

➤ Population Served

- Adults with aphasia (loss of ability to understand or express speech) & other communication challenges
- Normally older people who have been affected by left hemisphere brain damage (e.g., strokes)

➤ Services Provided

- Speech-language therapy for members, families, and friends
- Education
- Advocacy

➤ Members' Health Needs

- **Mental health:** learning to cope with new way of living after sudden, unwanted, and drastic changes in ability to communicate
- **Physical health:** anything related to neurologic cause of aphasia, including:
 - hemiparesis, spasticity, dysphagia, incontinence, dysarthria, apraxia, ataxia, anomia, alexia, agraphia, etc.

➤ Members' Health Information Needs

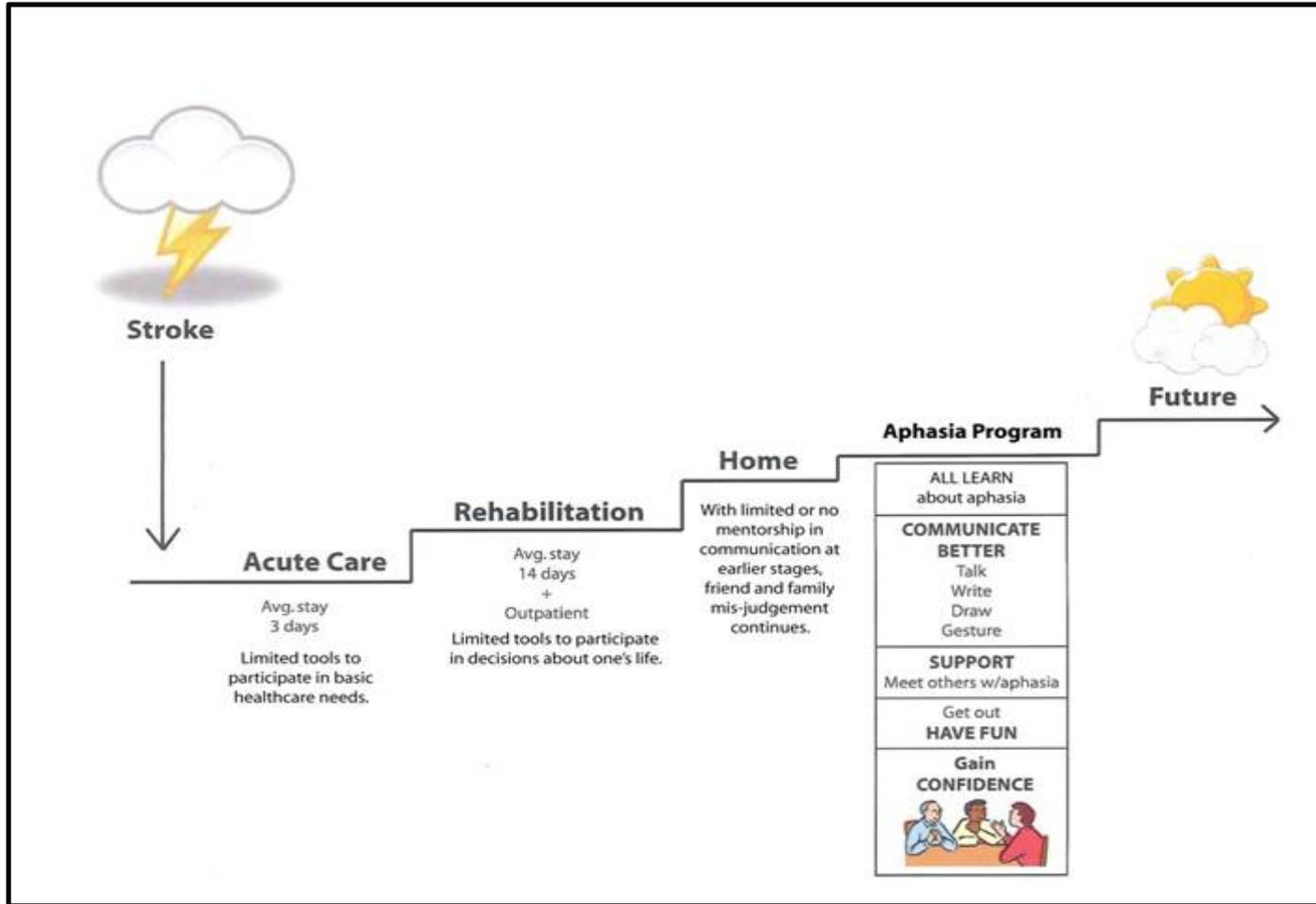
- Causes and impacts of aphasia
- Related disorders
- What long-term support and continuum of care looks like

➤ Advice for Physicians

- **Aphasia does not mean a loss of intelligence!**
 - Living with aphasia is more akin to living in a foreign country (i.e., you still have thoughts but have trouble expressing them to those around you) than living with dementia.
 - A person with aphasia is capable of making their own decisions and deserves to be included in all aspects of their care.
- **Arm yourself with aphasia-friendly tools**
 - Always keep yes/no cards handy
 - Use other means of communication like gestures, writing, drawing
- **Take advantage of your resources**
 - Speech-language pathologists are trained for this!
- **Give your patients extra time and assure them you know the first point**

Aphasia Center of West Texas

Group 7



Group 7:

- 1 Douglas Bettarelli
- 2 Jessica Caceres
- 3 Zarif Gani
- 4 Meghan Homen
- 5 Roberto Mendoza
- 6 Devi Nair
- 7 Martin Sandoval
- 8 Jessica Sikora
- 9 Jesse York