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DR Beukelman

To: Lew Golinker

From: David R. Beukelman, Ph.D.

Re: AAC Use by Persons with Aphasia: Multiple Case Reports

Date: 6-27-00

In an effort to document the characteristics of persons with aphasia who routinely used high-tech AAC devices, I requested that AAC intervention experts from around the United States provide case reports of persons with aphasia who routinely used AAC devices. Routine use was specified as (1) use of the device in daily life outside of rehabilitation, clinic or research settings and (2) use of the device for at least 12 months. These case reports were collected during the week of May 15, 2000 to May 22, 2000

Reports were submitted for 16 individuals with aphasia due to stroke who routinely used high-tech AAC devices. Twelve were males and 4 were females. The mean age was 60 years (Range: 44 - 79 years). All had expressive, non-fluent aphasia with an accompanying severe apraxia of speech. The severity of aphasia was mild for 3 individuals, moderate for 6 individuals, and severe for 7 individuals. Eighty two (82%) percent of these individuals used synthesized speech AAC devices, while the remaining 18 percent used digitized speech AAC devices.

These reports, document that individuals with a range of aphasia severity, but with severe apraxia of speech routinely use high-tech AAC devices.