CLICK, CONNECT, COMMUNICATE: VIRTUAL AAC SERVICES ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

0.1 ASHA CEU and 1 Act 48 PDH

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Learning Objectives:

- Identify at least one systemic barrier at each stage of life (EI, Preschool, School-Aged, Adult).
- Develop at least two rationales to support the use of a virtual coaching model in AAC service delivery.
- Describe three ways to replicate and/or incorporate virtual services into professional practice.

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Literature suggests stakeholder coaching leads to better outcomes in AAC acquisition, implementation, and use; however, there remains a need for greater supports in AAC service-delivery. Individuals, families, and teams face a shortage of experienced AAC providers and other systemic limitations. This session will provide insight into TechOWL's (Pennsylvania's AT Act program) AAC initiatives and how SLPs in other states can adapt and use this model in their communities. Presenters will discuss strategies for development and application of a virtual, consultative coaching model for AAC that participants may adapt and use within their own practice and caseload.

Speaker's Bio: Cassandra Calia, MA, CCC-SLP, serves as an AAC Services Coordinator with the TechOWL team at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University. In her current role, she provides AAC services and supports to individuals and their teams across the state of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the Institute, Cassandra has experience as a speech-language pathologist in early intervention, pediatric outpatient, and school-based settings. She received her master's degree in Speech Pathology with a certificate in AAC from the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. She is a licensed speech-language pathologist in Pennsylvania.

Hali Strickler, MA, CCC-SLP, is an AAC Services Coordinator for TechOWL at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University. She received both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Speech, Language, and Hearing Science from Temple University. Hali has spoken at the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) conference and was a 2023 Joy Zabala Spirit Award recipient for her session on transition and AAC. She has been a featured guest on several disability advocacy podcasts.

Jenn Lisberger, SLP, MA-CCC, is an AAC Services Coordinator for TechOWL at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University where provides AAC, and assistive technology supports and services to individuals with complex communication needs and their teams across the state of Pennsylvania. Jenn received her BA in Speech, Language, and Hearing Science and her MA in Speech-Language Pathology from The George Washington University in Washington, DC. She is a licensed and ASHA certified speech-language pathologist, with her license and certification with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Prior to joining the Institute, Jenn worked for over a decade in various Approved Private Schools (APS) throughout Pennsylvania.