

## AAC INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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Mainstay is now offering an AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) and music therapy partnership consultation program for clients and client families. AAC is the use of any communication that is not verbal speech, or anything needing to be used to complement verbal speech. Most often, tablet devices are used with an app that helps the user express themselves. Paper versions of communication boards can also be used for someone to communicate.

Learning to use AAC takes time and dedication from the family to use it daily. “Having an AAC device does not make someone an effective communicator any more than owning a piano makes someone a musician”. The AAC user needs their family, teachers and therapists to all model on the device showing them how to use it regularly and in all areas of their life.

The goal of AAC is for the user to say what they want, when they want, to whomever they want - all the time. The following tiers of options may be incorporated into music therapy services through the Medicaid waiver to further encourage communication using AAC.

### TIER 1

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<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A LAMP Certified Music Therapist will join the session with the music therapist and client to model usage of the device. With an understanding of both the therapeutic process and integration of AAC, the LAMP Certified Music Therapist will offer more opportunities specifically for clients to engage with their device throughout the session</li> <li>• Family meetings at least monthly for training/consultation and session video review - learn specific modeling techniques and how to integrate the device at home</li> <li>• Addition of a LAMP Certified Music Therapist to the waiver team to train/consult music therapist and other providers/team members</li> </ul>
<b>Benefits</b>	<p>One time trainings are shown to have a 10% knowledge gain and 0% ongoing use for AAC devices.</p> <p>A collaborative coaching approach, as outlined here, shows a 99% knowledge gain and 95% ongoing use.</p>
<b>Cost</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10.78/15 minutes of active session joining -- <i>out of pocket cost</i></li> <li>• At least an additional 75 units of music therapy added to a waiver budget, or above out of pocket costs for consultations and meetings</li> </ul>

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## TIER 2

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<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● A LAMP Certified Music Therapist will observe one recorded session and consult with the therapist regarding techniques for natural integration of the device into therapy</li><li>● Provide ongoing consultations to music therapist, as needed, to increase natural integration of their device into music therapy sessions</li><li>● Family meetings at least monthly for trainings/consultations - learn specific modeling techniques and how to integrate the device at home</li><li>● Addition of a LAMP Certified Music Therapist to the waiver team to train/consult music therapist and other providers/team members</li></ul>
<b>Benefits</b>	Increased understanding of AAC implementation and how to support your loved one in their expression
<b>Cost</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● At least an additional 50 units of music therapy added to a waiver budget for family meetings, additional units required for team consultations. Private pay remains an option</li></ul>

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## TIER 3

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<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Family meetings at least monthly with a LAMP Certified Music Therapist for trainings/consultations - learn specific modeling techniques and how to integrate the device at home</li><li>● LAMP Certified Music Therapist will reach out to client team members to offer trainings and consultation for AAC integration</li></ul>
<b>Benefits</b>	Increased understanding of AAC implementation and how to support your loved one in their expression
<b>Cost</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● At least an additional 40 units of music therapy added to a waiver budget for family meetings, additional units required for team consultations. Private pay remains an option</li></ul>

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*As available-*

- Individuals can be added to a LAMP Certified Music Therapist's caseload for several weeks, as determined by the therapist, to receive targeted AAC training and specific device modifications. Sessions will be used to target specific AAC communication.
- 30 minute consultations regarding appropriateness for this program can be scheduled using waiver units or out of pocket fee of \$25.

If interested in joining or learning more about this program, please contact [shelley@mainstaymusictherapy.com](mailto:shelley@mainstaymusictherapy.com)