

Let's Talk About...Camps!

February 28, 2024

7:00-8:00 p.m. EDT

PRESENTED BY: Hannah Foley, Michael Fondacaro, Tina Moreno, Alison Pentland

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:

Hannah Foley, B.A. is an Assistive Technology (AT) Specialist concentrating in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). She focuses on AAC training and implementation to facilitate collaboration and effective implementation of AAC among all members of support teams of individuals with complex communication needs. Beyond her daily work, Hannah provides national-level consultation on AAC-related topics. In her current role as the Support and Implementation Specialist at Forbes AAC, Hannah delivers clinical support to optimize the implementation of AAC systems.

Michael Fondacaro has been using a communication device since he was 5, and uses a wheelchair to get around. He has an Associates Degree in Business from Bergen Community College. He is the founder of Beyond the Chair, in which he gives motivational speeches about disability awareness and how people similar to him would like to be treated. He also talks about what he does in his life despite his disability. His experience with AAC camps is vast, as he attended Camp Chatterbox for 12 years with his family, 4 years as an independent camper and mentor, and 2 years as a guest speaker.

Tina H. Moreno, MA, CCC-SLP, ATP is a speech-language pathologist who specializes in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). She serves UCP of Cleveland's LeafBridge Alternative Education Program where all students have complex communication needs and significant disabilities. She also manages her private practice, Voices4all LLC, in Avon, Ohio. She is co-founder and co-director of Camp ALEC, a nationally recognized summer literacy camp for children with significant disabilities who use AAC. Tina brings to the field her personal experiences as the mother of an AAC user. Her 24-year-old son, Mateo, has used AAC as his primary mode of communication since the age of 4.

Alison Pentland, M.A., CCC-SLP-L, is a speech-language pathologist and AAC specialist in California, where she serves a wide population of people in the field of AAC. After a summer as a student clinician at the Bridge School's Building Bridges Camp and Training Institute, she worked as staff at the camp over the next couple years. She currently teaches at San Jose State University and provides AAC assessment, intervention, and consultation for clients throughout the region. At the the Diagnostic Center of Northern California, Alison trains and coaches educators and school-based SLPs in the area of AAC. She also serves on various committees and is USSAAC's Director of Public Information.

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION: AAC summer camps are becoming more and more common across the U.S., AAC users the same opportunities and benefits that their typical peers enjoy. These benefits include improving AAC usage and interpersonal skills, forming life-long friendships, taking risks in a safe environment and meeting mentors. Options include family camps, day camps and independents. All offer opportunities for children who use AAC to spend time with other individuals who communicate in similar ways and have many shared experiences. Families and the professionals who spend time at AAC camps also benefit from these experiences. In this webinar, participants will hear from two adult AAC users who will share their own experiences as campers and mentors, a speech-language pathologist whose professional career was greatly impacted by her work at an AAC camp and a parent who will share how attending a family AAC camp shaped her understanding of communication and helped forge life-long friendships.

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MODERATED BY: Amy Goldman

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.

This course is offered for 0.1 ASHA CEUs (Introductory level; Professional area).

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Name 2 outcomes for AAC users who attend camp.
2. Describe the impact of AAC camp on families.
3. Name 2 ways that working at an AAC camp can influence a professional working in the field of AAC.

TIME ORDERED AGENDA:

- 5 minutes: Introduction of Speakers, USSAAC and topic
- 10 minutes: The benefits of family AAC camps
- 10 minutes: Opportunities to find mentors and be mentors
- 10 minutes: The impact of camp on the family
- 10 minutes: The impact of working at a camp as a professional
- 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. ASHA CEUs are provided to full registrations. This program is offered for .1 ASHA CEUs (Introductory Level, Professional Area).

ASHA Disclosures:

Speakers

Financial:

Michael Fondacaro, Hannah Foley and Tina Moreno and Allison Pentland have no financial disclosures to report.

Nonfinancial:

Michael Fondacaro and Hannah Foley have no nonfinancial disclosures to report
Tina Moreno is a USSAAC Board Member and Director/Founder of Camp Alec.
Alison Pentland is a USSAAC Board Member.

Moderator

Financial:

Amy Goldman has no financial disclosures to report.

Nonfinancial:

Amy Goldman is the Past-President of USSAAC.

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

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uU4TrDohS-CRRndGm5HnCc

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

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*
- *SpeakUp publication/Blog*
- *Information updates on USSAAC website, social platforms and member finder*
- *Membership in ISAAC with their additional benefits*

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