

## **Tiny Talkers Notes, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

In Attendance: Barb Weber, I/T EI; Yvonne Shreffler, CAIU and I/T EI; Amy Sheely, Riverside; Dan Sausman, CMU; Kristi Shireman, CAIU; Emily Freeburn, CAIU and Cheryl Gundrum, Dauphin County.

**Glen Dobbs, the President of LoganTech** shared products from his company. Glen is the father of a child with Autism. While trying to access a communication device for his child, he was told there wasn't anything appropriate for him. So he, his wife, and others developed a communication device that was appropriate for Logan. It is based on a picture system with voice output.

**Logan ProxTalker** is about \$2500.00.

- Dedicated speech device.
- Based on pictures/icons. Can use PECS, Board Maker or other icons, as well as photos.
- Can use pre-recorded voice output or can record the voice of someone associated with the user.
- The user can INITIATE conversation with "talking pictures" and give a precise message to others.
- Can be used with children/adults who are non-verbal, could be used with people who also have cognitive delays.
- Can adapt for low vision and/or people who are blind using tactile/shape/braille icons.
- Communication is very functional, can be adapted to most abilities of the user.
- User must have some motor capabilities—no eye gaze adaptations for this device.

**ProxPad** supplemental device is about \$1000.00, can be used as a switch to activate the device, and would be a step beyond using a Big Mac switch for children/adults with various motor abilities. It can also "read" a card for the user to know what it says.

To explain this device to families, it is "talking PECS" or other icon/picture system. It can be a transitional device from PECS to something more complicated or can be appropriate on its own. Not everyone will benefit, but it can be appropriate for some folks when a higher tech device is too complicated.

The devices can be accessed for trial through Lending Libraries (company will give discounts and extended warranties to organizations buying for library loan), and LoganTech will offer technical support through email to users.

LoganTech will also loan directly to therapists working with families. Loans are for 30 days, and there are typically waiting lists. There is a \$75.00 fee, but that can be negotiated if necessary. They assist with accessing Medicaid funding for purchase and can help with insurance applications as well. Customer Service is the contact for this.

LoganTech has a website, [www.logantech.com](http://www.logantech.com). There are other products and videos of people using the devices successfully. Users are also innovative about adapting the device for individuals and share that information with the company.

Glen Dobbs will meet with groups, library reps, etc. to introduce the device. He will also talk to families who may be struggling with the decision to have their child use a communication device since he has personal experience and was initially resistant himself. Contact him on his cell phone (203)232-5740, his office at (203)721-6074 or email [glen@logantech.com](mailto:glen@logantech.com).