



Communication Health,
Advocacy & Therapy

IMPACT REPORT 2021

CHAT continued to tear down barriers, providing more access to services to children with few—if any—other options:

- CHAT continued to support record numbers of children with scholarships, providing over 1700 subsidized 1:1 therapy sessions in 2021
- In addition, CHAT enabled 303 summer group program sessions through scholarships
- Annual appeal stat box: almost 70% of our 2021 summer program students received scholarships
- CHAT also got in network with Meridian, a new Medicaid payor, facilitating more access

CHAT provided hybrid services to meet needs of the continuing pandemic:

- CHAT taught summer program and 1:1 sessions both in-person and via teletherapy, including our first ever in-person Executive Functioning program (created in 2020)
- CHAT saw a record number of 1:1 clients in summer 2021, an increase of over 125% from summer 2020

CHAT advanced its hyperlexia practice:

- Trained new clinicians to expand services for hyperlexic learners who have few—if any—other options
- Completed draft of new hyperlexia handbook
- Doubled the number of intensive hyperlexia consults year-over-year to 86 in 2021

CHAT renovated and reopened its Lombard clinic

- Re-started in-person services following grand re-opening in June, with ribbon cutting by a longtime client
- Created a COVID-appropriate space that is safer and more welcoming to CHAT's special clients

CHAT began supporting children in a new therapeutic day school, increasing our partner schools to 22, and began partnerships with two new Head Start centers, supporting their under-served students who for a variety of reasons are unable to receive adequate services through the public school system

- Annual appeal stat box: almost 80% of the charter school students we serve come from low-income families
- Annual appeal stat box: more than 90% of the students we serve are children of color



CHAT Increased its Board Inclusion:

- Recruited three new inspiring SLP professors and women of color to our Governing Board.
- Governing Board is now 50% women and 43% people of color
- Created an Associate Board of community ambassadors to grow our community partnerships and impact and to support emerging leaders
- Associate Board is 83% people of color and 83% women
- Both Boards are chaired by people of color

CHAT Increased Team Inclusion:

- Added two members of LGBTQ+ community
- Added two women of color, CHAT's first SLPAs
- Created the Hallie Quinn Brown Internship to provide opportunities to aspiring SLPs of color
- First paid internship for summer aides, a position that greatly increases graduate school opportunities, but which was inaccessible to aspiring SLPs needing paid summer jobs
- First HQB Intern worked as a paid program aide in summer 2021



CHAT launched communication justice initiatives, including:

Juvenile Justice Projects

- Collaboration with Cook County Public Defender Juvenile Justice Division, beginning with a Continuing Legal Education presentation "Identifying Communication Disorders in Court-Involved Youth to Help with Representation" to be given in January 2022
- Collaboration with the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center to potentially pilot CHAT's Executive Functioning program via teletherapy in summer 2022

Gender Affirming Voice and Communication (GAVC) Practice

- Creating a network of providers to build awareness of access
- Working with a large high school district to educate their related service providers with the goal of identifying students who might benefit from these services

CHAT increased its media profile so that more families in need can learn about its accessible services:

- Launched newsletter, The Chatter, with three issues out in 2021
- Grew social media following by **68%** on LinkedIn and **166%** on Instagram