



## Notes of meeting with CPLOL and ASHA, Ljubljana, held on 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 in room E5/E6 Cankarjev Dom

### Present:

ASHA: Sue Hale, President ASHA  
Lemmietta McNeilly Chief Staff Officer ASHA

CPLOL Birgitta Rosen Gustafsson, President, CPLOL (Chair)  
Hanneke Kalf, Vice President (Congress), CPLOL  
Aileen Patterson, General Secretary, CPLOL  
Bent Kjaer, Vice President (Recognition) CPLOL  
Joe Reynolds, Hon. Treasurer, CPLOL

1. **WELCOME/OPENING:** CPLOL President, Birgitta Rosen Gustafsson welcomed Sue and Lemmie to the meeting and thanked them for coming such a distance to Ljubljana for the Congress and to meet with CPLOL Executive. She stated it was indeed an honour for us once more to welcome the President and Chief Staff Officer of the largest Speech-language-hearing Association to our congress. All persons present introduced themselves, giving a brief outline of their SLT background and roles. The definitive agenda was agreed, with expressions from both groups that this was a useful exercise and that further meetings to exchange information and thoughts on development of SLT in Europe, the United States and globally should continue when opportunities such as congresses allowed such exchanges.
2. Birgitta gave a brief update about CPLOL's current activities and the CPLOL representatives outlined some of the changes in health care patterns across Europe, including the development of more social models of care, client focused interventions and emphasis on WHO participation aspects of therapy. Both parties acknowledged there was an increasing need for improving the evidence base for clinical decisions in a culture where targets and costs are often paramount in decision making. . Aileen informed about the CPLOL project proposal to develop EU wide SLT Educational standards and promote best quality education programmes.

3. Sue Hale, ASHA President outlined some of the major issues that ASHA and SLPs in the United States were experiencing and both Sue and Lemmie informed re how they were meeting these challenges.

These included

- a.) ASHA has acknowledged the need to develop research capacity and this is a response to that challenge. As in other countries there is dearth of PhDs in the profession and often SLTs have to study for their PhD in or being supervised by another discipline. An exciting venture has been the setting up of a Foundation with 25 million dollars for grants and scholarships for PhD and research for growing scientists...

ASHA has created a Centre for evidence based research – 4 fulltime members of staff who work on Systematic reviews. The funded research programme works on 6 questions per year

- b) State licensing can create problems and currently there is serious concern re new initiatives in education and the growth of different types of SLPs: “academic therapists” and “Special teachers” being created who do not have the full range of skills and knowledge.

Parents’ voices for qualified professional are being overlooked and there are worries that administrators decide the type of service offered (based on cost rather than quality and using fully qualified professionals)

Possible solutions include mobilizing parents; improving evidence base for high quality speech language /communication interventions etc

- c) Information regarding the significant changes regarding accessibility of healthcare and education given US new presidential administration: With the new administration ASHA sense a real hope for Health Care reform – pharmaceutical companies and new President has a vision for comprehensive health coverage.

It is felt that the new administration is very positive towards health care despite global financial economy

The Association is looking forward to engaging with the new administration

- d) ASHA’s internal focus is on governance and new strategic plan – effective communication as a human right

- d.) Shortage – new programmes in State educations - smaller ones not surviving ASHA is trying to support education programmes with accreditation. Skills and knowledge outcomes embedded.

ASHA is trying to keep the finger on the pulse re new credentials.

4. Impact of economic changes on the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. were discussed
5. Collaborative opportunities between the two organizations were discussed

a.) web based resources ASHA' welcomed CPLOL to use its website and vice versa. (See International resources on ASHA website for information such as custom data sheets on global health facts; ICF etc)

b) ASHA would welcome opportunities for exchanges such as groups of students and faculty members and immersed in the language of the country.

c) Sharing evidence based research questions: Rob Mullen  
[r.mullen@asha.org](mailto:r.mullen@asha.org)

d) Centre for disease control produces statistics  
ICDC stats on deafness hearing and speech – Margaret Rogers CSO  
[m.rogers@asha.org](mailto:m.rogers@asha.org).

6. The meeting closed with agreement that this was a very useful meeting and that CPLOL should seek to send representatives to the next ASHA convention in New Orleans and continue the collaborative discussions.

Aileen Patterson  
General Secretary, CPLOL