

Using the Communication Matrix Assessment to Build Consensus

September 17, 2025
7:00-8:00 p.m. EDT

PRESENTED BY: Deirdre Galvin-McLaughlin, Gloria Rodriguez-Gil, Jill Tullman, Becky Eidelman and Eric Sanders

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:

Deirdre Galvin-McLaughlin is a speech-language pathologist and a PhD student in Rehabilitation Sciences at Boston University. She has clinical and research interests in providing AAC support to infants and toddlers in early intervention. She is a board member of the Communication Matrix Foundation.

Gloria Rodriguez-Gil is the Director for International Programs for Perkins School for the Blind in Latin America and the Caribbean. Her work centers on enhancing education for children with disabilities, with a particular focus on blind, low vision, deaf-blind, and multiple disabilities. She serves on the board of the Communication Matrix Foundation and provides training on the use of the Communication Matrix for both English- and Spanish-speaking audiences.

Jill Tullman is a Speech-Language Pathologist who supports individuals with complex communication needs who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). She is the owner of Jill Tullman & Associates, a Speech-Language Pathology AAC and occupational therapy private practice. Jill works and consults with individuals, families, schools, and intervention teams across Colorado, and speaks regularly at local, national and international conferences. She is a board member of the Communication Matrix Foundation

Becky Eidelman is the parent of a child who uses an AAC device to communicate. Her son enrolled in the Boston University AAC Clinic in 2024 and graduated in the spring of 2025. Becky is an advocate for “early and often” SLP services for toddlers. She is a board member of the Communication Matrix Foundation.

Eric Sanders is the Program Director and Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology at Moravian University. He specializes in child language and literacy development. His experience includes practicing as a speech-language pathologist and AAC Specialist in the public schools. He completed his doctoral work at the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies at UNC Chapel Hill. His lines of research include literacy skills of individuals with complex communication needs and service delivery for children who require AAC. He is a board member of the Communication Matrix Foundation.

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:

As a part of our back-to-school campaign, The Communication Matrix Foundation is providing training for caregivers and therapists on using the Communication Matrix assessment to build consensus on a child's communication skills with all members of a school team. The Communication Matrix will be reviewed including key features that may be useful to new users completing the assessment for the first time. Then, we will discuss common situations that can come up with new school teams and how the Communication Matrix can be used to gather baseline data, guide discussions, and ultimately form consensus. Finally, we will review how this data can be used to prepare for annual transitions in academic context between teachers, therapists and schools. The presentation will be presented alternating between English and Spanish.

MODERATED BY: Betsy Caporale

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PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Identify key features of the Communication Matrix assessment and online resources that can help with completing a communication profile.
2. Evaluate the use of the Communication Matrix to answer questions regarding differences in communication skills with different communication partners, settings or environments.
3. Use the Communication Matrix to guide discussion regarding a child's communication profile with a school team.

TIME ORDERED AGENDA:

5 minutes: Introduction of Speakers, USSAAC and topic
10 minutes: Communication Matrix Assessment Background
15 minutes: How to use the Communication Matrix to answer questions
15 minutes: How caregivers can use the assessment results to have discussions with school team Members.
10 minutes: How to build consensus on communication goals in school
5 minutes: Q & A

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) CEUs in speech-language pathology and audiology are awarded by the ASHA CE Registry upon receipt of the CEU Participant Form from the ASHA Approved CE Provider, USSAAC. CEU Participant Forms are available online at Registration or via the QR Code displayed during the presentation. ASHA CEUs are provided to full registrations. This program is offered for .10 ASHA CEUs (Introductory Level, Professional Area). Participants must stay for the entire presentation and complete the questionnaire at the end of the webinar to receive CEUs. SLPs who are USSAAC/ISAAC members may have their participation in this webinar reported for ASHA CEUs at no charge. Non-members must pay a \$25 reporting fee.

ASHA Disclosures:

Speakers

Financial:

All presenters receive a salary for their work at their respective institutions.

Nonfinancial:

All presenters are board members of the Communication Matrix Foundation.

Moderator

Financial:

Betsy Caporale has no financial disclosures to report.

Nonfinancial:

Betsy Caporale is a USSAAC Board Member and Director of the Education Committee.

To register for this Webinar please go to the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5zC2avc-RsCbTiULyGJxMA

PLEASE NOTE: Only the first 150 attendees to log into the webinar will be guaranteed spots.

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USSAAC EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

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about USSAAC

The United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC) is the national chapter of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC). As the United States' only non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the entire AAC community, USSAAC provides an invaluable role, working to ensure that individuals who could benefit from AAC have access to the technology and services they need.

Benefits of membership include, but are not limited to:

- *Free access to USSAAC webinar series with ASHA CEUs and USSAAC Twitter chats*
- *Advocacy for maintaining & expanding access to AAC systems and services*
- *Discount to ISAAC Conferences*
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- *Information updates on USSAAC website, social platforms and member finder*
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