

Workshops in Supporting Communication

Facilitated Communication is one method used in accessing augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) equipment. This series of two workshops provides the opportunity to learn the techniques of facilitated communication within the context of the principles common to all communication support approaches.

1. Communication Partnerships:

A Framework for Support

This one-day introductory level training is intended for families and professionals interested in learning about communication support for people with complex communication needs. Topics include: ♦seeing others – ALL others – as communicators ♦finding opportunities for communication and engagement ♦understanding communication as a dynamic process ♦developing access to equipment and environments ♦bringing new people into the communicator's circle ♦supporting the communicator to gain credibility and take responsibility for his or her communication.

Examples are given throughout the workshop, which is co-taught by Facilitated Communication Institute staff and a group of augmentative communication users. This workshop is designed to appeal to administrators, teachers, therapists, teaching assistants, adult care providers, as well as families. It is not necessary to be working directly with an established augmentative communication user or potential candidate to attend this workshop.

*DATES: July 26, 2005 LOCATION: Marriott TIME: 9 am 4pm
3600 Centerpoint Pontiac, Michigan*

Introductory Skills Workshop: Learning to Be a Facilitator

This one-day how-to workshop is intended for those who will become a facilitator for someone who is currently using facilitated communication, or for a prospective candidate. Topics include: ♦the nature of support ♦giving physical support ♦feedback and monitoring ♦independence training ♦documentation of communication skills.

This is a learn-by-doing workshop packed with role-playing and simulations. Participants work with trained, experienced facilitators in building facilitator skills. Those attending the Introductory Skills Workshop should also attend the Framework for Support Workshop in order to have both the conceptual background and specific experiences with facilitated communication.

*DATES: July 28, 2005 LOCATION: Marriott, 9am to 4 pm
3600 Centerpoint Pontiac, Michigan*

PRESENTERS:

***Jamie Burke** is a senior at Westhill High School in Syracuse, NY. As a fully included student in a Regents academic program, Jamie has used facilitated communication since age five, and has progressed from supported typing to independent typing and reading his typing out loud. Jamie has also begun to have useful and reliable speech. Jamie has presented at numerous conferences throughout the US and Europe. In the spring of 2001, Syracuse University produced and award-winning video written and narrated by Jamie, titled "Inside the Edge, A Journey to Using Speech Through Typing."*

***Marilyn Chadwick** has worked for the Facilitated Communication Institute since 1992 as a trainer and consultant. She has played a key role in the development of the various levels of*

training and in 2000 worked to publish standards on the method. Marilyn has been a leader in supporting fc users to work toward independence. In the past six years, Marilyn has become certified in Prompt, and Feldenkrais and is currently developing her skills with 'floortime' to help fc users gain independence and/or speech. In addition to her work with the Institute, she is a doctoral student in special education at Syracuse University.

Eugene Marcus is a man with autism who believes in his own rights and those of others with and without disabilities. He is a product of the Syracuse inclusive school system, which he attended in the days before FC. He is now an associate of the Facilitated Communication Institute where he has conducted research on his own means of communication and lectures frequently on FC and the rights of people with disabilities. For the past four years, he has been the co-teacher of a class for peer supported at Syracuse University.

Chandi Rajapatirana started using FC in October 1991, at the age of 18. He has developed into a gifted poet and essayist. He has put together a collection of poems titled "The Vial" which has sold well. In addition to being a frequent conference presenter, Chandi takes classes at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY. Now in his thirties, Chandi has started to type independently and is currently working on developing speech.

Mayer Shevin has been working with and learning from individuals with disabilities for most of his life. He has worked as a professor of special education, a director of staff training at a large institution, and as the director of a statewide project fostering person-centered planning for people with developmental disabilities. Since 1991, he has been a private consultant, providing facilitated communication, non-aversive strategies for behavior change, personal advocacy, and organizational change. He is an associate of the Facilitated Communication Institute at Syracuse University

} \$40 Session 1 **ASAOCC member**

} \$40 Session 2 **ASAOCC member ***

} \$70 Session 1 & 2 **ASAOCC member***

} \$50 Session 1 nonmember

} \$50 Session 2 nonmember*

} \$85 Session 1&2 nonmember*

ADD \$15 AFTER JULY 1, 2005

*Additional team members may be added for only \$10 more. Maximum 4 members per team.

} \$10 per additional team member