


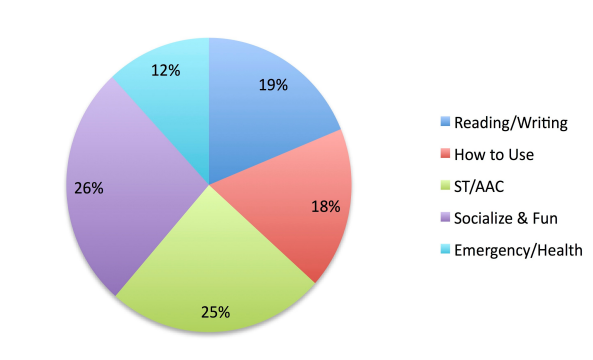



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## A Life Participation Approach to Aphasia Technology: The STARS Program

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Abstract	Program Development: The Advisory Committee	Program Description
<p>People with aphasia can use technology as more than a delivery mode for therapeutic exercises. Technology can facilitate participation in life (Hinckley, 2016; Hinckley &amp; Brice, 2016). This poster session describes a patient-centered process for developing topic priorities for a new technology training program within an existing nonprofit, community-based aphasia organization.</p> <p>A survey of 22 people with aphasia showed that their most frequently preferred topic was <i>technology tools to use in an emergency</i>. Other topics were also highly rated, supporting the idea that people with aphasia are interested in a variety of technology applications.</p> <p>Existence of the technology program outside of typical regulatory mechanisms allows development of program components that focus on the needs, opinions, and preferences of people with aphasia.</p>	<p>A 10 person Advisory Committee was formed in the Fall of 2016. Members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ 3 People with Aphasia</li> <li>☆ 1 Spouse of Benefactor</li> <li>☆ 5 Speech-Language Pathologists</li> <li>☆ 1 Marketing Specialist.</li> </ul> <p><b>Program Development: The Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ Written survey conducted</li> <li>☆ 22 people with aphasia in St. Petersburg, FL and Sarasota, Florida</li> </ul>  <p><b>Program Development: Survey Results</b></p>  <p>Of 11 topics surveyed, the three most popular topics were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technology Tools to Use In An Emergency</li> <li>2. Tools to Help You Socialize</li> <li>3. Speech Therapy Tools</li> </ol> <p>☆ Results provided framework for creation and launch of The Danniella Muheim STARS Program in 2017.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ The STARS Program consists of three modules.</li> </ul> <p><b>Module 1: STARS Workshop</b> Group education and training related to high-interest topics identified by surveys conducted in Fall 2015.</p> <p><b>Module 2: STARS Lab</b> Individual and family-focused training customized to the needs of the person with aphasia.</p> <p><b>Module 3: STARS Outings</b> Opportunities for people with aphasia to practice using technology functionally in a real-world setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ Each STARS Module stands alone and may be accessed in any order, depending upon participant needs/preferences.</li> <li>☆ Content for 2017 implementation of the three STARS Modules was created from Survey Results.</li> </ul>
Program Inception		Conclusions and Lessons Learned
<p><b>The Danniella Muheim STARS Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ Social ☆ Technology ☆ Aphasia ☆ Return-To-Life ☆ Speech</li> <li>☆ Created from a bequest by and in honor of Voices of Hope for Aphasia member Danniella Muheim.</li> <li>☆ Successful Aerospace Engineer employed at NASA.</li> <li>☆ Stroke at 46 years-of-age while working on the James Webb Space Telescope program.</li> <li>☆ Aphasia interfered with her work.</li> <li>☆ Dannie used tech devices to reach functional goals.</li> <li>☆ Resumed work at NASA part-time two years later.</li> <li>☆ Cancer claimed Dannie's life the following year.</li> <li>☆ <i>Voices of Hope for Aphasia</i> formed a 10 person expert Advisory Committee and surveyed people with aphasia in 2016.</li> <li>☆ <i>Danniella Muheim STARS Program</i> launched in 2017.</li> </ul> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ Surveying people with aphasia about their topic preferences produced different results than what might have been produced by a panel of professionals.</li> <li>☆ Appropriately targeting life participation goals for technology can change the daily functioning of people with aphasia.</li> <li>☆ People with aphasia may have difficulty participating in typical technology training courses, and need an aphasia-friendly environment in which to learn and practice.</li> <li>☆ Aphasia-friendly modifications include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- applying evidence-based principles for aphasia-friendly written materials</li> <li>- adjusting the amount of information trained in a single session</li> <li>- providing structured ongoing practice sessions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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## **The Voices of Hope for Aphasia Danniella Muheim STARS Program**

☆Social ☆Technology ☆Aphasia ☆Return-To-Life ☆Speech

**The D.M. STARS Program** is offered by **Voices of Hope for Aphasia**. **STARS Program Modules** provide hands-on training and support for people with aphasia and their families in the use of technology in a fun and social environment.

Technology may be used to augment communication, for home practice, for connecting with friends and family, or to return to work and life activities.

The **D.M. STARS Program** is made possible thanks to a generous bequest by a **Voices of Hope for Aphasia** member, **Danniella Muheim**.

### **Danniella Muheim**

Danniella Muheim was an accomplished and brilliant engineer who worked at NASA on the James Webb Space Telescope team. Dannie suffered a stroke in 2012 at the age of 46. She returned to part-time work at NASA in 2014 and was an active member of Voices of Hope for Aphasia.



Dannie was passionate about educating people about aphasia and about supporting and inspiring people with aphasia to return to life! Dannie passed away in 2015 but left a generous bequest to **Voices of Hope for Aphasia**. We hope to honor her with the creation and development of our **Danniella Muheim STARS Program!**

### **References**

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