Training Modules

SYNOPSIS OF TRAINING MODULES

Module # 1 - Volunteer Orientation

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide an overview of the York-Durham Aphasia Centre (YDAC): who we are, our principles and values, and the volunteer opportunities we have.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module you should be able to:
- explain the values and principles of the York-Durham Aphasia Centre (YDAC)
- describe who our clients are and what expectations they bring to the program
- describe the communication and support programs at YDAC

Module # 2 - Communication Disorders: Described and Applied

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide participants with a basic understanding of the different types of communication change that result from neurological damage, and how these changes impact situations in everyday life.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to describe:
- the challenges faced by adults with aphasia and related communication disorders
- the different types of adult neurogenic communication disorders, and how they impact everyday situations
- what it might feel like to have aphasia or related communication disorders and how volunteers can assist adults with aphasia or related communication disorders

Module # 3 - Understanding Communication Disability and Loss

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide an understanding of the vulnerability of our clients and to outline ways in which you, as a volunteer, can offer support in a meaningful way.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to:
- describe some forms of loss that our clients may be experiencing and the impact on their lives
- describe some roles we assume in life and what it means to experience a loss of those roles
- identify ways to acknowledge and validate a person's new role in life
- analyze your own interactions with our clients and determine if they reflect an adult to adult relationship.

Module # 4 - Group Work Process

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is for volunteers to increase their understanding of the mechanics of group work and their role in a group communication program.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to:
- describe mutual aid and how it applies to group communication programs
- explain the role of the communication facilitator in group discussions
- explain the role of the program assistant in group discussions
- explain group facilitation skills
- demonstrate strategies to encourage equal participation by group members.

Module # 5 - Communication Strategies: Described and Applied

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to review the purpose and use of communication strategies. Participants will have an opportunity to explore the use of strategies in their discussion groups.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to:
- identify the reasons for using communication strategies
- identify and demonstrate strategies and aids that assist communication — getting the message in and getting the message out.
- plan to integrate the strategies into your discussion group.

Module # 6 - Making it Happen: Facilitating Group Discussion

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide an overview, through sharing and discussion, of how to make a discussion group happen.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to:
- describe the purpose of group communication sessions
- create an environment that encourages communication
- encourage equal participation of group members
- create materials to engage clients in communication activities.

Module # 7 - Creative Communication Activities

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide participants with a framework for creative communication through such activities as art, music, drama, cooking, games, and crafts.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to:
- describe the purpose of creative communication activities
- design creative communication activities to be used in a group communication program
- facilitate the use of creative communication activities (for example: art, music, drama, cooking, games, crafts) in group communication programs.

Module # 8 - Storytelling, Reading and Writing Activities

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide participants with a framework to create storytelling, reading and writing activities.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to:
- describe the purpose of storytelling, reading, and writing activities
- describe the "language experience approach" and how it can be applied to group communication programs
- design storytelling, reading, and writing activities to be used in a group communication program
- apply your knowledge of storytelling, reading, and writing activities to assist clients as they tell, write, and read their own life stories.

Module # 9 - Life History Communication Book Process

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide an overview of the importance of Life History Communication Books (LHCB), to describe how LHCB are created and used, and to explain how volunteers are involved in this process.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to:
- describe the purpose of an LHCB
- describe the process of creating an LHCB
- describe how volunteers are involved in the process of creating an LHCB
- demonstrate ways to use an LHCB in discussion groups

Module # 10 - A Closer look at Dysarthria

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide participants with a basic understanding of dysarthrias that result from neurological damage, and how these changes impact communication and other situations in everyday life.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to describe:
- what dysarthria is
- how dysarthria is different from aphasia and apraxia of speech
- the challenges faced by adults with dysarthria and the impact on everyday situations
- what it might feel like to have dysarthria
- how volunteers can assist adults with dysarthria.

Module # 11 - Depression and Stroke

The purpose of the session is to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between stroke and depression.

You will have opportunities to practice skills in dealing with depression within the context of YDAC's services.

Module # 12 - Severe Aphasia

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to review the purpose and use of communication strategies particularly suited to individuals with severe aphasia.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the module, you should be able to:
- Identify the purpose of using communication strategies discussed in this module
- Understand how each strategy could be used in discussion groups
- Equalize participation among clients, and keep conversations flowing when facilitating discussions

Module # 13 - A Closer look at Apraxia

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide participants with a basic understanding of apraxia of speech (AOS), caused by stroke, brain illness or injury, and how these changes impact communication and other situations in everyday life.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, you should be able to describe:
- what apraxia of speech (AOS) is
- how AOS is different from aphasia and dysarthria
- other types of apraxia caused by stroke, brain illness or injury
- how volunteers can assist adults with AOS
- what it might feel like to have AOS

Module # 14 - Drawing for Communication

Workshop Objective

The objective of this workshop is to provide participants with a basic understanding of the purpose of drawing for communication as well as some common errors made by people with aphasia. Participants will also gain basic drawing skills and learn strategies on how to facilitate clients' use of drawing to communicate.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:
• explain why drawing is used for communication
• understand the contribution of each side of the brain in the drawing process
• describe the purpose of using distinctive features (e.g., shape, size, colour and characteristic details) in drawing
• demonstrate basic drawing skills for communication
• describe and demonstrate how to facilitate drawing with clients

Creating Aphasia-Friendly Program Materials – Parts 1 and 2

Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to provide an overview of how to create aphasia-friendly materials and to provide hands-on opportunities to evaluate and improve program materials

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module participants should be able to:
• describe what is meant by "aphasia-friendly" materials
• explain why "aphasia friendly" materials are important
• create aphasia friendly materials that will engage program participants
• help clients rate the aphasia-friendliness of written communication

Technology as a Communication and Conversation Tool – Parts 1 and 2

Workshop Objective

The objective of this workshop is to introduce computers, iPads, programs and apps as devices, and to explore how technology can be used as a communication tool and a conversation tool.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:
• identify when to use technology for communication and conversation
• be comfortable handling and maintaining devices
• identify ways to integrate technology into the program
• discover apps to use with individuals and groups

Cognitive Communication Disorders

Workshop Objective

The objective of this workshop is to discuss what we mean by cognitive communication disorders (CCD), to discuss what it looks like in conversation, and to discuss strategies that can help.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:
- describe CCD and how it differs from aphasia
- understand how it impacts conversation and social interaction
- understand and apply supportive strategies

"Acting Up" Drama Group

Workshop Objective

The objective of this workshop is to explore the purpose of incorporating drama activities into a communication group to improve the non-verbal communication (gestures, facial expression, vocalizations) in non-verbal clients.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:
- understand the goals of the program
- understand how to integrate individual client goals in a group setting
- implement activities and cueing strategies used to improve non-verbal communication
- develop their own program

Practical Strategies in Communication for Caregivers

Workshop Objective

The objective of this workshop is to provide participants with an understanding of the effect of aphasia on a person's ability to communicate and finding new ways to communicate.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:
- understand and use basic communication skills and alternative and supportive communication strategies to help ensure that people with aphasia have equal opportunity to participate in conversation

Communication Access for People with Aphasia: Advocacy for Programs and Services

Workshop Objective

The objective of this workshop is to provide an understanding of the communication barriers faced by adults living with aphasia and related neurogenic communication disabilities, and to describe ways to reduce the communication barriers and increase life participation.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:
- describe aphasia and related adult communication disabilities, and their impact on people's lives
- understand the concept of "Communication Access" and its importance
- identify ways to create a "communicatively accessible" environment in your workplace

Introduction to Aphasia and Communication Disability – Presented by the YDAC Client/Family Teaching Team

Workshop Objective

The objective of this workshop is to provide an understanding of communication change after stroke, brain injury and brain illness, and to demonstrate supportive and alternative communication strategies.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:
- describe aphasia and other adult communication disabilities
- describe the challenges these present
- describe supportive communication strategies

See Things My Way: Preparing Aphasia Friendly Documents

Workshop Objective

This workshop is intended to provide participants with both the knowledge that will allow them to assess the communicative accessibility of a document, and practical guidance on the preparation of aphasia-friendly materials. The format is an interactive presentation and application of the guidance to some sample documents.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:
- understand process to develop aphasia-friendly documents
- Apply guidelines to develop aphasia-friendly documents

Facial Affect Recognition Training

Learning Objectives

- To provide information about the Facial Affect Recognition (FAR) Training Program to MODC staff
- To practice using the FAR Training program with each other
- To discuss how the FAR training program could be used with clients/consumers living with ABI, aphasia and stroke