

**PRIVATE PRACTICE
and LPAA**

**MARION LEAMAN, MS CCC-SLP & FABI HIRSCH KRUSE,
PHD CCC-SLP**

Outline

1. Our Practices
2. Rationale for Private Practice (why we chose private practice)
3. Paths to Private Practice (what we each did before private practice)
4. Goals/Future Directions
5. Incorporating LPAA into Private Practice
 - a. Goal Writing
 - b. Therapy Activities

Recommendation: Mark what you would like to discuss in greater detail. We will return to those topics during the discussion portion.



Our Practices - An Overview

Our Practices

Fabi

Saguaro Center for
Speech & Language, PLLC
(Aphasia Center of Tucson)

1. Business structure
2. Space
3. Caseload
 - Number of patients/week
 - Individual therapy vs. group
 - Patient diagnoses
4. Staffing

Marion

The Talkspot, LLC

1. Business structure
2. Space
3. Caseload
 - Number of patients/week
 - Individual therapy vs. group
 - Patient diagnoses
4. Staffing

Our Practices (continued)

Fabi

Saguaro Center for
Speech & Language, PLLC
(Aphasia Center of Tucson)

5. Billing/Insurance/Credentialing
6. Referrals/Marketing
7. Documentation/Electronic
Medical Records (EMR)

Marion

The Talkspot, LLC

5. Billing/Insurance/Credentialing
6. Referrals/Marketing
7. Documentation/Electronic
Medical Records (EMR)

Rationale for Private Practice

1. Pros & Cons

a. Pros

- i. great boss!
- ii. flexible schedule
- iii. ability to do what is right (not just profitable)

b. Cons

- i. referrals and marketing can be challenging
- ii. insurance payments are never guaranteed
- iii. adding a financial component to your relationships with patients can be uncomfortable

Rationale for Private Practice (continued)

2. Private Practice vs. Nonprofit

- misconception that private practice implies the following:
 - i. that the goal of your work is financial
 - ii. that you make a lot of money
- non-profit board (can be a pro or con)
- where are your strengths and interests?
 - i. therapy?
 - ii. fundraising?
- who do you know?

Paths to Private Practice

Our Pathways to Private Practice

- Education
- Clinical Settings



Future Directions

Marion

- Doctoral studies

Fabi

- Developing Friends of Aphasia (nonprofit organization)

Both

- Making life better for people living with aphasia
- Advancing novel treatment approaches for maximizing outcomes of aphasia therapy
- Getting out the word to SLPs and SLP grad students about integrating LPAA into their work at all levels of care



Incorporating LPAA into Private Practice

Goal Writing

INTEGRATING GOAL-WRITING & LPAA

ALTHOUGH MEDICARE HAS MANY REGULATIONS.....

- **Measurable**
- **Medically Necessary**
- **Warranting expertise of a therapist (i.e. skilled service)**

Medicare does NOT regulate

- **What aspect of communication you are measuring**
- **Context for your therapy (no regulations on materials or activities)**

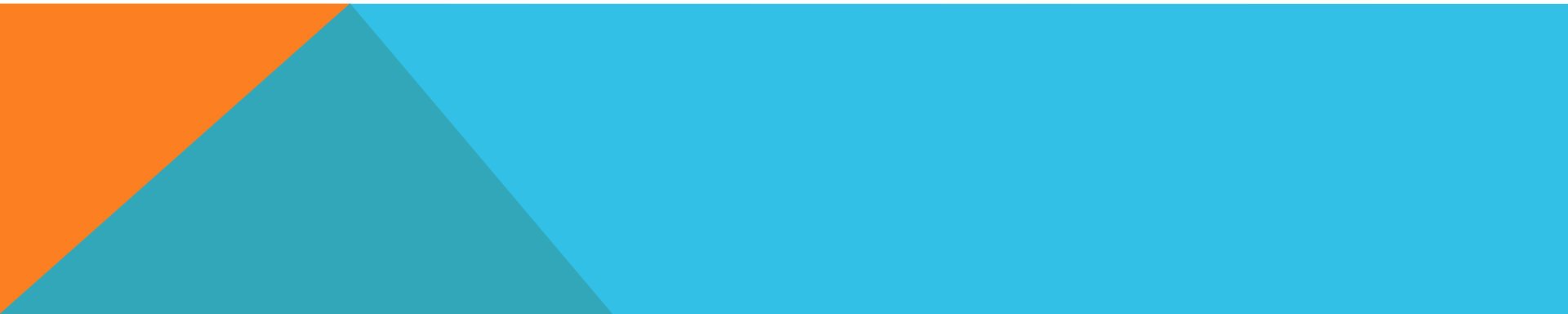


WE HAVE A CHOICE!

Workbooks, rote materials, exercises, quiz-like activities

OR

Designing our intervention around life interests, skills, goals, hobbies, social participation



OUR JOB IS TO....

Integrate the participation and communication needs of people with aphasia


With

The third-party payer's needs for documentable, measurable goals

THIS IS ACHIEVABLE!



Marion's Methods for Developing Reimbursable Goals following LPAA

- 1. Long Term Goals Reflect LPAA, Short Term Goals tend to reflect impairment**
 - 2. Use LPAA to guide the MATERIALS/ ACTIVITIES chosen, allow STGs to reflect impairment**
 - 3. Design discourse-based goals**
- 



Incorporating LPAA into Private Practice
Therapy Activities

Example of Implementing LPAA in Treatment Activities (Saguaro Center for Speech & Language)

Patient: ND

Career: Retired Biology Professor

Snapshot of a portion of this patient's struggles and therapy plan:

Impairment: Severe word-finding difficulties (3/20 items named correctly on Object Naming portion of Western Aphasia Battery-Revised)

Goal: Improved word-finding in meaningful contexts

Activity: Develop presentation about wild animals in his yard

Individual Therapy:

- developed slides for presentation (using photos collected by patient & wife)
 - discussed animals (names, semantic features, organization)
 - practiced names repeatedly (text-to-speech for text on slides, presentation practice)
- added photos to naming app for naming and reading practice at home
- Note: collecting photos provided communication-rich activity for patient and wife at home

Aphasia Group Program (Aphasia Center of Tucson):

- abbreviated presentation about animals in his backyard to his Public Speaking Group
- expanded presentation to all members of the Aphasia Center

Daily Life

- improved success and confidence in talking with family and friends about a meaningful topic (wild animals at his house)

End of Presentation
Time for DISCUSSION!

INTEGRATING GOAL-WRITING & LPAA

METHOD 1:

Long Term Goals – Reflect LPAA

Short Term Goals – Measurable, preferred style by insurance

EXAMPLE: A grandmother with moderate Wernicke's aphasia:

LPAA Goal of Individual: Wants to maintain contact with grandchildren and friends in Florida. Talking on the phone is too hard, so she wants to be able to write letters and emails.

Treatment Activities: 1. Using email on her iPad to stay in touch with grandchildren

2. Drafting of a form letter to friends explaining her aphasia. This was sent with a card that was made of her own watercolors that she cut up into 4x6 cards. Therapy included looking up addresses, copying addresses, drafting letter.

LTG: Mrs. S will maintain written contact with friends and family in Florida through 3-4 sentence-length letters or email.

STG 1: Mrs. S. will demonstrate ability to write simple greetings, such as “Dear”, “Hello”, “How are you” with no more than 1 spelling cue per word.

STG 2: Mrs. S will demonstrate the ability to copy written addresses, 90% accuracy.

METHOD 1 – Con't

Example: Doctor with anomia:

LPAA Goal of Individual: Be able to discuss cases with colleagues and return to work as a doctor

Treatment Activity: Discuss medical histories, select appropriate treatment for her patients

LTG: Dr. X will discuss treatment planning for her patients with colleagues

STG: Dr. X will read a medical history and demonstrate ability to formulate 3-4 sentences to summarize the history with accurate word retrieval for at least 4/5 of the patient's diagnoses.

INTEGRATING GOAL-WRITING & LPAA

METHOD 2:

LPAA can be the material and activity and not figure into the written goal

Example: Plumber with mild Conduction aphasia:

LPAA Goal of Individual: Return to work as a plumber

Treatment Activity: Built therapy sessions around mock problems in my furnace room

GOAL: Mr. X will independently use description to self-cue or as strategy to express himself when confronted with word retrieval difficulty at the sentence level, for 90% of occurrences

METHOD 2 – Con't

Example: Woman with moderate Broca's aphasia & apraxia:

LPAA Goal of Individual: Submitting her photography to a local art show and needed to fill out an application form. She also wanted to invite members of her aphasia group to the show.

Treatment Activity: Completing application form, developing written invitation, including it in her communication book, developing verbal invitation and practicing it

GOAL 1: Will demonstrate ability to write basic personal biographical information (name, address, date of birth, etc) with no more than 2 spelling errors

GOAL 2: Will demonstrate ability to formulate simple subject-verb sentence structure, 80% accuracy

GOAL 3: Will use communication notebook to make requests, with no more than minimal cueing

INTEGRATING GOAL-WRITING AND LPAA

METHOD 3: USE DISCOURSE-BASED MEASURABLE GOALS

Example: Patient with severe Broca's aphasia

LPAA Goal of Individual: Mr. B wants to have more interactive weekly phone calls with his elderly parents

GOAL 1: Mr. B will initiate at least two topics in a 10 minute phone call with his parents

GOAL 2: Mr. B will use fillers, such as “um” or “I’m thinking” during his word retrieval pauses to let his communication partner know he is participating in the conversation, but needs more time to formulate a response, for $\frac{3}{4}$ occurrences.

GOAL 3: Mr. B will respond to requests for clarification by expanding his previously misunderstood utterance