32ND ANNUAL
CULLOWHEE CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS
WCU HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES BUILDING

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026: Caregiver Coaching Across the Lifespan: Evidence-Based Strategies for Everyday SLP Practice

8:30-10:00

10:00-10:15 BREAK

10:15-12:00

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-2:30

2:30-2:45 BREAK

2:45-4:30

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026: Cracking the Code of Ethics: Purpose, Practice, and What You Need to Know & Supervision Through an Ethical Lens: What Every Audiologist and SLP Should Know

8:30-10:30

10:30-10:45 BREAK

10:45-12:15

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

Presenter: Ciera Lorio, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Ciera Lorio, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist and associate professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Illinois State University. Her research focuses on family-centered, capacity-building approaches that promote meaningful language and literacy outcomes across clinical settings, including early intervention and school-based practice. She has extensive experience teaching and mentoring future clinicians and regularly presents on evidence-based coaching practices and interventions to support early language and literacy development.

Presentation:

Caregiver Coaching Across the Lifespan: Evidence-Based Strategies for Everyday SLP Practice: The growing emphasis on caregiver coaching across service delivery models highlights the need for speech-language pathologists to understand not only what coaching is, but how it can be applied meaningfully in everyday clinical practice. It is essential that both current and future professionals are familiar with the research supporting caregiver coaching and can use it as a practical framework to strengthen clinical decision making, enhance collaboration with families, and promote functional outcomes across the lifespan. This session emphasizes the role of coaching within family- and person-centered practice, clarifies common misconceptions, and distinguishes coaching from other intervention approaches. Through discussion, video analysis, and guided application, participants will build the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate coaching ethically, effectively, and sustainably across diverse settings and populations.

Learner Objectives:

Participants will…

1. Define caregiver coaching.
2. Compare and contrast caregiver coaching to other caregiver education approaches.
3. Describe what caregiver coaching would look like in their own practice.
4. List at least 3 features of effective, evidence-based adult learning experiences.
5. Describe how their own biases and experiences could influence their implementation of caregiver coaching.
6. Apply knowledge of caregiver coaching strategies in case studies and role-playing scenarios.

Time Ordered Agenda:

8:30-10:00

- Introductions, Disclosures, and Learning Outcomes

- Foundations, Purpose, and Core Principles of Caregiver Coaching

10:00-10:15 BREAK

10:15-12:00

- Defining Caregiver Coaching and Coaching Strategies
- Coaching Across Clients, Caregivers, and Settings

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-2:30

- Applying Coaching Strategies
- Becoming a Reflective Coach

2:30-2:45 BREAK

2:45-4:30

- Integrating Coaching into Daily Clinical Practice
- Preparing to Coach Caregivers
- Synthesis, Reflection, and Questions

6.5 hours

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

Presenter: Kia Noelle Johnson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Kia Noelle Johnson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is the Director of The University of Texas at Austin's Arthur M. Blank Center for Stuttering Education and Research– Atlanta Satellite, a clinical research institute dedicated to changing the world for people who stutter. She is an ASHA board-certified and state-licensed speech-language pathologist, ASHA Fellow, and nationally recognized expert in stuttering, with a focus on culturally diverse communities. Dr. Johnson conducts and presents peer-reviewed research at local, national, and international conferences and has authored and co-authored numerous scholarly publications. She is also a global leader in professional development related to diversity, equity, inclusion, implicit bias, and cultural responsiveness in clinical practice. Her professional service includes roles on the ASHA Board of Directors, as National Advisor to NSSLHA, and as Immediate Past Chair of the National Black

Association for Speech-Language and Hearing. She currently serves on the ASHA Board of Ethics and the NIH–NIDCD Advisory Council.

Presentations:

Cracking the Code of Ethics: Purpose, Practice, and What You Need to Know: The foundation of clinical and professional decision making in audiology and speech-language pathology is grounded in ethics. This underscores the importance of understanding not only what ethics is, but how it is applied in everyday professional practice. It is essential that both current and future professionals are familiar with the purpose of the ASHA Code of Ethics and are able to use it as a practical framework to support sound clinical judgment, guide professional conduct, and navigate complex professional situations with confidence and integrity.

What You Need to Know & Supervision Through an Ethical Lens: What Every Audiologist and SLP Should Know: This session is designed for audiologists and speech-language pathologists who currently supervise—or plan to supervise—students, clinical fellows, or other professionals, as well as for those who are in supervisee roles. The presentation will examine key components of the ASHA Code of Ethics as they relate to supervision, highlight common ethical challenges that arise in supervisory relationships, and explore the shared responsibilities of supervisors and supervisees. Through applied discussion and a structured critical-thinking approach, participants will learn strategies for identifying, analyzing, and responding to ethical dilemmas in supervision. Attendees will leave with practical tools to strengthen ethical decision-making, promote professional growth, and foster ethical practice within the supervisory process.

Learner Objectives:

Cracking the Code of Ethics: Purpose, Practice, and What You Need to Know:
Attendees will be able to:

1. Locate and summarize the four principles of the ASHA Code of Ethics.
2. List who can submit an ethics complaint.
3. Identify common ethical violations and what you can do to mitigate the circumstances.
4. Describe the process for which an ethics complaint undergoes.

What You Need to Know & Supervision Through an Ethical Lens: What Every Audiologist and SLP Should Know:
Attendees will be able to:

1. Explain how the ASHA Code of Ethics addresses supervision.
2. Discuss common ethical dilemmas involving supervision.
3. Demonstrate how to use a critical-thinking process to address an ethical dilemma.

4. Develop plans to engage supervisees in how to use a critical-thinking process to address ethical dilemmas.

Time Ordered Agenda:

8:30-10:30

- Welcome, introductions, and audience poll
- Framing ethics: what it is—and what it is not
- Overview of the ASHA Code of Ethics
- The Four Principles, explained for clinical practice
- Common ethical violations and how to prevent them
- Understanding the ethics complaint process (who can file and what to expect)
- Distinguishing ethical, professional, and legal considerations through scenarios
- Q&A and key takeaways

10:30-10:45 BREAK

10:45-12:15

- Learning objectives and audience poll on supervision challenges
- Overview of supervision across audiology and speech-language pathology
- Interactive reflection on ethics and supervision
- Application of the ASHA Code of Ethics to supervisory practice
- Common ethical dilemmas in supervision
- Introduction to a critical thinking framework for ethical decision-making
- Guided application of the framework using real-world scenarios
- Strategies for teaching ethical decision-making to supervisees
- Key resources and action planning
- Q&A and discussion

3.5 hours