

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfil their purpose.
(See the AAIDD *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.)

Interest Network: Communication Disorders

Lead Contact Person(s): Angela John Thurman, PhD (Outgoing Chair)
Sara Cornett, CCC-SLP, PhD & Marie Moore Channell, PhD (Incoming Co-Chairs)

Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination:

2024-2025 Report

For the year that **just ended** (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. In addition, please note if/how any activities enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

- **Membership Engagement:** We successfully used multiple communication channels (LinkedIn, Facebook, Email) to share relevant information and maintain connections with network members. We've seen growth in membership engagement over the past year with more members joining and engaged with the content.
- **Scholarship Support:** We sponsored two Student and Early Career Professional (SECP) Scholarships/Membership Awards, supporting the next generation of professionals in our field.
- **Professional Networking:** We facilitated an informal networking opportunity for AAIDD Communication Disorders Interest Network Members at the Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, strengthening our professional community and fostering collaboration. We also introduced non-affiliated attendees to our group and network, expanding our reach and potential membership base.
- **Leadership Transition:** We conducted successful elections for leadership positions during the annual AAIDD Interest Network Meeting, resulting in the appointment of Sara Cornett, CCC-SLP, PhD & Marie Moore Channell, PhD as incoming Co-Chairs of the AAIDD Communication Disorders Network.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** We identified speakers and a topic for a webinar through AAIDD that will showcase the valuable work of Interest Network members.
 - Scheduled for Fall 2026

2025-2026 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. In addition, please note if/how any activities will address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

- **Professional Networking:** Plan informal gatherings at key conferences (Gatlinburg, ASHA) to build professional relationships and expand our community.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Hosting an educational session led by experts MaryAnn Ronski, CCC-SLP, PhD and Rose Sevic, PhD to showcase the valuable work of Interest Network members.
- **Membership Engagement:** Implementing year-round through:
 - Networking sessions to strengthen connections between members.
 - Facilitated discussions on current research and practices, incorporating diverse perspectives from families, clinicians, and researchers.

Due August 1, 2025

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- **Network Renaming Initiative:** Forming a working group to explore alternatives to the term “disorder” in our network name, reflecting evolving conversations in the field.
- **Creative Arts Collaboration:** Partnering with the Creative Arts Network to showcase communication concepts at next year’s conference.
 - Working plan: innovative presentation of the Communication Bill of Rights.