

**MAKING
COMMUNICATION
HAPPEN WORLDWIDE**

Get Ready, Here We Come!

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2010
HILTON BURLINGTON
BURLINGTON, VERMONT**

Get Ready, Here We Come!

Presenters

- Harvey Lavoy, Community Developmental Services Barre, VT
- Marilyn Chadwick, Speech/Language Pathologist, Syracuse, NY
- Maisie Lajeunesse, Student, Spaulding H.S.
- Kyle Moriarty, Student, Montpelier H.S.

Information on Facilitated Communication Training

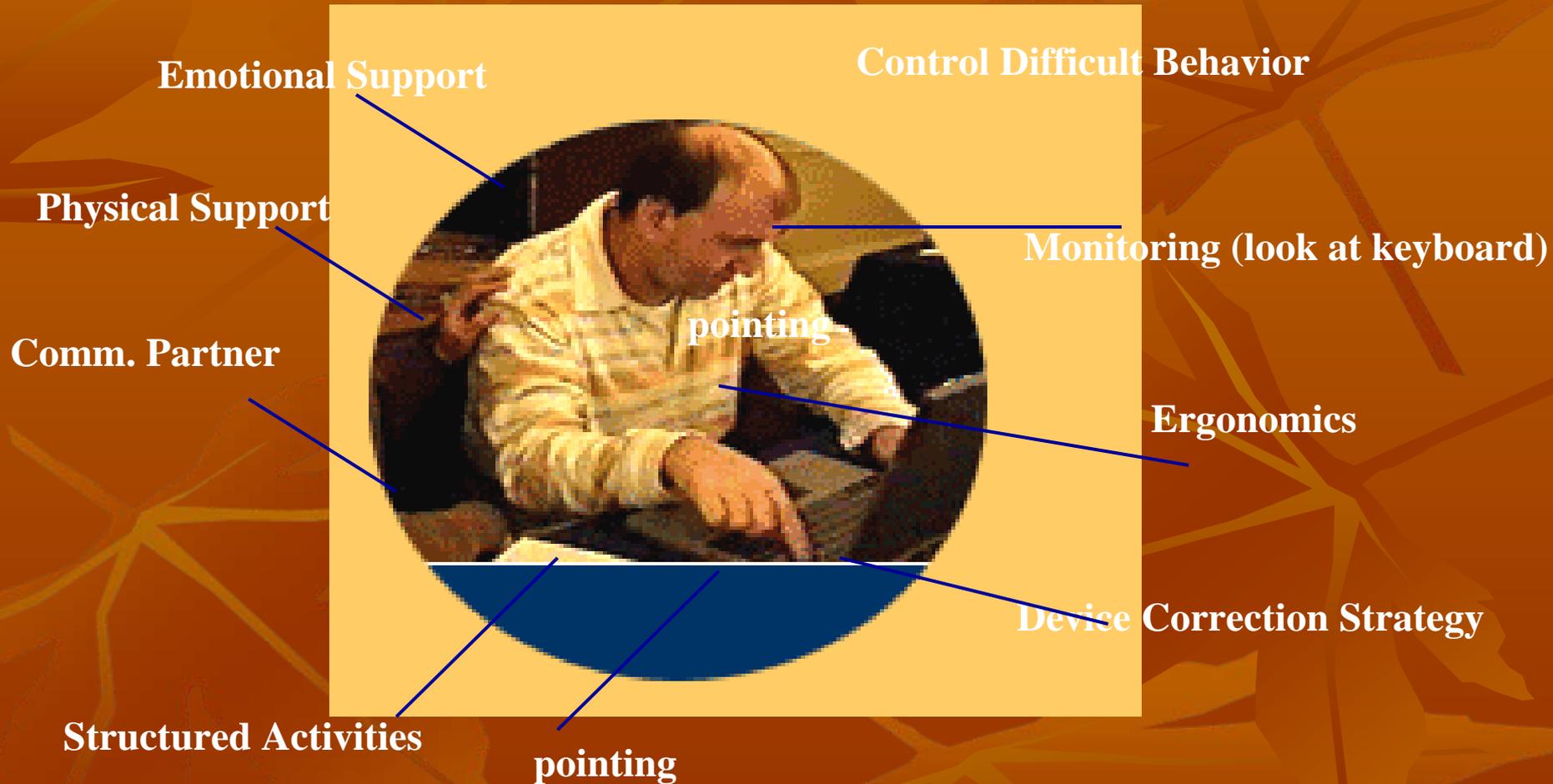
- Institute on Communication and Inclusion
- Facilitated Communication Training Standards and Best Practices 2000
- DEAL Institute Australia
- Harvey Lavoy, harvey1@wcmhs.org
- Pascal Cheng, pascalcc@howardcenter.org
- Book Facilitated Communication Training, Rosemary Crossley

What is Facilitated Communication?

Strongest therapy for people with no means of expression is sensational, controversial, revolutionary, technically subtle FC. It involves understanding movement lapses of people and providing physical support to help overcome them. Plastic nature of users of FC requires topnotch weaning of support towards ultimate goal of independence.

Larry Bissonnette

Elements of Facilitated Communication Training



Facilitated Communication is...

- A strategy which supports the physical, communicative, and emotional needs of a person with a communication disability to move more purposefully in order to express themselves through an alternate mode of communication
- A method of training a person to ACCESS an AAC device or low tech display in order to communicate
- A method of teaching someone to point and control their movements in order to communicate

Facilitated Communication is...

Total communication approach

- Not meant to replace current successful communication methods
- Meant to enhance and expand current communication opportunities
- Many people who type also use some speech, sign, prepared communication boards, dynamic picture displays

Basic Principles for Facilitators

- Monitor eye contact
- Monitor body position
- Monitor device position
- Pull back
- Monitor output
- Provide feedback
- Provide scaffolded support
- Reduce support
- Don't over-interpret

Tracy - Describing the physical support he needs:

The facilitator must slow me down and pull my arm back to help me start again so that I can point to the correct letter I am going for. I would not be able to type the words I really want without the firm resistance of the facilitator.

Emotional Support...

You must acknowledge this powerful emotion of fear and puzzlement in ourselves, and agree to support us with faith and belief in the ability to begin the attempt to give assistance to move through this. I fear silence and the life of submission without choices. We must know that your heart believes in us and that you seek help also if you struggle to move through our layers of resistance. If that support person is a conveyer in that belief of our ability, then those are the beginning steps to my independence.

Jamie Burke

Climbing the Ladder: Levels of Communication

<i>Conversation</i>	What do you want to talk about?
<i>Open question</i>	What did you think of the movie?
<i>?/Shared Knowledge</i>	Tell Bob what we did last night.
<i>Multiple choice/limited</i>	What are your favorite sports?
<i>Multiple choice/classical</i>	Do you want coffee, tea or soda?
<i>Fill in the blank/open</i>	I would like ____ to drink.
<i>Fill in the blank/predictable</i>	Today is _____.
<i>Yes/No</i>	Is Vermont smaller than Texas?
<i>Copy work</i>	Here is the word, “milk”. Type it.
<i>Whole word choices</i>	Point to the word, “milk”.
<i>Pointing to objects/pictures</i>	Point to the picture of “milk”.

What Are Movement Differences?

- A difference, interference or shift in the efficient, effective use of movement.
- A disruption in the organization and regulation of perception, action, posture, language, speech, thought, emotion and/or memory.

Leary, Hill & Donnellan, 1999

What are Movement Differences?

- “Movement disturbance can clearly have a profound effect on a person’s ability to regulate movement in order to effectively communicate, relate, and participate with others. It becomes necessary to suspend absolute trust in one’s intuitive interpretation of actions and intent.”
- “Behaviors may not be what they seem.”

Leary & Hill, 1996 p 44

Tracy Thresher describing movement challenges:



My impulse control problems, my way of going too hard at the letters and my problems with perseveration, are things I need help from my facilitators...

Understanding Movement Differences

- It is known that sometimes people with autism have trouble moving their bodies. This is known as motor planning inability.
Sometimes I have trouble making my body do what I want it to do.

Jamie Burke

- Sometimes I like to move in odd ways because it makes me feel more comfortable, yet I have control of some movements. I am also consciously aware of my odd movements at times. Sometimes my movements make me think more clearly.

Steven Hinkle

Understanding Movement Differences

- My body movements are jerky and unplanned.
- My mouth is moving completely independently from my mind.
- I am trying to get my body where I want it to go, but my body has a mind of its own.

Sue Rubin

Presumption of Competence

It is especially important that difficulties with communication not be taken as evidence of intellectual competence. Although a person may be unable to demonstrate what she or he thinks and feels, or may have great difficulty being understood, she or he should not be further handicapped by the attitudes of others.

Facilitated Communication Training Standards (2000)



Unless someone makes a jump by going outside the handicapped person's previous stage of communication, there is no way the speechless person can do so. Failure is no crime. Failure to give someone the benefit of the doubt is.

Anne McDonald, Annie's Coming Out, 1980