



Keeping Members Informed

MAY 2022 EDITION

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Chair

Rita Thurman, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F,
Past Chair

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Glenn Weybright, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F
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Kim Sabourin, M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-F
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Brooke Leiman Edwards, M.A., CCC-
SLP, BCS-F, *Certification Coordinators*

Tricia Krauss-Lehrman, M.M.S., CCC-
SLP, BCS-F *Marketing & Public Relations*

Ryan Pollard, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F
Community Outreach Chair

Risa Battino, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F
Social Media Director

Reuben Schuff *Consumer Representative*

WELCOME

As 2022 progresses, we, as a Board, continue to hope that you, your families, and the clients you serve are healthy and safe. We are cautiously optimistic that our working environments will remain open so that we may serve our clients to the best of our abilities.

The mission of the ABFFD is three-fold:

*To promote among speech-language pathologists the highest standards for training and service delivery to impact positively the communication skills and thereby the lives of those who demonstrate fluency disorders.

*To verify knowledge of fluency disorders and mastery of skills of professionals who seek and maintain the credential of Board-Certified Specialist-Fluency.

*To publicize the benefits of working with specialists in fluency disorders and to provide an up-to-date listing of individuals who maintain the status of Board-Certified Specialist-Fluency.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in assisting the ABFFD with one of our current projects, please contact us via our website.

BOARD NEWS

Kim Sabourin, M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-F has joined the board as CE Coordinator.

Ryan Pollard, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F has joined the board as Community Outreach Chair.

Elyse Lambeth, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F is now the Chair of the ABFFD.

We are grateful for their enthusiasm and willingness to serve and further the mission of the ABFFD.

Since May of 2020, the ABFFD has sponsored a **Round Table Discussion** most months, to cover topics relevant to the board certification process. These meetings are designed for applicants for BCS-F, individuals who are considering applying for BCS-F, current or potential mentors, and people with fluency disorders from the community with an interest in the process. These meetings have been well-attended and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. A wide variety of topics have been presented and discussed including the most recent topics described below.

On **Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 8 PM EST**, a Round Table Discussion featuring Vivian Sisskin speaking on the topic "**Acceptance and Change: Travel Companions on the Stuttering Journey**" took place, having been rescheduled from its original date of January 20, 2022 due to technical difficulties. As anticipated, interesting discussion occurred on a variety of related topics.

Another Round Table Discussion was scheduled for **Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 1:30 PM EST** on **The Lived Experience of Cluttering**. Dr. Kathy Scaler-Scott served as the facilitator for the discussion which included 2 individuals who clutter: Terilyn Scott-Winful and Joseph Dewey. They each told a bit about their journeys with cluttering and responded to a number of questions posed. All who attended gained a better understanding of cluttering from these 2 panelists who were open and forthcoming about their varied experiences as individuals who clutter.

On **Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 1:00 PM EST**, the ABFFD is inviting current and prospective specialists as well as consumers to come together for a Round Table Discussion to share and learn about **Differing perspectives on the semantics of using "Fluency and Fluency Disorders" in our designation**. This topic was also included in our recent member's survey in order to include you in this conversation which our board has been having in recent weeks. Register in advance for this meeting via the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYodemqqTguH9MEX0aexALJyGDhjalvFffT>

[**SURVEY RESULTS**](#)

BOARD MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In past issues of this newsletter, this section has focused on the various activities related to fluency disorders which board members have been a part of in recent months. After this edition of the newsletter, there will be a shift as we rename this section **Members in the News** and focus instead on the activities of other members/board certified fluency specialists which might be of interest. We will be reaching out to members but if you would like to share with us what you have been involved with in recent months (publications, presentations, events, or accomplishments) please feel free to email Tricia Krauss-Lehrman, M.M.S/CCC-SLP, BCS-F, Marketing and Public Relations (tklspeech@gmail.com).

Elyse Lambeth, Chair, presented a talk at the Arizona Speech-Language and Hearing Conference on April 22, 2022 entitled **“Building Effective Communication in School Stuttering Therapy”**.

Rita Thurman, Past Chair, presented a workshop at the North Carolina Speech Language and Hearing Association with Kelly Harrington on March 3, 2022 titled **“More Than Speech Skills: Managing the Emotional and Cognitive Components of Chronic Speech/Language Differences.”** On February 26, 2022, Rita presented a workshop at the West Virginia Speech Language and Hearing Association on **“The Role of Temperament in the Treatment of Children Who Stutter”**. In addition, on May 5, 2022, she presented a workshop for Johnston County Public Schools titled **“Using Solution Focused Brief Therapy in the Treatment of School Age Children Who Stutter”**.

Laura Johnson, Treasurer, did a presentation in February 2022 to the NSSHLA organization at the University of Wisconsin/Madison on **“Why I got interested in stuttering and fluency disorders.”** In April, 2022, she brushed up on her acting and became a simulated patient (of varying ages) for the graduate class in Fluency Disorders at the University of WI/Whitewater campus. During January-April, 2022, Laura continues to invite undergraduate and graduate students in speech language pathology to learn more about fluency therapy by becoming virtual conversation partners during therapy sessions.

Glenn Weybright, Advocacy and Education, served on an editorial committee in January 2022 providing input for an upcoming bilingual children’s book featuring a nine-year-old Mexican-American girl who stutters. The book was written by two Portland State University graduate students in the Spanish-English bilingual concentration of PSU’s Speech and Hearing Sciences graduate program. The book is called **Isabel Stutters**. Publication will be some time after June 2022. Glenn also hosted and facilitated the ABFFD February 17, 2022 Round Table Discussion with Vivian Siskin presenting on the topic **“Acceptance and Change: Travel Companions on the Stuttering Journey”**. On April 5th, 2022, Glenn participated as a community member at a local school district’s Academy of Science and Engineering as the graduating seniors spoke about their academic careers and goals in a capstone-like project called **Passages**. One of the young men speaking presented with cluttering and stuttering, and his SLP was one of Glenn’s graduate students at Portland State University a number of years ago. The young man speaking repeatedly cited his SLP as being instrumental in his success in high school and a model of

courage for him. Glenn described this as a wonderful moment watching his former student listen as she was praised for her help and understanding.

Carl Herder, Certification Coordinator, wrote two articles for the American Institute for Stuttering Blog, the first titled, **Classroom Accommodations For Students Who Stutter** (<https://www.stutteringtreatment.org/blog/classroom-accommodations>), and the second titled, **Classroom Public Speaking Tips for Students Who Stutter** (<https://www.stutteringtreatment.org/blog/classroom-public-speaking-tips>).

Brooke Leiman Edwards, Certification Coordinator, participated in the Camp Say for a Day: Camp Reunion on March 26 and 27, 2022. She also was involved in the SAY Annual Gala: an evening of live performances celebrating young people who stutter on May 9, 2022.

Tricia Krauss-Lehrman, Marketing and Public Relations, facilitated a virtual support group meeting of parents of preschoolers who have begun to stutter on January 16, 2022. The meeting was devoted to education and support for these parents. On April 3, 2022, she also participated in a Zoom 40th Reunion of the early members of the Dallas adult NSA chapter which began in 1982. This was an awesome opportunity to catch up with people from around the country and to hear how the Dallas NSA chapter impacted their lives over the past 40 years.

Ryan Pollard, Community Outreach, presented a professional development workshop for Laramie County School District 1 on **“Clinical Counseling Skills for SLPs/Addressing the Emotional Needs of Students who Stutter”** on Mar 11, 2022.

Risa Battino, Social Media Director, presented a CEU event about preschool stuttering at CUNY Hunter College on March 3, 2022, called **“Holistic Treatment for the Preschool Child”**.

ABFFD MANUAL CHANGES

The ABFFD is pleased to share that the 2022 manual now includes an important update for **clinicians in academic settings. This change recognizes that supervisory clinical contact hours can fully satisfy the clinical contact service hour requirement.** The modifications to the requirements are intended to enable highly qualified professionals who are experts in stuttering and have careers in academia to apply for BCS-F. The ABFFD received feedback from speech-language pathologists in the academic setting that the requirements for direct clinical service hours presented a significant barrier. Recognizing supervisory clinical contact hours as clinical contact hours is intended to make BCS-F accessible to experts in stuttering who are supervising, teaching and doing research with clinical applications. The results being that more highly qualified experts in stuttering will join the BCS-F, consumer knowledge of highly qualified clinical services will improve in the academic setting, and the BCS-F referral and mentoring network will expand. This is directly in line with the established mission of the ABFFD.

Below is a link to the manual and an excerpt defining supervisory clinical contact hours:

<https://www.stutteringspecialists.org/resources/Documents/March%202022%20-%20ABFFD-Standards%20Procedures%20Manual.pdf>

Supervisory clinical contact hours are considered to be those involved in direct supervision that may include identification, prevention, assessment, and intervention services related to fluency disorders. Clinical supervision is defined as supervision of student clinicians working with individuals who stutter or clutter who are working under the candidate's guidance. Supervisory hours may include:

- i. Demonstrating therapy skills with the client to assist the student in development
- ii. Co-treating with the student clinician
- iii. Counseling provided directly to the client and/or their family members or other relevant individuals. This may include obtaining information from these individuals, providing information to them, or problem solving or other counseling activities.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

The [National Stuttering Association \(NSA\)](http://www.westutter.org) (www.westutter.org) is honored to serve kids, teens, and adults who stutter, as well as their loved ones, and the professionals who serve them. They do so, in part, by offering a wide variety of local, regional, and national events across the United States. Here are the events which have taken place in the past few months.

FEBRUARY 2022

- **Teen Talk - February 10, 2022.** Teens age 13-17 were invited to pre-register to meet up online with other teens who stutter to chat, laugh, and share common experiences in our moderated Teen Talk session.
- **NSA Connects: Dating as a PWS - February 10, 2022.** As a person who stutters, dating can feel daunting and difficult to navigate. It may be challenging to open up and be vulnerable with someone you are interested in. However, it is possible to find happiness in a relationship as a person who stutters. Our NSA Young Adults Committee delved into everything from disclosure to becoming a team with your partner.
- **NSA Parents Virtual Chapter Meeting - February 17, 2022.** Parents were invited to participate in this free virtual support group for parents and other caregivers of people who stutter. If you are the parent/guardian/caregiver of a person (of any age!) who stutters, you may have questions about what to do and how best to help your child; you've come to the right place. Join us monthly for these informal discussions about the challenges and successes of raising children who stutter.
- **NSA Women Connect - February 17, 2022.** NSA Women Connect provides a safe, welcoming space to connect with other women who stutter, share our experiences, strengths, and hopes. We are dedicated to building a community of women who stutter who support and empower one other. We believe that we are stronger together. Our meetings will center around specific topics and our shared experiences, from our triumphs to challenges and everything in between. These meetings are hosted by Dr. Ai Leen Choo and Pamela Mertz, and are open only to women who stutter.
- **NSA Anti-Harassment Webinar - February 23, 2022.** The NSA is dedicated to providing a safe and supportive environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. Pursuant to the NSA's policy the NSA will not tolerate harassment or discrimination

based on gender, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, age, race, religion, or any other protected class. All NSA volunteers, staff, and leadership will be required to attend or view this training seminar on harassment and discrimination to continue in their position. This webinar was not open to the general public.

MARCH 2022

- **Teen Talk - March 10, 2022.**
- **NSA Connects: Older Adults Who Stutter - March 15, 2022.** As older adults who stutter, we have lived quite a while with stuttering. We have endured, learned, and honed good skills. Do we know this about ourselves? Do we realize we can depend on ourselves for anything we desire to experience or develop? Do we realize we have a lot to share with others, to help them on their journeys, too? We do! Hostesses Hannah Laday and Patrice Nolan Fox discuss believing in ourselves and how much we have to share.
- **NSA Parents Virtual Chapter Meeting - March 17, 2022.**
- **NSA Women Connect – March 17, 2022.**
- **WeStutter@Work Webinar: Managing Stress & Anxiety in the Workplace (Part II) March 30, 2022.** Kicking off our Spring 2022 webinar series, we welcomed back co-hosts Carl Coffey and Heather Najman to continue the conversation on stuttering & anxiety in the workplace. If you joined Part 1 during our Fall webinar series, you'll remember we talked through a lot of foundational knowledge including the nervous system, stress responses, utilizing our senses, and self-talk. In Part 2, hosts Carl Coffey and Heather Najman dove deeper to explore practical strategies that can be used to battle anxiety at work and discuss resources that can empower us to do our best work and thrive in an emotionally fulfilling way. Video recording & chat transcript can soon be found on the NSA website.

APRIL 2022

- **NSA Connects: Open Mic – April 12, 2022.** In our popular Open Mic sessions, participants have an opportunity to speak freely and share whatever might be on their mind, taking as long as is needed. This is a judgement-free space for your voice to be heard, and we want to hear what you have to say, so speak up & be heard! An NSA Open Mic session is always a welcoming and rewarding experience for everyone who talks and everyone who listens. This session was hosted by Board Member and NSA Young Adult Steve Ernst, and all were welcome to join in.
- **NSA Parents Virtual Chapter Meeting - April 21, 2022.**
- **NSA Women Connect - April 21, 2022.**
- **We Stutter @Work Webinar - Awkward Interactions In The Workplace For People Who Stutter - April 27, 2022.** While advocating for yourself and your stutter in the workplace is empowering, it doesn't come without its challenges. We've all likely experienced some awkward moments while communicating in the workplace that have caused us to go into a downward spiral of overthinking. Moments like stuttering on the phone and having people think you got disconnected or struggling to speak up in a group conversation can tend to leave us feeling awkward and uncomfortable. In this webinar, we hear from an esteemed panel of fellow people who stutter on how to get through some of those moments (that occur both in person and over Zoom) by sharing real life experiences, giving some hard-won lessons learned, suggested prompts to have

at the ready, and our favorite – input and advice from you, the listener! Video recording & chat transcript can soon be found on the NSA website.

MAY 2022

- **National Stuttering Awareness Week May 8-14, 2022.** This annual event is a time for all of us to raise stuttering awareness in our own communities and on a national scale, with a goal of educating the public and reaching those who stutter who still feel alone and isolated. The National Stuttering Association was instrumental in getting NSAW established by an act of Congress in 1988 when two long-time NSA members, Paul Castellano and Barbara Hubbard Koval, organized the drive to win Congressional recognition for people who stutter. In 1988 President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation establishing the second week in May 1988 as National Stuttering Awareness Week, which we continue to observe today.

FRIENDS (friendswhostutter.org) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support and education to young people who stutter, their families, and professionals, through annual conferences, one-day workshops, and outreach. Their vision is to help build a world in which all young people who stutter feel empowered to communicate whenever, wherever, and however they want to. At FRIENDS, they care deeply about their community and the well-being of individuals and families, especially during times like these (COVID-19). FRIENDS is coming to terms with the fact that things will not be the same for a while and is working on alternative ways to continue offering education and support for young people who stutter and their families. In an effort to stay connected in this time of social distancing, FRIENDS has been excited to offer many virtual events in recent months. Registration is required for each.

January 2022

- **FRIENDS Kids Group** - Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 10 AM EST — facilitated by Arin Sheeler
- **FRIENDS Teens Group** – Thursday, January 13 and 27, 2022 at 7:30 PM EST – facilitated by Naomi Rogers
- **FRIENDS 20's – 30's Adults Group** – Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 12 PM EST- facilitated by Róisín McManus
- **FRIENDS Parents Group** – Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7 PM EST – facilitated by Michael Boyle

FRIENDS essentially continued virtual groups (Kids, Teens, Adults, and Parents Groups) throughout February and March of 2022. We paused our virtual groups in April to strategize to make them even better! Virtual groups restarted in May.

May 2022

- **National Stuttering Awareness Week May 9 – 15** - FRIENDS has many suggestions for ways to celebrate at <https://mailchi.mp/friendswhostutter/national-stuttering-awareness-week-2022>
- **FRIENDS Kids Group** - Saturday, May 14 and 28, 2022 at 10 AM EST — facilitated by Sophie Tabrizi & Shian Williams
- **FRIENDS Teens Group** – Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 7:30 PM EST – facilitated by Alexander Burday

- **FRIENDS 20's – 30's Adults Group** – Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7:30 PM EST- facilitated by Dhruv Gupta
- **FRIENDS Parents Group** – Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 12 PM EST – facilitated by Tricia Zebrowski

The **Stuttering Foundation of America (SFA)** (www.stutteringhelp.org) continues its mission to provide the highest quality resources and learning opportunities to help clinicians increase their knowledge base, clinical skills, comfort, and competency, in order to best serve individuals who stutter. The Stuttering Foundation turns 75 in 2022! Quite a milestone!

The SFA has launched "Virtual Learning by Stuttering Foundation", a free online series of monthly interactive workshops with a variety of offerings for speech-language pathologists, parents, and individuals who stutter. The SFA still offers its weekly CEU sale! Every Tuesday, a different course is offered for \$5 which includes video/book + CEUs. In addition, a new CEU course: **Fluency Plus: Managing Fluency Disorders in Individuals With Concomitant Diagnoses** by Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is now available in the extensive SFA library.

Here is a list of the Virtual Learning Sessions offered through the first several months of 2022:

- January 2022–**75 Years – A Rock Solid Foundation** with Jane Fraser, FRCSLT
- February 2022–**The Lived Experience of People with Cluttering: Applying What We Know to Clinical Practice** with Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
- March 2022– **Brain Functions for Language in Children who Stutter** with Amanda Hampton Wray, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
- April 2022– **The Fork in the Road: Developmental Trajectories to Stuttering Persistence and Recovery** with Bridget Walsh, Ph.D., CCC-SLP.

Stuttering Foundation Podcast: After several seasons of a great mix of clinical discussions, research updates, and special segments, the SFA continues to record new podcasts regularly. Podcasts can be accessed through: Apple Podcast, Spotify, Stitcher, or directly through our website: www.stutteringhelp.org/podcast . Recent podcasts are listed below.

- January 2022 – **History of Stuttering Foundation: Honoring the Legacy of Malcolm Fraser and Celebrating 75 Years!** With Jane Fraser
- February 2022 – **Does Therapy Satisfy Children Who Stutter** with Dr. Sharon Millard, MRCSLT
- March 2022– **Communication Over Fluency: Part 2** with Dr. Ellen Kelly, CCC-SLP
- April 2022– **Jack's Journey: Exploring Stuttering Acceptance** with Jack Rodriguez.

HELP PROMOTE BOARD CERTIFICATION IN FLUENCY DISORDERS

The Board would like to invite all individuals who are creating a Powerpoint Presentation in the area of Fluency Disorders, to include one of 4 different slides the Board has created which promote board certification in fluency disorders. In an attempt to increase the number of board-certified specialists in fluency disorders, this is one way for the Board to increase

awareness of the specialty certification, hopefully sparking interest in individuals who might consider looking into the process. These slides can be found here:

<https://www.stutteringspecialists.org/ABFFD-Promo-Slides/>. Thank you for helping to promote specialty certification in fluency disorders!

ABOUT THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FLUENCY AND FLUENCY DISORDERS

The American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders was the first clinical specialty program approved by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 1998. The idea of a specialty program was driven by the need to give consumers access to professionals with advanced knowledge and skills, and to educate and recognize expert clinicians. The specialty program, initially known as the Specialty Board on Fluency Disorders, came into being through the efforts of both professionals and consumers. It was championed by ASHA's Special Interest Division 4, Fluency and Fluency Disorders, with support from the National Stuttering Association and the Stuttering Foundation of America.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Please visit the [ABFFD Facebook page](#). Send Risa Battino, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F, Social Media Director (rbattino@gmail.com) information regarding upcoming presentations, publications, events, or accomplishments so that we can keep our members informed!