Autism & AAC Apps: Evaluating Your Options

May 7-8, 2015 - Crowne Plaza Pittsburgh South

This workshop is being offered by the AAC Institute as part of our professional continuing education program. Attendees have the option to earn continuing education units required for professional development.

Description:

Since the launch of the Apple iPad, Android and other "smart" tablets and mobile devices, there has been a plethora of apps marketed to speech impaired individuals for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). A whole segment of these apps has targeted non-verbal or minimally verbal individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The relative affordability of tablets makes them an attractive alternative to standard high-performance AAC systems, yet little evidence exists to support the effectiveness of tablet-based AAC apps in providing meaningful communication for individuals with ASD. Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and other therapeutic professionals must make informed decisions about the cost-benefit ratio of recommending AAC apps versus dedicated high-tech AAC systems to serve the varied needs of autistic AAC communicators.

The AAC Institute is offering a 1.5-day workshop for attendees to interact with communication apps on iPads or other mobile technologies designed for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Day 1: After the morning presentation by AACI staff of evidence-based research on AAC apps, strategies and resources to support identifying app features and the matching persons with technology process, attendees will head to each of four (4) participating App company classrooms for 1.5 hour rotating sessions. The sessions will provide hands-on training to become familiar with the featured communication App(s) and intervention resources offered to support App users with autism and their teams.

The four participating AAC app companies with classrooms can create a learning environment that represents their products, supports and services. Also, Day 1 includes an Exhibitor walk-about during lunchtime and afternoon demonstrations in the ballroom where other companies will be demonstrating their Apps, resources and products. Day 1 concludes with a "happy hour" of informal networking opportunity for attendees, company representatives and exhibitors.

Day 2: After breakfast attendees go to their final concurrent classroom training session. After the morning break, all will gather for a panel discussion with the concurrent classroom App representatives and a wrap-up Q&A. App companies are free to stay in their classrooms once the main conference is adjourned for any scheduled 1:1 meetings they may wish to schedule. Attendees will leave the workshop fully informed and able to identify AAC App options for a person with autism.

AAC App Company Opportunities:

Classrooms: AAC app companies requesting a classroom will be able to arrange and design their room to meet their instructional methods for conducting 4 rotations of hands-on training for attendees on their communication app(s). Strategic placement of product literature/materials is suggested for the classroom. Company representatives will participate in a final panel discussion at the conclusion of the main workshop. Companies will be able to remain in their classroom Friday afternoon for 1:1 meetings they schedule with individual attendees for additional consultation or marketing. Participating companies will receive name placement in conference print materials, the AACI website, event promotions, and on event signage and announcements.

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TIME ORDERED WORKSHOP AGENDA

Thursday, May 7, 2015

8:00   Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30   Introductions & Background

9:00   Evaluating Your AAC App Options for ASD Clients – Matching Persons with Best-fit Mobile Technologies

10:30   Break

10:45   Concurrent Classrooms: Round #1 – Attend 1.5 hour company session

12:15   Exhibitor Walk-About Lunch in ballroom

1:30   Concurrent Classrooms: Round #2 – Attend 1.5 hour company session

3:00   Concurrent Classrooms: Round #3 – Attend 1.5 hour company session

4:30   Visit & discussion with Ballroom exhibitors

5:30   Informal "Happy Hour" networking – Crowne Plaza Lounge (hors d'oeuvres and cash bar)

Friday, May 8, 2015

8:30   Continental Breakfast

9:00   Concurrent Classrooms: Round #4 – Attend 1.5 hour company session

10:30   Break

11:00   Panel Discussion with Concurrent Classroom App presenters

11:45   Wrap-up and Q&A on decision-making

12:30   Adjourn and Company representative scheduled 1:1 meetings with attendees.
        Classrooms available until the end of the afternoon.

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Thursday, May 7, 2015 • 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, followed by networking
Friday, May 8, 2015 • 8:00 am – 12:30 pm, followed by individually scheduled meetings
Crowne Plaza Pittsburgh South, Pittsburgh, PA

Manufacturer Application

Company Information:

Company name: _____

Contact: _____ Contact E-mail: _____

Company address: _____

City/State/Prov/Postal Code/Country: _____

Phone: _____ Toll free: _____ Fax: _____

Standard Fees:

FULL $600 for **Classroom** participation (2 days)*

_____ $250 for **Exhibition/Product Demo Ballroom** Table participation (1.5 days only) **

_____ $100 for company literature to be stuffed in workshop bags (Not Classroom or Exhibition Ballroom Table company)

_____ @ $100 per each additional company representative (Classroom)

_____ @ $50 per each additional company representative (Exhibition Ballroom Table)

$_____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

(*) Classroom fee includes: Conference room with capacity for 15-30 persons, 2 display tables, digital projector, projection screen and microphone, if needed, for 2 days. Program meals included: Continental breakfast, morning break, luncheon and afternoon "happy hour" networking (hors d'ouevres only with cash bar) on Day 1. Continental breakfast and morning coffee break on Day 2. Participation by 1 company representative; additional representatives are $100 each.

(**) Exhibition/Product Demo Table fee includes: 8' display table with table cloth, electricity (Must be requested in advance) and two chairs located inside the main conference room; program meals for 1.5 days (see above). Participation by 1 company representative; additional representatives are $50 each.

Payment: We accept payment by check, credit card or PayPal. To reserve your space, payment must accompany application.

By check: Please mail this application and a check (payable to AAC Institute) to ICAN Talk Clinic of the AAC Institute, Attn: Shannon Carney, 1401 Forbes Avenue, Suite 303, Pittsburgh, PA, 15219, USA.

By credit card: Please complete the credit card information below:
Name on credit card: _____

Credit card number: ☐ VISA   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ American Express

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Exp. _____ |

Mail (address above), fax: 412-402-0909 or E-mail completed application form as a scanned PDF file to: scarney@aacinstitute.org Credit card payment will not be processed without an accompanying application form.

By PayPal: You will receive an electronic invoice for your registration fee upon receipt of your completed application.

Acceptance:

I, the authorized representative of the above organization, on behalf of said organization subscribe and agree to all terms, conditions, and authorizations.

Payment of $_____ is enclosed.   **Payment of $_____ has been provided via credit card or PayPal (www.icantalkclinic.com)**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This application becomes a contract when signed by a manufacturer's representative and accepted by the AAC Institute.