

Patient–Provider Communication Forum Minutes

Date: May 15, 2026

Meeting Type: Open Forum (Bi-monthly)

Attendees

- Rachel Santiago
- Jessica Gormley
- Randi Sargent
- Stacy Harpell
- Richard Hurtig
- Grace Gahan
- Joni Nygard
- June Kailes
- Lois Turner
- Alissa Smith
- Mary Beth Happ
- Meredith Sager
- Jason Dwyer
- Elissa Larkin
- Orli Hendler

Forum Overview

The bi-monthly open forum provided an opportunity for participants to share updates, tools, and experiences related to patient–provider communication across healthcare settings. Individuals unable to attend were encouraged to submit questions or resources via info@patientprovidercommunication.org for inclusion in future forums.

Resources and Updates Shared

- Advancing Disability-Inclusive Healthcare (ADIH) curriculum project:
Empowering health professionals to provide exceptional care for individuals with disabilities through a curriculum for lifelong learning. Learn more here:
<https://adih.uic.edu/>

- Elissa Larkin is one of the collaborators on the curriculum and is currently working on new modules
- Medical Decision Making messages - now available with Saltillo products and continue to be available on the patientprovidercommunication.org website in printable form.
- Disability Equity Collaborative Implementation Guide: [Accessible Healthcare for People with Disabilities - Disability Equity Collaborative](#)
 - Lois was interested in the Joint Commission (JCO) U.S. hospital standards to compare/share standards across Canada and between US standards for communication
 - chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgltclfindmkaj/<https://voxello.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/JC-ARoadmapforHospitalsfinalversion.pdf> (See the original version on the Voxello site)
 - ACA - working on “Standard for Equitable Communication” one person who uses AAC is on the technical committee (currently underway)
 - Communication Access within the Accessible Canada Act
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/accessible-canada/act-summary.html>
 - <https://accessible.canada.ca/priority-areas-guide-our-work>
 - <https://accessible.canada.ca/research-project-database>
 - <https://accessible.canada.ca/research-project-database/communication-access-within-accessible-canada-act>

- Frustration with ADA and JCO are basically “unfunded standards” and it can be tricky to have hospitals invest in the necessary resources, processes, etc. to implement these standards
- Richard Hurtig is giving away Noddle switches and old android tablets. If interested in these materials, please contact Richard Hurtig at Richard-hurtig@uiowa.edu
- Richard teaming with Cares UK on new non-profit
 - Provides their Jointly app to US families - allows creation of a Circle of Care, calendar, profile for the person, and can add shared documents, medication list, etc. System has geolocation to track visitation, attendance to appointments, etc.
 - Hoping to have a website and resources live over the summer. If you would like more info about it, please reach out to Richard Hurtig at Richard-hurtig@uiowa.edu
 - Will work directly in helping people create their circles and build community to manage day to day tasks as well as paid and unpaid carers
 - Feel free to check out the UK website: <https://jointlyapp.com/>

Upcoming Conferences and Members Presenting on PPC:

- AT at AAC Croatia Conference in October - <https://www.ataac.eu/>
- Mary Beth will be presenting at the American Thoracic Society meetings in Orlando in May in a symposium on language, communication health equity

New Journal Article:

- Tate JA, Happ MB, Justice S, Wood R, Nease BM. The Patient Communication Support Guide (PCSG): Development and pilot field testing of a digital clinical guide for patient communication in ICU. *Annals of the*

American Thoracic Society, 2026 April 7 published online ahead of print.
aaoag077. doi: 10.1093/annalsats/aaoag077. Online ahead of print. PMID:
41965105