

MSHA's Position Statement
Concerning Racism June, 2020

Massachusetts Speech-Language Hearing Association (MSHA) denounces the violence and oppression that has long been ignored in this country and that has taken the lives of so many Black people, most recently George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Rayshard Brooks. The unjust treatment of not only African-American individuals but also Latinx, Native Americans, LGBTQ and other minority groups is deep rooted within our country's history. We stand firm alongside leaders who are rallying against this treatment throughout the country. As members of MSHA, we actively admonish racist ideology in our service to all clients and college and university student professionals. We are steadfast in our commitment to working with and addressing the communication, hearing, and swallowing needs of all individuals whom we serve. We will continue advocating for and developing new systems that challenge any novel or historic barriers to accessing services in the communities in which we live.

MSHA members are required to abide by the Code of Ethics from American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) including Principal of Ethics I, C, that states "Individuals shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services or in the conduct of research and scholarly activities on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, disability, culture, language, or dialect." We adhere to the promise of equitable nondiscriminatory support of all clients and students. Furthermore, as Americans and practitioners in Massachusetts, we acknowledge that this statement continues to be necessary as too many citizens in our society face both intended and unintended discrimination on a daily basis.

MSHA's Diversity Committee has been spearheading a dialog within our membership to establish initiatives that challenge the status quo within our field. We invite you to join our conversations about how we can better advocate for professional development, assessment materials, and hiring practices that are culturally competent. MSHA is actively organizing and listening to the issues that plague our nation, including those most recently raised by Vicki Deal-Williams, Diversity Chair for ASHA, in her statement regarding: access, bias, and competence in the era of COVID-19. We strongly encourage our membership to read her statement, listen, and continue to engage in these important dialogs with each other and our fellow professionals in related fields. As we continue along this journey, we will share information about these dialogues on our website at mshahearsay.org.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2016). Code of ethics [Ethics]. Available from www.asha.org/policy/

ASHA Leader Live, June 1, 2020. Deal-Williams, Vicki . Addressing Disparities in the Wake of Injustice, Violence, and COVID-19