



# Evergreen

Communication Therapy for Survivors



Halton-Peel Community  
APHASIA PROGRAMS





# Who We Are

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Clinical Director



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Behaviour Analyst  
Clinical Director



**Vanessa Rotundo**

Communicative Disorders Assistant  
Program Coordinator



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# Who We Are

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## Evergreen

Communication Therapy for Survivors



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- Collaborative team of professionals
- Strive to utilize value-based healthcare model
  - create programs that are efficient, cost-effective, meaningful, and client-driven
  - innovative programming that optimizes patient outcomes



# Evergreen Communication Therapy

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- Intensive Aphasia Program
  - 12 hours per week for 12 weeks
  - \$13,000 to 15,000
  - Western Aphasia Battery -Revised



*improvement on WAB-R Scores*

On average, people who participate in our Intensive Aphasia Program improve their WAB-R scores by **14 points**, where **5 points** is a clinically significant improvement.





# IAP: Barriers & Challenges

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## Transitioning into the community

- Return to work / meaningful life activities component
- Longer intensive program needed

## Budget & economics

- economical when compared with other intensive options
- not equitable for all individuals living with aphasia
- government or insurance funding

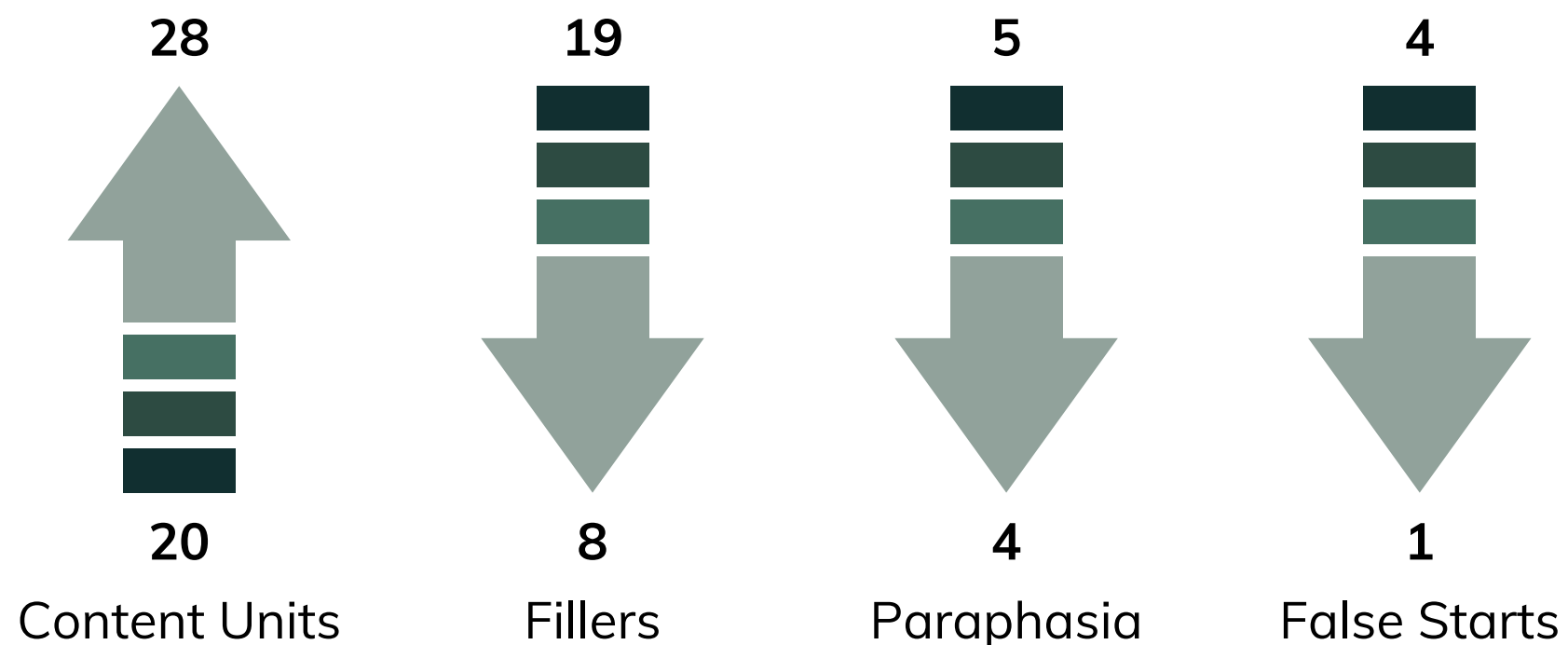




# Evergreen Communication Therapy

## Aphasia Dyads

- 1.5-hour /week for 12 weeks
- Cost \$70/week



Average Change across Participants on Cookie Theft



*improvement on QAB Scores*

On **average**, people who participated in our aphasia dyad therapy sessions **improved** their QAB score by **10%**.





# Innovative Programming

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## Virtual Reality (VR) Project Pilot

- Generalization into VR community spaces
- Practicing conversation skills in the “community”
  - ordering a burger or coffee
  - going to the mechanic
  - small talk in the park
- VR to extend therapy into the home and community



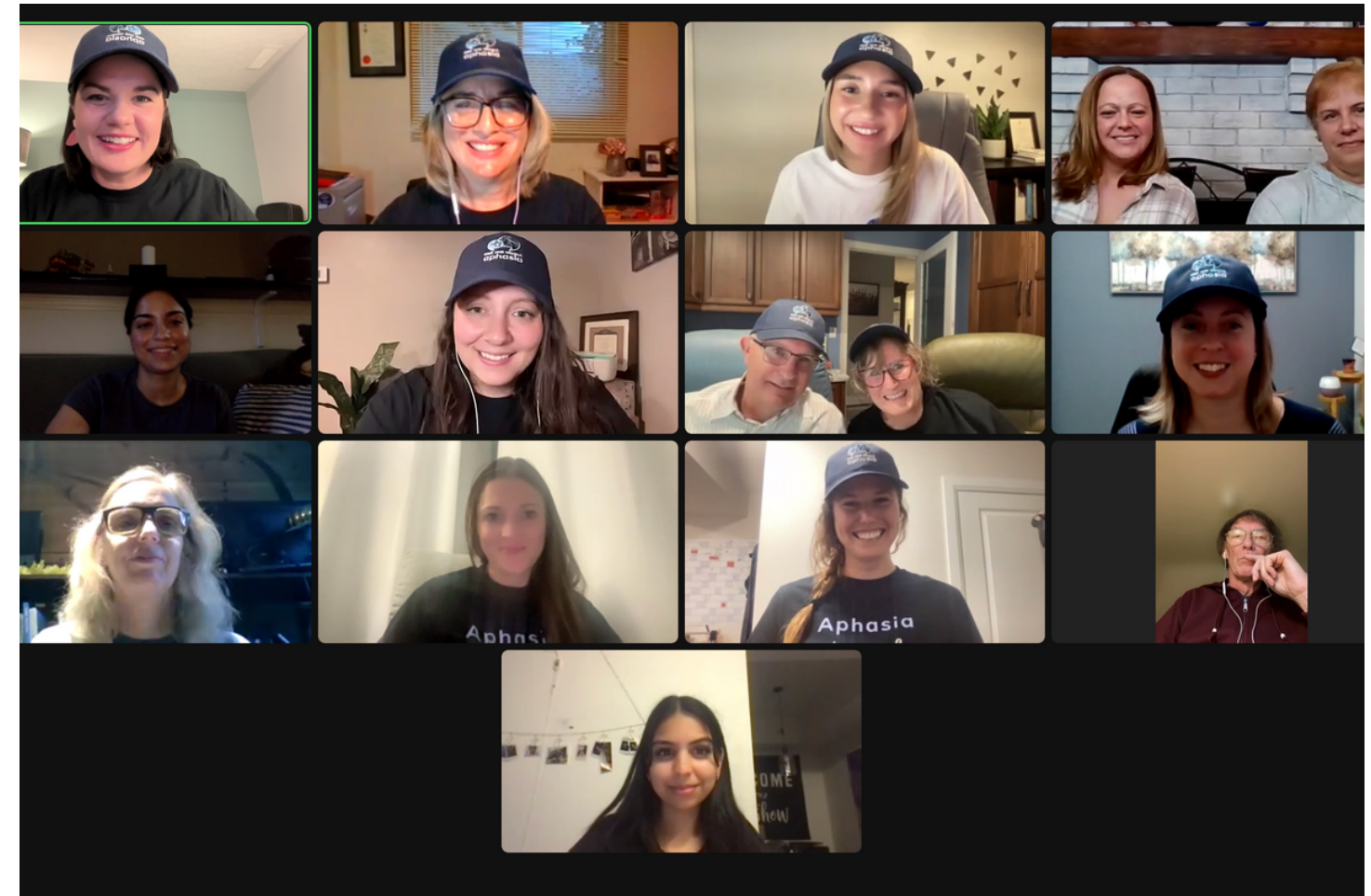


# Halton-Peel Community Aphasia Programs

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## Additional Innovative Services:

- Special Interest Groups
  - Young Aphasia
  - Reading Skills & Comprehension
  - Book Club
- Communication Partner Training



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# Halton-Peel Community Aphasia Programs

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## Social Work Services:

- Support Groups
  - for clients
  - for caregivers
  - for those living with PPA
  - and their caregivers
- Women's Support Group





# Halton-Peel Community Aphasia Programs

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## Social Work Services:



- Low Mood Workshop
  - teaches skills to manage low mood
  - cognitive-behavioural therapy approach
- Special Topics Groups
  - Mindfulness
  - Self-Compassion
  - Resilience

# Innovative Programming

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## Return to work

- involved an SLP assessment to identify current strengths & challenges
- detailed report with assessment results and recommendations
- checklists and small group sessions with Social Worker
  - career interest inventory
  - employment readiness checklist
  - group sessions on psychosocial/emotional factors, coping skills





# Desires & Next Steps

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## Return to the Community

- Collaborating with volunteer organizations
- Match clients to community organization based on their profile
- Coordinator and professional consultation roles
  - Initial SLP & SW assessments
  - Behaviour management consultation with BCBA
- Eligibility around commitment and reliability



# H-PCAP: Challenges & Barriers

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- Not individualized to the client's individual needs
- Outcomes are related to quality of life, not aphasia-specific symptoms
- Carryover of social reintegration and confidence in the home and community





# Desires & Next Steps

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## Additional PPA-specific groups

- Introduction to PPA
  - Understanding their journey
  - Encouraging continued participation
- Ongoing SLP & SW involvement
  - Monitor the individual with a phased approach depending on the stage of PPA they are in



# Thank you!



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