

Speech Communications Assistance by Telephone, 501c3 *

2016 Accomplishments

- Worked with the Federal Communications Commission and our pro bono attorneys to prepare Ex Parte on STS and VA-STS in anticipation of the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making expected to be issued in the Spring of 2017.
- Applied for a variety of STS outreach grants to determine the effectiveness of different outreach measures.
- Reorganized the responsibility for STS finances to be carried out under the treasurer rather than the president.
- Completed work on the Sprint outreach grant.
- Established the position of CEO to be responsible for long range planning and the day to day operation of SCT
- Continued to represent people with speech disability on various FCC advisory committees

2017 Goals:

- Continue to apply for STS outreach grants. Target audiences include those who interact with AAC users and other people with speech disabilities. Include medical and allied medical personnel and staff of agencies that serve this population such as state departments for developmental disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy and Easter Seals. The telephone is a basic tool for communications that should be accessible to everyone.
 - Promote expansion of Video-Assisted STS to additional states.
 - Expand the Board to obtain viewpoints from as many stakeholder groups as possible.
 - Respond to any new FCC Notices of Proposed Rule Making concerning STS and Video Assisted Speech-to-Speech.
 - Upgrade the STS website, www.speechtospeech.org, to improve its usefulness as a public information tool.

- Establish an ongoing dialogue with AAC users, manufacturers and sellers to determine what regulatory and service changes can improve STS for users.
- Utilize Internet and online social media outreach as a communications vehicle for STS worldwide. Facebook, Twitter and other social media are excellent ways to tell people about STS.
- Initiate a monthly web-based training for everyone likely to interact with potential STS users. This would include Speech Language Pathologists, audiologists, rehabilitation service providers, caretakers, family, and friends.

*As a 501©(3) nonprofit (IRS EIN 68-0217675) dedicated to improving telecommunications options for people with speech disabilities, we welcome donations at www.spechtospeech.org