A.G. Bell Conference attended by Sherryl Eatmon

Short Courses attended:

Applying LSLS Principles to Telepractice

Melissa McCarthy, B.A., M.E.D., LSLS Cert. AVT

*Many Listening and Spoken Language Specialists (LSLS®) are now using telepractice as part of their service delivery to ensure that all families who seek a listening and spoken language outcome for their children with hearing loss are able to access qualified professionals, regardless of location. The majority of the Principles of LSLS Auditory-Verbal Therapy focus on guiding and coaching parents, an approach that is well suited to telepractice. Although guiding and coaching parents should underpin any auditory-verbal session, the physical limitations of a telepractice model provide professionals with increased opportunities to emphasize this area. This workshop addressed each of the principles and demonstrated how to apply each within a telepractice model.*

Theory of Mind in Day-to-Day Therapy

Elizabeth Tyszkiewicz, M.Sc., LSLS Cert. AVT  
Frances Clark, LSLS Cert. AVT

*Having “theory of mind” (TOM) means understanding what other people may think and feel, and how this influences what they do or say. The steadily increasing knowledge base about TOM shows how crucial it is to effective communication, while also demonstrating that it persists as an area of delayed development in children with hearing loss. Through discussion, group work, video and practical exercises, participants learned about current thinking on TOM as well as developmental aspects enabling the incorporation of this crucial aspect of communication learning into their work with families.*

Accelerating and Advancing LSL Practice through Strengths-based Coaching

Kathryn Wilson, M.A., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT  
Lillian Henderson, MSP, CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT

*Comprehensive and effective professional learning experiences are fundamental in growing the number of well-prepared and highly qualified Listening and Spoken Language Specialists (LSLS®). While knowledge acquisition in the domains of Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) practice is critical, research supports coaching as the most significant training component to ensure implementation of new knowledge and information. Coaching and guiding adults requires different skills from those required to teach children. This workshop accelerated and advanced the knowledge and abilities of participants in coaching aspiring professionals and peers in LSL practice. Specifically, participants engaged in interactive learning about Evocative Coaching—an approach that builds on existing strengths and incorporates the principles of Appreciative Inquiry—and learned to apply the new knowledge and information to transform adult behavior and professional practice in promoting excellence in LSL outcomes.*

General Sessions Attended:

ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS TO COACH AND EMPOWER PARENTS

[Joanne Travers M.S.](http://agbellconvention.com/presenter-bios#travers)

*This presentation offered an interactive approach to coaching and empowering parents and addressed effective ways to deliver parent knowledge and foster well-being. Because caregivers are most influential in a child’s development, attention to educating the parent becomes a priority.  The Essential Programs to Coach and Empower Parents approach goes beyond content in hearing health and habilitation. The approach prepares parents to be emotionally ready and cognitively prepared to raise deaf and hard of hearing children.  The session covered six education modules and presented specific learning activities. Participants learned strategies that educate and empower parents living in resource-poor communities.*

OTOLOGIC ISSUES AND HEARING LOSS

Ted Meyer, M.D., Ph.D.

*This presentation focused on current technologies and medical/surgical applications from the perspective of a physician and surgeon whose practice is completely specialized in hearing and balance issues in children and adults.*

STRATEGIES FOR MENTORING: INSIGHTS FROM VIETNAM

[Paige Stringer M.A.](http://agbellconvention.com/presenter-bios#stringer)

[Dorie Noll M.S.D.E., CED, LSLS Cert. AVEd](http://agbellconvention.com/presenter-bios#noll)

*The Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss (GFCHL) works to improve resources available to young children who are deaf and hard of hearing in low and middle income countries. The program provides access to hearing technology and implements a successful training program for the locally based listening and spoken language (LSL) professionals the children need to reach their potential. The GFCHL curriculum is taught by pediatric audiologists and LSL professionals who volunteer time throughout the year to provide coaching and share their expertise with the Vietnamese. The founder and executive director of GFCHL, along with three LSL professionals who have volunteered with the foundation, presented lessons and strategies they’ve learned through their experiences in Vietnam that have improved their work with children, families and other professionals.*

GENERAL SESSION - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

[David Sousa, Ed.D.](http://agbellconvention.com/keynote)

*Research in neuroscience is revealing the impact that technology is having on brain growth and development. Sousa addressed how can we use the research evidence from “re-wiring’ the brain to enhance the learning of auditorily-challenged and typical learners". The questions and evidenced-based revelations raised some fascinating and important new questions for those who work with learners that Dr. Sousa addressed.*

CAN BABIES GO TO SPACE?

[Carrie M. Tamminga M.A., LSLS Cert. AVEd](http://agbellconvention.com/presenter-bios#tamminga)

[Teri Ouellette M.S.Ed., LSLS Cert. AVEd](http://agbellconvention.com/presenter-bios#ouellette)

[Kelli Blankenship M.A., LSLS Cert. AVEd](http://agbellconvention.com/presenter-bios#blankenship)

*Executive Function (EF) is trendy and is the skill set that is “the final frontier” for children with hearing loss, and one professionals struggle to address on a consistent and systematic basis. Although the research and application for developing EF in older children is growing rapidly, there is very little discussion of how to address this critical development in infants and toddlers. Is it possible to lay this groundwork earlier than preschool? Are we already working on EF with infants and toddlers and just don’t know how to do it consistently and with purpose? Can we really help babies “go to space” in this final frontier? And if so, how? In this session we gained information, strategies and ideas to help babies develop EF.*

EVALUATING AUDIOLOGY TEST RESULTS—LOOKING TOWARDS MANAGEMENT

[Jane Madell Ph.D., CCC-A/SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT](http://agbellconvention.com/presenter-bios#madell)

[Carol Flexer, PhD, CCC-A, LSLS Cert. AVT](http://agbellconvention.com/presenter-bios#flexer)

*A high quality, family-focused, listening and spoken language intervention plan is based on auditory information actually getting to the brain of the child with hearing loss. The best intervention plan will be effective only if we have audiologic confirmation that spoken communication is actually reaching the brain of the child. Therefore, auditory-verbal practitioners and parents must be able to review audiology test results in order to determine if appropriate testing has been performed; if additional testing is needed; and if modifications need to be made to technology programming in order for the child’s brain to receive high integrity spoken communication. This session demonstrated how practitioners can use audiologic information to plan therapy and educational management through case studies.*

INSPIRATION STATION

*25 presenters shared their teaching and therapy ideas, materials, and other inspirational work at 25 tables. Conducted in a “show and tell” manner, attendees walked through the room to stop, look, listen and talk with presenters.*

[2016 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM](http://agbellconvention.com/research-symposium/)

[NEUROIMAGING - PREDICTING HEARING AND LANGUAGE OUTCOMES](http://agbellconvention.com/research-symposium)

Julie Arenberg Bierer, Ph.D., CCC-A

John S. Oghalai, M.D.

René Gifford, Ph.D.

Anu Sharma, Ph.D.

*Researchers shared the critical discoveries that are leading to a deeper understanding of the complex and interrelated neurological processes that result in the comprehension, production and use of human languages. World-renowned scientists shared their theories about how this research could predict speech, language and hearing outcomes following specific interventions to address hearing loss.*

AG BELL ACADEMY SESSION ON MENTORING AND ANALYZING LSL VIDEO TAPES

Teri Ouellette M.S.Ed., LSLS Cert. AVEd

Emma Ruchbrooke M. Phil. (Audiology)

[Teresa Caraway Ph.D., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT](http://agbellconvention.com/presenter-bios#caraway)

Carol Flexer Ph.D, CCC-A., LSLS Cert.AVT

*Experienced Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS®) certified professionals lead this session and provided structured feedback to participants. Observations of both AVT sessions and AVEd classrooms were observed, with feedback sessions in small groups to address the needs of mentees, as well as LSLS professionals seeking to learn more about how to structure feedback sessions as mentors. Participants learned from watching real-life listening and spoken language sessions and engaging in small-group discussion/feedback with peers and seasoned professionals.*

Respectfully Submitted,

