

# Navigating Challenging Conversations in Stuttering Therapy Across the Lifespan

**Navigating Tough Conversations in Stuttering Therapy Across the Lifespan** equips speech-language pathologists with counseling-informed skills to engage confidently in the emotionally complex conversations central to stuttering-affirming care. This course reframes tough conversations as therapeutic moments that support autonomy, participation, and long-term communication well-being.

Through case vignettes, video roleplays, and group discussions centered around clients who stutter across the lifespan, participants learn practical strategies—including reflective listening, validation, open-ended questioning, and Motivational Interviewing principles—to address parental or client urgency, uncertainty, shame, avoidance, and internalized stigma. Clinicians leave with concrete language and tools to navigate difficult moments with clarity, compassion, and intention.



## Date & Time

**June 13, 2026**

9:30am - 4:30pm

Online

## Presenters



**Heather Grossman, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-SCF**  
American Institute for Stuttering  
Executive Director

Financial Disclosures: **Heather Grossman, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-SCF** is a salaried employee of the American Institute for Stuttering. Non-Financial Disclosures: None

**Fee: \$300 (before 5/15) / \$350 (after 5/15)**

*All participants will be required to attend the session in full, complete the self-reflection on learning outcomes, and provide feedback on the course by the due date specified.*



**Mark O'Malia, MS, CCC-SLP**  
American Institute for Stuttering  
Assistant Executive Director

Financial Disclosures: **Mark O'Malia, M.S., CCC-SLP** is a salaried employee of the American Institute for Stuttering. Non-Financial Disclosures: None

## Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- 1) **Describe** the role of counseling-informed communication in supporting stuttering outcomes across the lifespan.
- 2) **Apply** core counseling strategies within the SLP scope of practice during challenging therapeutic conversations.
- 3) **Evaluate** clinician and caregiver responses to stuttering using case-based examples and structured reflection.
- 4) **Develop** practical language frameworks and metaphor-based tools to facilitate emotionally safe and collaborative therapy discussions.

In partnership with the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NYSSLHA), this course is offered for 0.55 ASHA CEUs.



**ASHA CE**  
**APPROVED PROVIDER**

New York State  
Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association  
Intermediate Level  
0.55 ASHA CEUs

### AGENDA

9:30 - 10:15 am: Welcome and Course  
Introduction

10:15 - 11:15 am: Preschool / Early Childhood:  
Conversations with Parents and Young Children

11:15 - 11:30 am: Break

11:30 - 12:30 pm: School-Age Children:  
Conversations and Counseling Practices

12:30 - 1:30 pm LUNCH

1:30 - 2:30 pm: Older Children & Adolescents:  
Conversations and Counseling Practices

2:30 - 2:45 pm: Break

2:45- 3:45 pm: Adults: Conversations and  
Counseling Practices

3:45 - 4:15 pm: Integration of Skills Across the  
Lifespan

4:15 - 4:30 pm: Closing

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