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MEDICAL CENTER



I/DD ECHO

Enabling Technology and Communication Devices

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Disclosures

- Target audience: clinicians who currently care for adults with I/DD
- Objective: To improve the knowledge of primary care providers who care for individuals with I/DD
- Speaker Disclosure: **Krista S. Bright** has no relationship with any commercial firm having products related to topics discussed at this conference. Actual disclosure forms are available upon request.

Objectives

- How do we define Enabling Technology (ET)?
- Why is Enabling Technology (ET) important?
- Communication Bill of Rights & Self-determination
- Augmentative & Alternative Communication Devices (AAC)
- Resources
- Funding

How do we define Enabling Technology?

- Enabling Technology is defined as equipment and/or methodologies that, alone or in combination with associated technologies, provide the means to support individuals' increased independence in their homes, communities, and/or workplaces.

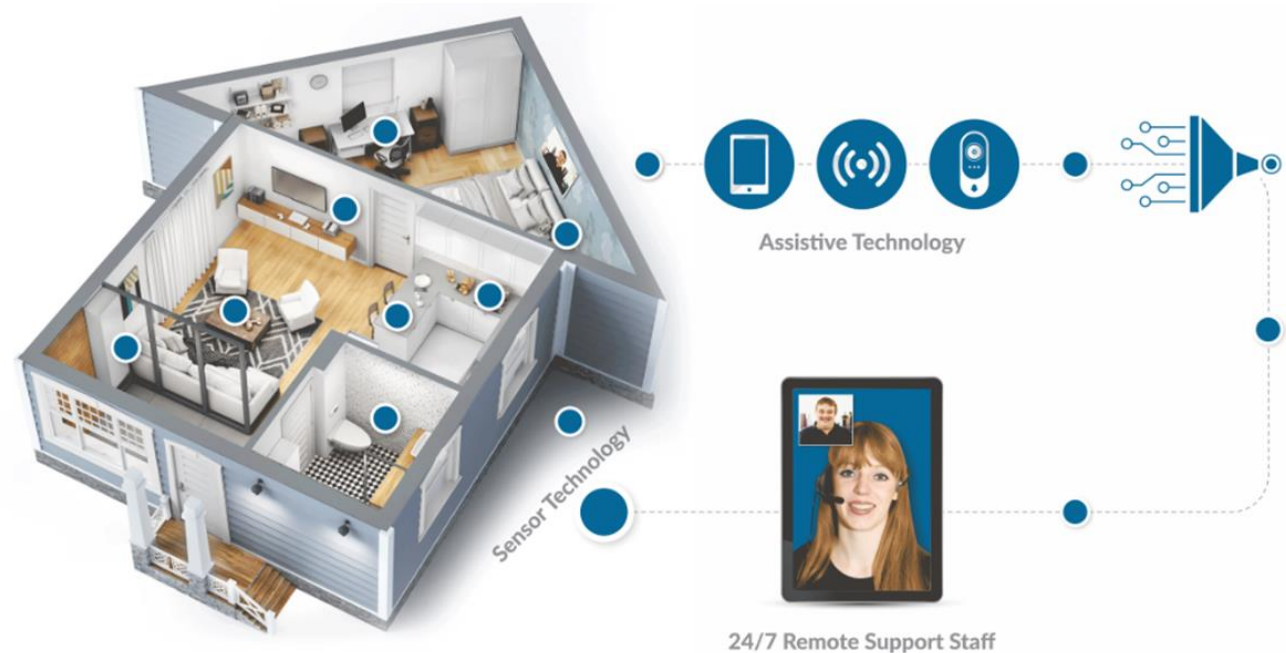


Enabling Technology is...

- A person-centered technology solution
- Driven by personal outcomes, preferences, priorities, and concerns for well-being
- A service that promotes independence, personal development, and additional opportunities for self-determination
- A service that supports accessibility and skill development at home, at work, and in the community
- A service that does not require medical necessity and/or recommendation by qualified health care professional

Examples of Enabling Technology

- Remote Support Technology systems that utilize smart home technologies and other equipment including:
 - Wireless sensor technology (e.g., motion sensors, bed/chair sensors, door sensors, smoke & CO alarms, etc.);
 - Two-way audio/video communication devices
 - Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERs);
 - Smart door locks and keyless entry systems;
 - Video doorbells; and
 - Smart speakers with voice assistant.



Examples of Enabling Technology

- Environmental Control Systems;
- Automated Medication Dispensers;
- Mobile smart devices (e.g., smart phones, iPads, tablets, laptops, etc.);
- Mobile software applications; and
- Wearable and virtual technologies
- Communication methods



Enabling Technology in Tennessee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlGRm7NoDS0>

Communication: A Basic Human Right

- We ALL deserve the right to communicate and express ourselves for a variety of reasons, including expressing preferences, sharing information, and socializing.
- *All people with a disability of any extent or severity have a basic right to affect, through communication, the conditions of their existence.*



n j c National Joint Committee for the
Communication Needs of Persons
With Severe Disabilities (NJ/C)

COMMUNICATION BILL OF RIGHTS

All people with a disability of any extent or severity have a basic right to affect, through communication, the conditions of their existence. Beyond this general right, a number of specific communication rights should be ensured in all daily interactions and interventions involving persons who have severe disabilities. To participate fully in communication interactions, each person has these fundamental communication rights:

1. The right to interact socially, maintain social closeness, and build relationships.
2. The right to request desired objects, actions, events, and people.
3. The right to refuse or reject undesired objects, actions, events, or choices.
4. The right to express personal preferences and feelings.
5. The right to make choices from meaningful alternatives.
6. The right to make comments and share opinions.
7. The right to ask for and give information, including information about changes in routine and environment.
8. The right to be informed about people and events in one's life.
9. The right to access interventions and supports that improve communication.
10. The right to have communication acts acknowledged and responded to even when the desired outcome cannot be realized.
11. The right to have access to functioning AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) and other AT (assistive technology) services and devices at all times.
12. The right to access environmental contexts, interactions, and opportunities that promote participation as full communication partners with other people, including peers.
13. The right to be treated with dignity and addressed with respect and courtesy.
14. The right to be addressed directly and not be spoken for or talked about in the third person while present.
15. The right to have clear, meaningful and culturally and linguistically appropriate communications.

For more information, go to the NJ/C website at: www.aasha.org/njc

Reidy, N. C., Reed, L., Johnson, A., Johnson, K., Weiss, B., Spivack, S. T., Pace, D., Barrett, W., Smith, R., Siegel, J., Schumann, J., Smith, M., Spivack, S. T., & Whitman, B. (2010). Communication services and supports for individuals with severe disabilities: Guidelines for assessment and intervention. *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 115*(2), 101-106.

Communication & Self-Determination

- To be self-determined, the individual needs to express their needs and make informed decisions about personal choices and the supports necessary to meet those needs.
- A self-determined individual is confident they can control their own destiny and has a sense of being in charge.
- This requires these key elements:
 - knowledge of self,
 - knowledge of your rights, and
 - the ability to communicate your perspectives and opinions.

Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC)

- AAC refers to methods of communication that enhance (augment) or replace (provide an alternative to) conventional speech.
- Who benefits from AAC?
 - There are no cognitive prerequisites; research has demonstrated that no measure of developmental level is useful in determining candidacy for using an AAC system (It can be said that breathing is the only prerequisite that is relevant to communication).

Types of AAC

- There are two major types of AAC, unaided and aided.
 - Unaided communication = the term used for AAC which involves skills and strategies that require no external material or equipment.
 - Aided AAC = the term used for systems which involve some level of technology resulting in the use of materials and equipment external to the person.

Aided Communication: Low-Tech

- Low-tech aided systems are simple supports with no power source.
- These include:
 - Communication boards
 - Tangible symbol systems
 - Any other aid that doesn't rely on electricity/batteries



Aided Communication: Mid-Tech

- Mid-tech systems typically have replaceable or rechargeable batteries.
- These systems allow the user to access picture symbols, letters, words, and phrases to create messages.
- Many have speech output (digitized speech).



Aided Communication: High-Tech

- High-tech systems include speech generating devices (SGDs), laptop computers with communication software, and mobile devices with technology apps.
- They use synthesized speech output, digitized speech output or both
- They allow the user to select a message that is then spoken or written, as well as construct messages that are original and then produced with a synthesized voice.



Resources: TN Tech Connect

- Tennessee Tech Connect is a new collaborative program between TN Disability Pathfinder (www.tnpathfinder.org) and the TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD).
- It was developed to provide information to the disability community about assistive and Enabling Technology.
- <https://www.tnpathfinder.org/tntechconnect>

Resources

- DIDD Enabling Technology <https://www.tn.gov/didd/for-consumers/enabling-technology.html>
- Communication Bill of Rights <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/njc/njc-communication-bill-rights.pdf>
- ASHA Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/aac/>

Resources

- DIDD Enabling Technology Model Homes <https://www.tn.gov/didd/for-consumers/enabling-technology/model-homes.html>
- Simply Home <https://www.simply-home.com/>
- Safe In Home <https://www.safeinhome.com/>

Funding

- Medicaid Waivers (ECF Choices, Choices, 1915c)
- Medicaid Alternative Pathways to Independence (MAPs)
- Private Pay
- Payment through ABLE accounts
- Advocacy organizations may provide grant funding.

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Thank you!