteering at an internally displaced person’s camp. I helped the young children with learning how to read and write. Though the situation was very difficult and traumatic, it was one of my best experiences in life. Counselors would come and they helped with counseling people which speeded up their healing process. This was very inspiring to me.

My dream career at the time was accounting, however, after observing how the psychologists helped the people in recovering and healing I began to reconsider my career and therefore I pursued Psychology for my undergraduate studies. After my undergraduate studies, I worked with children in different communities back home.

One of my key areas of interest was children and education and precisely on how education can help in improving our society’s living standards. The Kenyan government has made major improvements on the quality and the relevance of education however we still are facing several challenges. Some of these challenges are high levels primary school drop, gender disparities which means that fewer girls than boys attend school.
Some Stewart and Boles Recommended iPad apps for Skill PRACTICE

Letter Names and Sounds, Early phonics:
  ABCPocketPhonics,,I Write Words, LittleWriter, WetDryTry, BitsBoard, ABCMagic
(ReadingRaven is a decent comprehensive reading practice app for young readers, but it does cost a bit$)

Sight Words and Vocab:
  BitsBoard (can get “boards” with sight words or make your own, also could be used for phonics)
  ABA receptive or ABA expressive
  Sight Words & Fry Words by Alligator Apps
  Sight Words by 22learn
  Photo Touch Sight Words
  Vocabulary Spelling City

Repeated Reading
  Read Naturally One Minute Reader (pay for different levels/books)
  BugBrained Fluency Level 1,2,3 (more just assessment)
  Apps that Read Aloud: iBooks, Kindle, Tap to Talk, Read toMe, etc
  Others:

Math
  Mathmateer (was RocketMath), IXL (cost$), For younger ones: 123Ninja by Alligator Apps for basic number identification practice, DragonBox (even has some research), Thinking Blocks, Coop Fractions
  Not an app for school but Bedtime Math is designed for home practice – many ages... even has some research!)

Writing:
  MaxJournal:  Create your own journal(s), with images, etc, Sentence Builder (and SBTeen): grammar
  StoryBuilder (and StoryBuilder Teen): Building paragraphs, Writer’s Hat: Story ideas, story starters

Visual Schedules:
  First Then Visual, Visual Schedule Planner (more $ but more customizable)

Social Stories:
  StoryMaker for Social Stories (more $ but more options)
  Stories about Me, Model Me Going Places, Stories 2 Learn

Assistive Technology:
  Tap to Talk, ProloQuo to Go (more $ but more customizable)

Speech to Text
  SpeakIt Text to Speech, SpeakPad

Behavior
  Use any video and editing tool to do your own Video Self Modeling!
  Use Tellegami to have kids create their own “animated” social skills training summary
  Observations: BehaviorSnap, SchoolPsychTools
  Discrete Trial Training/Tracking: SymTrials
  Others:
Lists of App Lists—Dr. Lisa Stewart

For Teachers
Educational Technology and Mobile Learning
http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2012/12/a-list-of-all-best-ipad-apps-teachers.html

Scholastic

TeachHub.com

ESL
Edudemic
http://www.edudemic.com/top-9-fantastic-ipad-apps-esl-students/

Special Education
Spectronics
http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/tools-and-resources/our-apps-for-special-education-list-is-here/

State Government Victoria, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Autism
Autism Speaks
http://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-apps

Speech-Language
http://speech-languageapps.com/

Comprehensive list/app reviews

Cautions:
The above list is by no means comprehensive.
Just because there is a list of apps out there, or teachers/staff are using them, does not ensure that they are good apps. A list is a good starting place, but the rubric should be applied to help determine if the app is actually a good “fit”

Other App rubrics out there:
Tony Vincent Rubric:
http://learninginhand.com/static/50eca855e4b0939ae8bb12d9/50ecb58ee4b0b16f176a9e7d/50ecb593e4b0b16f176aa974/1330908312793/Vincent-App-Rubric.pdf
NDASP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes—October 29, 2015

Call to Order: 35 attendees, Megan Sparrow (treasurer) absent

Secretary Report: Jennifer Stroh gave a brief overview of past fall meeting minutes

Treasurer report: Current Balance on August 31, 2015 was $4853.54 and after conference income and expenditures the rough estimate is $5000.00

Committee Reports

Legislative – Chairperson Wayne Leben: check the ND.gov website for 64th interim session information, consider attending ND Behavioral Health Stakeholders Summit Nov 17, 2015 9:30 to 5 pm in Fargo

Membership – Chairperson Tara Rieger: Current membership 45

Nominations & Elections – Chairperson Kathy Gewont

Newsletter – Chairperson Tara Rieger: Anyone interested in writing an article for the newsletter please contact Sarah How

Conferences Chairperson Joseph Engler: We would like to update our membership list in real time as we had a few new attendees that did not receive information through emails.

Public Relations Chairperson Tamara Waters-Wheeler: We would like to create a Facebook like page to post information. Information needs to be sent to Marcia Martin or Tamara Waters-Wheeler for approval prior to posting. We are looking into Twitter to enhance communication. Any suggestions and ideas send them to Tamara.

Ad hoc Strategic Planning Chairperson Terese Schaefer: Speaking in 1 voice, Advocacy, and Organizational Excellence are the 3 goals for our Strategic Plan, the NASP grant will propel us advocating for recognition as a mental health provider, create pass down logs

Ad Hoc Website - Chairperson Marcia Martin: If you have information to be posted send it to Marcia. If you request the posting of a position in your district let her know if it is filled or discontinued. Let her know if you see errors or technical glitches so she can correct them.


Other Topics

Nominations for Secretary: Terese Schaefer motions Jennifer Stroh to continue and Tamara Waters-Wheeler seconded. Motion passed. Where should next year Fall Conference be located?: Grand Forks is up on the rotation. Marcia Martin will contact school psychs to see if they can organize the conference. Bismarck will be back up. October 6 & 7 and Oct 13 & 14 will be the tentative date possibilities.

Where should our Spring Conference be located?: We would like to have the NASP President Dr. Todd Savage in mid-April and in Fargo due to air travel.

Motion to pursue a federal id number with cost of about $500 by Marcia Martin and seconded by Dr. Joe Engler. Motion passed.

Motion to provide monies for the NASP children’s fund auction of $200 by Tamara Waters-Wheeler. Jennifer Stroh seconded. Motion passed.
GPR UPDATE  by Wayne Leben, Government Relations Rep

It has been a busy legislative season both in North Dakota and nationally. Federal legislation to re-write the NCLB act is pending and awaits conference committee action in the fall of 2016. Given that this is to occur during an election cycle one, can expect that little, if any, action will be taken. I would encourage all members to follow the GPR committee on the NASP site for activity regarding this legislation. For those of you who love to read the actual law, and I know we all do, you can find the Senate version at https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1177, titled The Every Child Achieves Act of 2015. The House version is the Student Success Act, this can be found at http://edworkforce.house.gov/studentsuccessact/.

I would like to add that the federal government does produce a great deal of good information through various agencies. Recently I found this site, http://www.samhsa.gov/nrepp which includes a searchable database of 330 substance abuse and mental health interventions. The NREPP is the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.

At the state level there was a good deal of legislative activity regarding education and mental health. State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler has the Capital Tablet posted on the DPI website at https://www.nd.gov/dpi/news/capitol_tablet/ and this provides a broad review of all educational legislation as well as some specific to mental health and human services.

Another summary available that I would encourage everyone to review is that provided by the Center for Rural Health behavioral stakeholders group. Information can be found at https://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/nd-behavioral-health/legislative-study.

NDASP members should familiarize themselves with this group, as well as the Rural Behavioral Health Network (http://www.ndrbhn.org/about.html).

The state board that works with these groups is found at: http://governor.nd.gov/boards/BoardDetails.aspx?boardid=64.

As always, members should stay abreast of activities at http://www.nd.gov/, specifically the legislative Assembly which may be found at http://www.legis.nd.gov/. North Dakota is now in the 64th Legislative Assembly Interim and legislative committees meet and consider actions for the next legislature. Several of the committees will be addressing issues related to education and school psychology. The Human Service Committee and Education Committee are two that I would encourage members to monitor. A calendar of all interim committee meetings is at http://www.legis.nd.gov/events. The education committee is gathering information regarding restraint and seclusion in the schools. The Human Services committee will likely follow up on those priorities outlined by the Rural Health Stakeholders group. A list of all committees is available at http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/64-2015/committees.

As mental health issues move to the forefront both locally and nationally, it is incumbent upon us, both as practitioners and citizens, to take an active role in this process. Keep yourselves informed---we may need your voice at the next committee meeting or legislative session.