CDP Update

Feature Devices · Tech Tips · Clinical Practice

Spring 2020

In This Issue

COVID-19 Changes
Virtual Conferences
Clinicians Corner
Education/Resources
Odds & Ends
What's New in CDP

COVID-19 Changes to Service

How has CDP adapted during the COVID-19 Pandemic?

When Covid-19 first hit Manitoba back in March inpatient and outpatient settings were changing every day and sometimes hourly! Since then, the CDP has settled into our 'new routine'. While we are now considering ***certain face-to-face visits, on a case by case basis***, we continue to focus on providing quality virtual visits as much as possible. To provide these visits we are using Microsoft Teams.

Additional changes/ precautions you may want to be aware of:

1. Any equipment being dropped off at DLC needs to be pre-arranged. We need to notify security and senior management of same, so please give us a heads up (at least 24 hours is appreciated)!
2. IF, a client is appropriate for an in-office visit, they will be required to go through the screening questions at the time of booking, the morning of their appointment, and again when they arrive for their appointment.
3. We ask that IF an attendant, caregiver or family member is required for the appointment, please let us know so that we can ensure they will also be allowed to enter. They will also need to agree to answer all screening questions.
4. For any face-to-face interactions, all the proper PPE will be worn by clinicians. Rigorous hand hygiene and environmental cleaning will also take place, before, during and after the appointment.
5. Equipment sent out, or returned will be subject to the same rigorous cleaning/disinfecting standards that CDP has always followed. All equipment, as always, will be fully sanitized between clients and/ or clinician use.

For more information about Covid-19, please use the following resources:
Information for Health Care Providers, Physicians & Staff: https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/
Information for the Public: covid19manitoba.ca
COVID-19 Updates: manitoba.ca/covid19/

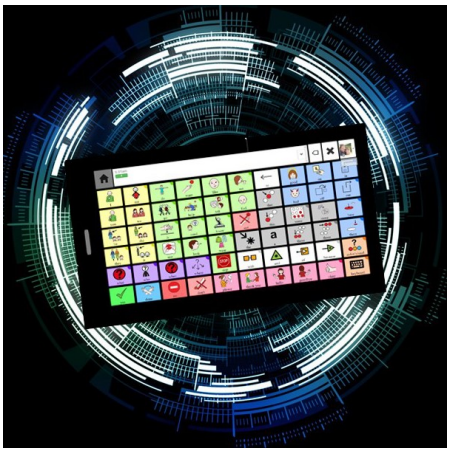
The CDP has tried to stay positive throughout the pandemic. We created a 'PRO-vid' board, and below are a few of the things we wrote down. We're hopeful you have experienced some 'Pro-vid' as well!

Shorter Commute, Virtual Visits, Yoga Pants, Innovation, We Still have Jobs, Save $$!!

Virtual Conference News

Conferences are going virtual, will you be there?

* FREE AAC in the Cloud is back! June 23-24, 2020: Beyond the Now



Some of the topics for 2020 include:

AAC in Telepractice
Communication is a Human Right: Why is society Communication Inaccessible?
Emergency Planning for AAC Users
Empowering the paraprofessional
Aided Language, from Research to Practice
Demystifying Eye Gaze Assessment with Evidence-based Practice Guidelines
AAC Backups (&backups for backups)
Core Vocabulary
Device Personalization for Adults with Aphasia

If you recall from previous Newsletters, this conference is FREE and once registered you have access to presentations from previous years! The Pre-conference sessions are already open (after June 1, 2020). The keynote speaker this year is Jane Farrell. She is presenting on the 24th at 10 am Manitoba time.

October 28th - Nov 11, 2020 The show will go on!

The two week Closing The Gap Virtual Conference includes a combination of pre-recorded sessions, live Q&A's, virtual exhibits, and features Karen Erickson, as the keynote speaker.

Closing The Gap 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

What are they saying about the Virtual Conference Experience?

CONVENIENT: Watch the pre-recorded sessions on your schedule - even on mobile devices!

COMPREHENSIVE: Receive practical, applicable information and strategies you can apply immediately with your students and in your practice.

CONCISE: These short, 1- and 2.5-hour sessions easily fit in your schedule!

EFFORTLESS: Sit back, watch and listen to the sessions, then participate in the Live Q&A meetings, scheduled November 9-11, 2020, and earn plenty of CEUs or professional development hours!

REMEMBER: Administrators attend free (with the registration of at least 1 staff member), & you can attend the Exhibit Hall for free!

Assistive Technology Industry of America (ATiA) has announced that their 2021 conference will be virtual. The conference will run from January 25-28th, 2021. As well as February 1-4th, 2021. There will be 'pre-conference' sessions available on Saturday the 30th of January and 6th of February.

Currently there is a call for submissions for presentations. Open from June 1– July 13, 2020. Despite being a virtual conference, there will be presentations, workshops and even the Exhibitor 'hall'. Stay tuned for more details about how all that will look/ work. If you would like ATiA is looking for feedback via their survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BKY2B5S

Clinician's Corner - Project Euphonia (Google research project)

Project Euphonia; working on speech recognition for impaired speech

What's Project Euphonia all about?

This project focuses on improving how speech recognition systems recognize impaired speech... including from people with conditions such as Down syndrome, stroke, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, ALS, and many more.

The problem Project Euphonia is trying to solve:

The following excerpt taken directly from: Project Euphonia Page.

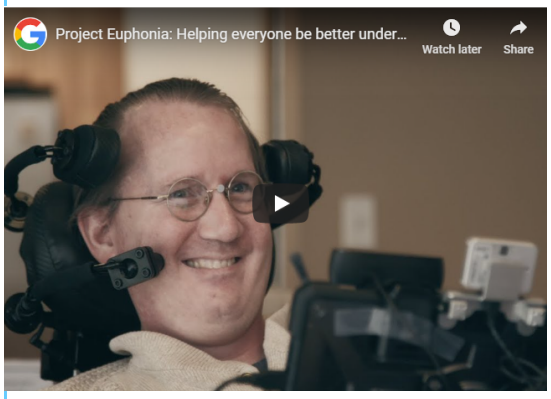
"For millions of people around the world whose speech is difficult for others to understand, face-to-face communication can be very challenging.

Using voice activated technologies can be frustrating as well. While tools like Google Home or the Google Assistant can help people call someone or adjust lighting or music, they may not work as efficiently or accurately for those with impaired voices. This is due to the fact that speech recognition algorithms have heard millions of examples from people whose voices sound "typical," but not many examples from people with speech impairments.

Ultimately, we hope to improve peoples' independence and ability to communicate by making technology work better for everyone. Our first goal is to gather enough voice recordings from people with speech impairments to train speech recognition models to better understand people [with] these voices

So we're inviting people who have impaired speech to record carefully selected, phonemically diverse sets of phrases. This will ideally enable us to eventually build models that facilitate a more inclusive understanding of diverse speeches though do note that our research is still in early stages".

How can someone get involved? GET INVOLVED; Interest Form



Who: Adults, 18+
Have difficulty being understood by others
(not related to an accent)
Have access to a computer or mobile device with a microphone
(& internet access)
Speak English fluently

****SPECIAL NOTE** from the FAQS: ***We recognize that participation takes time and energy and therefore provide cash-equivalent gift cards to participants who complete phrase sets… currently $300USD (and equivalent in other local currencies) for every 1500 phrases completed.***

ISAAC Canada - UPDATE

As you may have guessed with Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 ISAAC conference in Cancun, Mexico has been officially cancelled. For more information about the cancellation, read the Press Release.

On the bright side, it's been rescheduled for July 31-Aug 5th, 2021!

isaac International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication
Canada
Société internationale de suppléance à la communication

Education and Resources: COVID-19 AAC Resources

All sorts of Covid related AAC resources!

Click on a logo and it will take you to Covid-19 resources

PrAACtical AAC

AUTISTICS UNITED CANADA
Promoting disability justice and creating connections by and for autistic people

Communication
Is The Joint Establishment Of Meaning

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

AssistiveWare

Widgit

SAC

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Communicating care

BRIDGES CANADA
Accessing learning & communication, together

CDAC Communication Disabilities Access Canada

isaac
International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication

RERC on AAC

Smartbox

TECH OWL
AAC COMMUNITY
Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

tobii dynavox

Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Odds and Ends - What's going on in 2020 (other than Covid)?

Assistive Technology making the world more inclusive

While I don't believe this is available in Canada yet, **Uber Health was designed as a way to partner with healthcare organizations to provide reliable, comfortable transportation for patients.** The dashboard allows healthcare professionals to order rides for patients going to and from the care they need. Some of the new features include:

- Flexible ride scheduling for patients, caregivers, & Staff
- Access for patients without a smartphone
- Simple billing, reporting, & management

Google Action Blocks for Android. These sound so interesting to me! Remember 'macros' on devices, where you could program one button to do multiple functions? That's what this is for your android device! So simple, yet so brilliant. Think about the possibilities for our clients with cognitive or memory deficits that prevent them from being able to preform all the steps necessary to make a phone call, check their email, watch a movie, etc.

AT Help Desk
A Neil Squire Program

Centre de dépannage TA
Un programme de Neil Squire

May 31 - June 6, 2020 Is (was) National AccessAbility Week in Canada! The Neil Squire Program is hosting virtual seminars throughout the week across Canada. Wednesday, June 3rd was right here in Winnipeg with North Forge, about Women in 3D printing with Suzanne Winterflood.

If you haven't had a chance to check out Neil Squire and the Makers Making Change Project library yet, you really should. You can find it here: Projects

TOUGH SLEDDING
★THE MOVIE★

Tough Sledding Open Call for Actors. "Tough Sledding" the Movie is based on the gold medal performance of the 2002 Paralympic Sled Hockey team. The casting call intends to engage acting hopefuls and current sled hockey players predominantly from the disability community to fill most of the on-screen roles. "The film industry is ready to embrace inclusion and respectability towards disabled actors," commented Yaron Kaplan, Co-producer from Kaplan Bonner, Inc. "By hosting an open, virtual casting call to highlight the wealth of talent eagerly wanting their break into movies, we hope to establish a new standard for auditions going forward."

Have you seen Airbnb's new Virtual Experiences yet?! The newly-launched activities, ranging in cost from $9 to $40 per person, are not solely aimed at people who have disabilities themselves but are also aiming to educate people about improving accessibility for communities and facilitating activities for them. Filter the options based on "Designed for Accessibility" and voila! activities to choose from online! Some of the ones that caught my attention were: Adapted Yoga, Wheelchair skills training, & Slang Sign Language Music Interpreting!

airbnb

What's New in CDP - 2020 Virtual Celebration

Did you know that CDP had our ***Grand Opening*** on October 25th, 2010?! Before that though, we officially started accepting referrals to the program in June of 2009. Can you believe it's been 10+ years since CDP began? Over those 10 years we have grown in so many ways! Do you remember that the only way to refer to the CDP was to complete almost the entire prescription (you didn't have to fill in the desired device), but everything else had to be figured out already?!

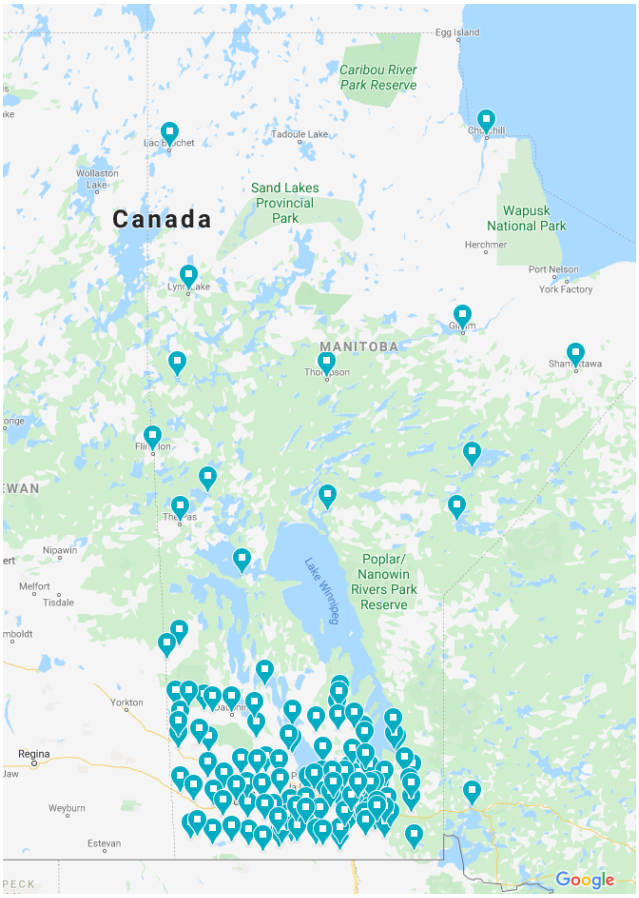
CDP Construction, 2008/9

Let's play a little guessing game. How many clients do you think have been referred to the CDP between 1 June 2009 and 1 June 2020?

a. 1599
b. 1423
c. 1201
d. 999

Join us at our CDP Virtual Celebration – launching on the 23rd of October 2020 to hear the answer! Stay tuned for more announcements about what you can expect...

<u>Communities served by the Communication Devices Program!</u>



Over the last decade + CDP has slowly been growing, and growing, and growing. We have served over 150 different communities in Manitoba! That's 15 more communities that in 2018. If you are from a community that we don't have listed on our google map - see left, we'd like to change that! We know there are likely people with face to face communication challenges in every community. Wouldn't it be great if we could serve them all?! We know that Covid has changed the way many of us operate, but we feel that one positive that has come out of all of this, is access to virtual visits. Our province is very large and communities are spread out over vast (and beautiful) landscapes. Sometimes multiple in person visits are not as feasible, but with access to secure virtual visit options, we have the ability to see so many more of our clients in a timely manner and on a more regular basis (as needed).

Click on the map to the left for the google maps link to check out all the communities served!