

## Maintaining Communication Access, Encouraging Disaster Preparedness: *A Conversation on Emergency Preparedness and People with Communication Disabilities*

June 22, 2022  
7:00-8:00 PM EDT

Presented by: Pam Kennedy, Marcie Roth,  
Shaylin Sluzalis and Germán Parodi

### ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:

Pam Kennedy serves as a Disability Advocate, Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Emergency Management and Crisis Intervention Specialist. She is an invisible frontline worker and advocate who has specialized in emergency preparedness, disaster response, patient-provider communication and threat assessments for vulnerable populations since 1992. She has survived disasters in North Dakota and Georgia, sharing her expertise to save lives as infrastructure collapses.

Marcie Roth is Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for the World Institute on Disability (WID), a highly regarded global public policy center. Appointed by President Obama to the U.S Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from 2009 to 2017, she served as Senior Advisor to the Administrator and as the congressionally mandated Disability Coordinator for the agency. While at FEMA, she established the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC), serving as its Director. Under her leadership, ODIC led national transformation towards integrating the access and functional needs of the whole community throughout emergency preparedness and disaster response, recovery and mitigation

Shaylin Sluzalis and Germán Parodi, Co-Directors of the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies, come from Independent Living movement and disability rights backgrounds. Germán acquired his spinal cord injury in 2001. Shaylin has invisible disabilities and grew up alongside her disabled sister, Brittani. Both their experiences led them to work for Centers for Independent Living and evolve into disability rights activists with ADAPT where they met and fell in love. Shaylin and Germán's journey in inclusive emergency management began in 2017 when they were deployed to Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria as disabled first responders meeting the needs of disaster-impacted people with disabilities.

### SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:

As the 2022 hurricane season opens, it is time to provide critical information about disaster/emergency preparedness for people with disabilities and, especially, people with significant communication needs. This session will be a panel discussion moderated by the co-chairs of USSAAC's Disaster Relief Committee. The panel will be comprised of internationally known leaders in the area of disability, disaster preparedness and response, and disaster survivors who use AAC.

**MODERATED BY:** Sarah Blackstone and Liz Begley; co-chairs USSAAC Disaster Relief Committee

CE units are available for Free to USSAAC/ISAAC members only.

Non-member pay \$25 for each webinar.

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

## **PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN TO:**

- Identify 2 reasons why it is critical for people with disabilities to be prepared for natural and other disasters.
- List the particular challenges people with disabilities face when confronted with an impending disaster (e.g., power outage, sheltering, evacuating).
- Name at least 3 preparedness resources (including apps) for individuals with/without communication impairments
- Identify 2 ways COVID changed how we think about planning for and living through an emergency or disaster.

## **TIME ORDERED AGENDA:**

- 5 minutes: Introduction of speaker, USSAAC and topic
- 15 minutes: Why is it so critical for people with disabilities to be prepared for a natural disaster? What specific challenges do people with communication disabilities face when confronted with impending disaster?
- 15 minutes: Important considerations for people with significant communication challenges and their families/supporters to make sure they are prepared.
- 5 minutes: The service provider's role in helping people who use AAC in preparing for emergencies/disasters, and factors to consider regarding seeking shelter.
- 10 minutes: Emergency resources, apps and phone features that are helpful for AAC users during a disaster? How COVID has changed the way we think about planning and living through an emergency/disaster.
- 10 minutes: Q and 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 onsite at Registration. ASHA CEUs are provided to full registrations. This program is offered for .1 ASHA CEUs (Introductory Level, Professional Area)



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## ASHA Disclosures:

- **Speakers**

*Financial: Pam Kennedy will receive an honorarium from USSAAC for her presentation. Marcie Roth is an employee of WID. Shaylin Sluzalis and Germán Parodi are employed by Partnership of Inclusive Disaster Strategies.*

*Nonfinancial: Marcie Roth is on the Board of Directors of the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies.*

- **Moderator**

*The moderators have no financial or non-financial disclosures to report.*

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

**Need link**

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

### USSAAC EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Betsy Caporale, Richard Hurtig, Stephanie Meehan, Wendy Quach, Sharon Redman

## 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 2022 ISAAC Conference – Mexico
- SpeakUp publication/Blog
- Information updates on USSAAC website & social platforms
- Membership in ISAAC with their additional benefits

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