



## Please Join Us

April 12, 2016 @ 7 p.m. EDT

The USSAAC Webinar Series presents

# Communication Access in the United States: Issues related to the Education, Healthcare and Justice Systems

*FREE ASHA CEUs available to USSAAC/ISAAC members Only*

**Presenters: India Ochs, Esq. and Barbara Collier, SLP**

**Facilitator: Sarah Blackstone, PhD, CCC-SLP**

USSAAC Education Committee: Wendy Quach (Chair), Sarah Blackstone,  
Lateef McLeod, Amy Goldman, Amanda Hettenhausen, Lisa Timm

People with speech and language disabilities have the same rights to communication accommodations as, for example, people who are deaf or blind. However, they rarely can access the accommodations they need in public or private sectors. This webinar will increase awareness about the current lack of accommodations for people with speech and language disabilities in the U.S. and offer strategies to assist individuals who use AAC and their families to access needed communication accommodations. The webinar is the second in a two-part series. Participants are encouraged to watch Part I (November 2015) *Social Justice: Access includes Communication* at <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/news/webinars/> prior to this webinar.

#### Presenter Bio Sketches:

**India Ochs** is a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law (2002) and currently works as a compliance officer for a federal agency in Washington D.C. She has extensive advocacy experience, including international human rights and juvenile justice issues, regulating exchange program sponsors, coordinating legal projects for human rights activists, and representing children in foster care. She currently serves as VP without Portfolio, International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. She is a former president of USSAAC and an ISAAC Words+ Lecturer awardee.

**Barbara Collier** is Executive Director of Communication Disabilities Access Canada, a Canadian non-profit organization that promotes social justice, accessibility, and inclusion for people who have communication disabilities. She is a Speech-Language Pathologist and an ISAAC Fellow. She is a leader within Canada to promote communication access by providing communication accommodations for people with speech and language disabilities. She currently manages *Communication Access Now*, a Canada-wide strategy to promote awareness of the accessibility requirements of people with communication disabilities. <http://www.communication-access.org/>

**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)** CEUs in speech-language pathology and audiology are awarded by the ASHA CE Registry upon receipt of the CEU Participant Form from the ASHA Approved CE Provider, USSAAC. CEU Participant Forms are available onsite at Registration. ASHA CEUs are provided to full registrations. This program is offered for .1 ASHA CEUs (Introductory Level, Related Area)



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Ochs Disclosures: Financial-None, Nonfinancial, ISAAC –EC, member, USSAAC  
Collier Disclosures: Financial- None, Nonfinancial- SLP, ISAAC fellow  
Blackstone Disclosures: Financial- None, Nonfinancial, ISAAC fellow, member  
USSAAC

# Communication Access in the United States: Issues related to the Education, Healthcare and Justice Systems

Participants will be able to:

1. identify at least two communication access issues for people with speech and language disabilities in at least three of the following sectors (health care, education, justice, law enforcement, community businesses and services, emergency services, housing, transportation,) in the United States.
2. access information about legislation/regulations that is relevant to addressing the rights of people with speech and language disabilities to needed communication accommodations across sectors.
3. identify at least two actions to take to increase communication access and to broaden access to communication accommodations across sectors for people with speech and language disabilities.

## Time Ordered Agenda

- 5 minutes: Introduction of Speaker, USSAAC and topic
- 15 minutes: Brief review key points from November webinar, defining communication access and identifying challenges and resources.
- 25 minutes: Discussion of existing U.S. Laws concerning communication access and how they might apply to people with speech and language disabilities. Identifying issues, barriers, and strategies for individuals and their families.
- 10 minutes: Discussion: What can USSAAC do? What can you do?
- 5 minutes: Q & A

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