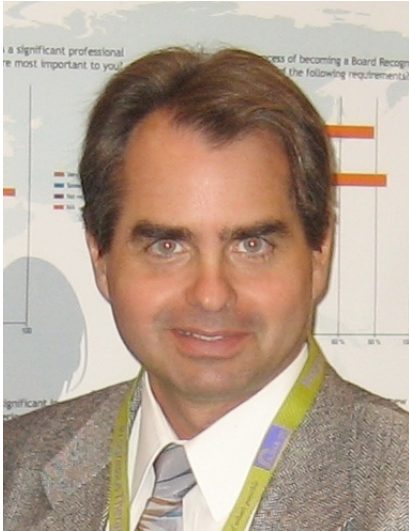Disclosures for ASHA 2017 Presentation
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Financial Disclosure: Dr. Williams will receive reimbursement for travel and registration from the College of Education at FAU.
Non-Financial Disclosure: Dr. Williams supervises in the FAU clinic, from which much of the distance therapy information was gathered.

Outline:

FAU Distance Therapy Program
Dale Williams
Florida Atlantic University

1. Origin of the Program
a) Began as accent reduction program
b) Rwandese officials very interested in English language training

2. Language in Rwanda
a) English has replaced French as official language
b) Kinyarwanda the most prominent language spoken

3. Licensing & Security
a) Rwanda had no laws restricting distance therapy
b) Skype vs ConnectUS

4. Stuttering Evaluations
a) Conducted via webcam
b) Materials sent by email
c) Standard assessment tasks

5. Stuttering Therapy - Goals

a) Education about speech and stuttering
b) Stuttering & fluency modification
c) Desensitization
d) Counseling
e) Generalization

6. Stuttering Therapy – Barriers
a) Monitoring loudness
b) Identification of secondary behaviors
c) Missed non-verbal cues
d) Limits to generalization
e) Technology drawbacks

7. Additional Challenges
a) 7-hour time difference
b) Holidays and other events celebrated in one country but not the other
c) Daylight savings time

8. Benefits
a) Providing therapy to an area with no SLPs and limited understanding of stuttering.
b) Distance treatment means that anyone can be seen by a therapist, as long as he or she has access to a computer.
c) Experience can be just as personal as face-to-face therapy.
d) Convenience to clients
e) Longer sessions

9. Language as a Shared Experience

10. Future Considerations
a) FAU's Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders has been contacted by other universities for information about the teletherapy program described here.
b) Client inquiries have come in from Great Britain, Egypt, Brazil, and the Caribbean.

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