

Area: Program Administration
Subject: Mission and Program Goals
Policy No.: 010

POLICY

It is the policy of the clinical service programs of the Department of Communication Disorders (Center for Communication Disorders; Access Network; Southern Connecticut Audiology Services) to provide a comprehensive range of speech-language pathology and audiology as stated in their mission and program goals.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all clients of the clinical service programs of the Department of Communication Disorders are presented the opportunity and service they require to maximize their communicative competence.

PROCEDURES

1. The mission and program goals of the respective clinical service programs of the Department of Communication Disorders are stated as a matter of official record (see attached) and are distributed as follows:
 - a. The mission is stated in the clinical program brochure which is distributed to physicians, educators, community agencies, parents, and clients;
 - b. The mission and goals are stated in the Clinical Manual of Operation which is available to each staff member and members of the community-at-large on-line.
- c. Regular review and revision of the mission and program goals of the clinical service programs of the Department of Communication Disorders will be the responsibility of the Department Clinical Director and the clinical program staff, upon approval by the faculty of the Department of Communications Disorders. A majority vote will be necessary to accept proposed modifications, additions, or deletions.

MISSION :

The ***Center for Communication Disorders*** provides individualized speech-language pathology services for children and adults with a variety of developmental communication disorders, including: speech production; developmental language; voice (including laryngectomy and gender voice transition); augmentative/alternative communication; functional communication development; executive function; language to literacy development; fluency; central auditory processing.

The **Access Network** is a service learning project that provides individualized evaluations and group support to improve skills and enhance life participation and quality of life for adults who have acquired communication and/or swallowing disorders resulting from stroke, brain injury or other medical pathologies. Services include individual, small group, and/or large group skill enhancement activities including: social support groups for clients and caregivers; education and advocacy regarding communication and swallowing disorders; strategies to improve cognitive-communication, expressive and receptive language, and swallowing skills.

Southern Connecticut Audiology Services strives to ensure optimal communication between children and adults with hearing loss and their family and friends so they may be active and successful participants in a variety of meaningful like activities. Services offered include: comprehensive diagnostic hearing evaluations; hearing aid dispensing and service; hearing aid orientation and follow up; assistive listening devices; aural rehabilitation; custom hearing protection (musician plugs, industrial plugs and swim plugs); hearing screening

All three clinical service programs serve the culturally and economically diverse communities of Greater New Haven and its surrounding counties. The services are provided by graduate students, under the supervision of faculty and clinical supervisors in the Department of Communication Disorders. The clinical service programs support the Department of Communication Disorders in its mission to “prepare graduates for professional careers in speech-language pathology , to “promote communicative health through professional services to individuals, families, communities, and populations representative of our urban setting and multicultural society,” as well as supporting the mission of the School of Health and Human Services to “educate students through state-of-the-art teaching strategies that integrate and emphasize discipline specific and interdisciplinary research, scholarship, professional practice, and community service.” The clinical service programs strive to foster an interdisciplinary approach to student training and service delivery through collaboration with other academic and clinical programs at the University including Nursing, Marriage and Family Therapy, Recreation and Leisure Studies, and Social Work, as well as through collaboration with community-based medical and therapy service providers.

GOALS: The goals of the clinical service programs of the Department of Communication Disorders (Center for Communication Disorders, Access Network, and Southern Connecticut Audiology Services) are:

- to provide an on-going clinical experience for the training of graduate students in Speech- Language Pathology;
- to provide comprehensive quality services, including consultative, preventive, diagnostic, treatment, information-and-referral, and follow-up services to persons of all ages who present communication disorders;

- to provide the expertise of its staff to the community in advisory or consultative capabilities through presentation of workshops, case conferencing, or program design;
- to provide objective client advocacy through which additional information concerning

clients' communication can be gathered and directed toward appropriate agencies, with necessary supportive services;

- to continue to bind together research and clinical practice in order to effect the most efficient, innovative and individualized evidence-based service possible to clients, as well as to develop new and/or alternative methods of assessment, intervention and supervision.