

Casey Lewis

MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, CNT, CLC, NTMTC

Endoscopist & Neonatal Developmental Care Specialist

PO Box 11 Kaufman, TX 75142 | (214) 233 - 6120 | casey.lewis@texscopedx.com

Education

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | 08/2008 – 05/2012

- Bachelor of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Bachelor of Arts, Government

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS | 08/2012 – 05/2014

- Master of Science, Speech-Language Pathology

CERTIFICATIONS & BOARD MEMBER POSITIONS

- **Board Certified Specialist- Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders, American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders** (*Speech-Language pathologists (SLPs) who have advanced knowledge, skills and experience are recognized by the designation of BCS-S or Board-Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. This certificate is akin to Board Certification that qualified physicians hold. The American Speech-Language Hearing Association, that grants basic certification to all SLPs as an entry level requirement for practice, began this program of Specialty Recognition in 1995. While BCS-S is voluntary, it is becoming the standard for identifying an SLP who is an expert in dysphagia, or swallowing disorders*).
- **Certificate of Clinical Competence, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association** (*Being "certified" means holding the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC), a nationally recognized professional credential that represents a level of excellence in the field of Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP). Those who have achieved the CCC—ASHA certification—have voluntarily met rigorous academic and professional standards, typically going beyond the minimum requirements for state licensure. They have the knowledge, skills, and expertise to provide high quality clinical services, and they actively engage in ongoing professional development to keep their certification current*).
- **Certified Neonatal Therapist, Neonatal Therapy National Certification** (*Requirements for neonatal therapy certification include a minimum of 3 years as a credentialed professional [physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech-language pathologist], 3500 hours of experience in the NICU*, 40 hours of education about NICU-specific content within the last 3 years, 40 hours of mentored experiences, and a passing score on the Neonatal Therapy Certification Examination*).
- **Certified Lactation Counselor, Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice** (*The Certified Lactation Counselor® (CLC®) certification identifies a professional in lactation counseling who has demonstrated the necessary skills, knowledge, and attitudes to provide clinical breastfeeding counseling and management support to families who are thinking about breastfeeding or who have questions or problems during the course of breastfeeding/lactation*).
- **Neonatal Developmental Care Specialist, National Association of Neonatal Nurses** (*The purpose of the Designation is to promote excellence by acknowledging healthcare practitioners who have acquired a body of knowledge and expertise in the field of Developmental Care*).
- **Neonatal Touch and Massage Certified, Creative Therapy Consultants** (*An exclusively neonatal certification for neonatal healthcare providers. NTMC™ combines a holistic, neonatal and systems theory approach to massage, with an emphasis on families and nurturing opportunities, while elevating the standard of care that neonatal caregivers provide in their daily practice*).
- **Neonatal Therapy Certification Board, Marketing Liaison, 2023-2024** (*The Neonatal Therapy National Certification® Board (NTNCB) is a multidisciplinary board comprised of occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists who have expertise in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) throughout the United States and around the world. The NTNCB provides certification to neonatal therapists who have demonstrated the time, knowledge, and commitment to serve high-risk infants in the NICU*).

Experience

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST | SENIOR REHAB SOLUTIONS | 08/2014 – 12/2017

- Provided intervention in the skilled nursing setting. Patient diagnoses included, but were not limited to: Traumatic Brain Injury, Dementia, Aphasia, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Dysphagia and various Cognitive Communication deficits. Specialized in Dysphagia treatment as well as staff education regarding Dysphagia. Continually advocated for instrumental assessments as deemed clinically necessary, to guide intervention and to provide optimal care. Initiated programs for both Lee Silverman Voice Treatment and Amp Care.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST | COKER REHABILITATION SERVICES | 01/2015 – 10/2018

- Completed per diem in home intervention for patients diagnosed with Dysphagia, Cognitive Communication Disorders, Expressive/Receptive Language Disorders, respiratory complications, and Voice Disorders. Communicated progress and recommendations amongst dynamic team. Ensured patient was safe in his/her natural environment while maximizing independence. Played a vital role in improving patient and caregiver competency as it relates to dysphagia to further improve quality of life.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST | KAUFMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT | 07/2016 – 06/2017

- Managed a 60 student first and second grade caseload addressing receptive and expressive language disorders, articulation disorders, swallowing disorders and pragmatic language disorders. Implemented goals as outlined in each student's service delivery plan, provided ongoing support and training to classroom teachers and support staff. Formulated treatment strategies for students, implemented and participated in best practice to promote achievement of Individualized Education Plan goals.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST/CERTIFIED NEONATAL THERAPIST |

MEDICAL CITY LEWISVILLE | 10/2017 – 02/2024

- Provided holistic direct patient care to both premature/medically complex infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU); served as Lead NICU SLP and Lead Certified Neonatal Therapist. Specialized in Dysphagia across all settings and continually advocated for safe and pleasurable oral intake within the medical team. Utilized an integrated, neuroprotective, family centered care model. Provided individualized and specialized therapeutic intervention with a specialty in dysphagia to support optimal long-term development/outcomes, prevent adverse sequelae, while nurturing the infant-family relationship. Cross-trained in acute care and inpatient rehabilitation settings. Served as a leader across the hospital in the advancement of Speech-Language Pathology services as it relates to Dysphagia and swallowing disorders. Led Dysphagia initiatives within regional Neonatology group and HCA North Texas Division. Worked directly with Magnet Director at Medical City Lewisville and Director of Nursing Research with HCA Corporate in Nashville, TN on research initiatives to improve the care of those experiencing Dysphagia across the hospital system. Developed NICU Oral Feeding Algorithm© & led a 2-year NICU multidisciplinary team oral feeding initiative with HCA corporate, *Evaluating Staff Uptake, Perceived Usefulness & Impact of an Evidence-Based Feeding Decision Algorithm for Reducing Length of Stay in Hospitalized Neonates*, which resulted in a 37% increase in documented skin-to-skin events between Mom & Baby, a 22% increase in progressive oral feeding treatment for infants greater than 32 weeks of age and a 21% increase in use of bottle nipple recommended by Speech-Language Pathologist.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST | TEXSCOPE LLC, OWNER | 07/2019 - PRESENT

- Complete mobile Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) examinations within the acute hospital setting, skilled nursing setting, inpatient rehab setting and outpatient setting. Diagnoses include but are not limited to: Congestive Heart Failure, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Cerebrovascular Accident, Respiratory Distress and Head and Neck Cancer. Nurture the relationships of over 20 contracts, including a large \$10 billion/revenue hospital system. Pioneer Dysphagia initiatives across multiple settings and across multiple medical teams, ultimately improving access to FEES across Texas.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST/ CERTIFIED NEONATAL THERAPIST | COOK

CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER | 04/2023- 05/2024

- Engaged in direct patient care to children aged 0-21 in both the NICU and acute care settings. A wide variety of diagnoses are assessed and treated, including prematurity, neuro trauma, airway complications and oncology. Specialty focused on dysphagia assessment and treatment. Cook Children's Medical Center is a not-for-profit pediatric hospital and is one of the largest freestanding pediatric medical centers in the U.S. The hospital provides comprehensive pediatric specialties and subspecialties to infants, children, teens, and young adults aged 0–21 throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth metro and the greater region.

MENTORSHIP/EDUCATION

- Initiated program for Amp Care ESP in the Skilled Nursing setting, Kemp, Texas, 2017.
 - Amp Care ESP *Effective Swallowing Protocol [ESP]* is a non-invasive, FDA-cleared treatment for dysphagia that combines the most effective electrical stimulation parameters with resistive exercises. Initiative created to aid in improving dysphagia outcomes.
- Supervised Clinical Fellow in the skilled nursing setting across semester long timeframe to achieve Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Kemp, Texas, 2017.
- Mentored new nurses for ICU floor to improve care received by patients with dysphagia, Lewisville, Texas, 2017, 2018, 2019.
 - Collaborated with hospital-wide nurse educators across the time frame to schedule each new cohort of ICU nurses for direct speech-language pathology education. Education focused on improving knowledge of the speech-language pathologist's role within the ICU, how to refer patients with known dysphagia, how to screen patients with suspected dysphagia, educating regarding high-risk populations, i.e. post-extubation, how to offer appropriate oral care, how to appropriately prepare thickened liquids, and so on.
- Provided up-to-date instruction regarding neonatal therapy/management of infants with swallowing difficulties to NICU and Mom/Baby Registered Nurses during annual Skills Fair, Lewisville, Texas, 2017-2023.
 - Collaborated with the Women and Children's director to schedule each annual skills fair. Dysphagia education focused on bottle nipple selection, nipple flow rates, protecting and promoting mother's milk supply, how to offer therapeutic oral care, how to therapeutically position and hold infant to facilitate improved suck-swallow-breath coordination, how to therapeutically offer co-regulated pacing, how to educate parents regarding the importance of nurturing the feeding experience as well as the overall concepts of infant-directed feeding.
- Advocated/achieved standing orders for all infants admitted into the NICU, Lewisville, Texas, 2019.
 - Multiple conversations with hospital leaders as well as 1:1 conversations with Neonatology physician leadership and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner leadership regarding the role of Speech-Language Pathology in the NICU.
 - In-depth presentation was provided to physician leadership and nursing leadership regarding evidence-based practice as it relates to the role of Speech-Language Pathology/Feeding Specialist in the NICU. This helped to solidify the necessity of receiving standing orders on all infants admitted to the NICU, regardless of gestational age.
 - Process was recognized during Level 3 NICU Designation by Surveyor for Neonatal Therapy Program/Feeding Program, 2021.
- Mentored Speech-Language Pathology graduate student in the NICU and ICU/acute care, Lewisville, Texas, 2019 over semester long period.
 - Graduate clinician's education focused on hands-on dysphagia management and intervention in the ICU, and clinical observation in the NICU, given the fragile state of the population. Specifically addressed dysphagia screening and how to triage patients based on critical needs. NICU education focused on nipple selection, an in-depth understanding of respiration and respiratory support systems and their impact on feeding outcomes, how to offer 2 person cares and therapeutic oral care in the NICU, how to support mother's lactation goals and the mother's milk supply, how to facilitate regulation prior to a feeding experience, how to offer non-nutritive sucking and therapeutic oral activities when an infant is not clinically appropriate for full oral intake, how to discuss feeding expectations with the parents/caregivers, how to navigate and understand the parent/caregiver's feeding goals for the infant, how to discuss and encourage follow-up services post NICU to improve developmental outcomes, how to access pertinent literature relating to dysphagia management in the fragile neonate as well as highlighting the need for more research, and so on.
- Provided instruction of new NICU and Mom/Baby Registered Nurses at HCA Division Headquarters for all Medical City Healthcare (HCA) each quarter (ranging from 30-50 nurses in each cohort), Frisco, Texas, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.
 - Created and implemented a 3-hour hands-on presentation regarding developmental care, management of infants with feeding difficulties, guidance regarding nipple selection and nipple flow rate, therapeutic positioning during oral intake, the importance of facilitating mother's milk supply, the importance of supporting the family's feeding goals and reviewed the role of neonatal therapy/Speech-Language Pathology in the NICU. This education supported the neonatal nursing team of 9 neighboring hospitals.

- SLP Team Lead for Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing program at Medical City Lewisville, Lewisville, Texas, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.
 - This initiative was a partnership with Medical City North Hills. Personally led hospital-wide policies/procedures, worked to create and initiate cleaning protocols within endoscopy department, and worked to provide training and create competencies with Speech-Language Pathology team.
- Invited speaker on First Bite podcast (hosted by Michelle Dawson MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, CLC) re: Interprofessional Practice in the NICU as well as Understanding Dysphagia in the NICU, 2021.
 - Discussed role in the NICU with premature/critically ill infants. Explained role within the multidisciplinary team, as well as challenges associated with advocating for patients with feeding and swallowing difficulties/differences. Education was provided regarding frequent misunderstanding regarding the scope of practice of the Speech-Language Pathologist in the NICU. Advocated for better relationships within NICU Speech-Language Pathologists and outpatient Speech-Language Pathologists to help bridge communication gaps to best serve patients. Discussed the importance of getting involved in state and/or national organizations.
- Spearheaded creation of NICU Infant Directed Feeding/Cue Based Feeding guideline along with Medical Director, Nursing leadership and Respiratory Therapy leadership, Lewisville, Texas, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.
 - Complex initiative created to aid the entire medical team to come to an agreement regarding neonatal dysphagia and feeding management, while deeply considering each infant's unique comorbidities and medical history. Long-term goal included improving family-centered care, facilitating timely discharge and facilitating best outcomes.
- Developed and copyrighted NICU Oral Feeding Algorithm© to improve NICU staff understanding of dysphagia, Denton, Texas, 2018.
 - Prior to 2018, the Medical City Lewisville NICU multidisciplinary team operated under a poorly established feeding program, with infants receiving inconsistent care.
 - Ultimately, providers demonstrated a limited understanding of feeding and swallowing development, with the initiation of oral intake often determined by age alone.
 - NICU Oral Feeding Algorithm© was created to help guide clinician decision making and increase standardization in feeding practices with the goals of 1) advancing the field of neonatal feeding, 2) improve the feeding journey and experience for infants receiving care in the NICU, 3) establish collaboration within the multidisciplinary team, 4) set expectations for the feeding journey (parents, Neonatologists, Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, and nursing staff), and 5) provide a visual chart for medical team education and reference.
 - NICU Oral Feeding Algorithm© provides objective guidance regarding risk factors associated with initiating oral intake in the fragile neonate, rather than focusing on age alone. Risk factors include: 1) infant demeanor and robustness, 2) medical complexity and infant fragility, 3) respiratory support/airway protection, 4) postmenstrual age and 5) pre-feeding behaviors.
 - Each risk factor is provided with a specific score and the clinician is guided to find the sum of the scores for each oral feeding risk factor to determine the oral feeding intervention. Interventions include: 1) consideration of skin-to-skin care and/or non-nutritive sucking, 2) dry breastfeeding and/or pacifier dips/taste (1-2 mL), and 3) consideration of breast and/or bottle feeding.
- Presented to NICU Medical Director and various hospital leaders regarding complications of feeding on elevated levels of respiratory support, Lewisville, Texas, 2018.
 - At the time, Medical City Lewisville NICU provider group operated with the understanding that feeding on high levels of respiratory support was without risk. This presentation helped to guide the provider group in understanding the potential risk regarding airway protection in the fragile neonate as well as the sensory implications imposed on the developing swallow physiology.

- Invited speaker on The Swallow Your Pride Podcast (hosted by Theresa Richard MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S), Episode 101, *Navigating the NICU- Relationships, Respiration, Research and More*, 2019.
 - Discussed how to begin working in the NICU, how personal experiences can impact our care, the complexities of oral feeding in the NICU, the hierarchy of breastmilk utilization, the Speech-Language Pathologist's role in NICU multidisciplinary rounds, MBSS vs. FEES for infants, oral immunotherapy in the NICU/oral care in the NICU, oral feeding considerations, variations of oral intake and liters of oxygen, removal of nasogastric/NG tube, pain implications for fragile neonates, and nipple selection.
- Continuing Education Instructor for the Medical SLP Collective for pediatric feeding/SLP NICU intervention and management, *Intentional Caregiving in the NICU*, Virtual, 2019.
 - This presentation discussed neurosensory vulnerabilities of the preterm infant, how to identify methods to adapt care that positively support development of the brain and sensory system, and defined the Speech-Language Pathologist's and Neonatal Therapist's role in the NICU as it relates to infant swallowing.
- Medical SLP Collective Live Event, Round Table Leader, Buffalo, New York, 2020.
 - Led conversations regarding pediatric feeding management and intervention, while brainstorming ideas for improvement in care with over 50 Speech-Language Pathologists.
- Invited guest lecturer at Southeastern Louisiana University Speech-Language Pathology Dysphagia Graduate Program, Virtual, 2019 (x2), 2020 (x2)
 - Lecture discussed the Speech-Language Pathologist's role in the NICU and facilitating safe oral feeding experiences, providing opportunity for live question and answer session following formal presentation.
- Invited guest lecturer at Western Kentucky University Speech-Language Pathology Dysphagia Graduate Program, Virtual, 2019.
 - Lecture discussed the Speech-Language Pathologist's role in the NICU and facilitating safe oral feeding experiences, providing opportunity for live question and answer session following formal presentation.
- Invited guest lecturer at The University of North Texas's NSSHLA meeting, Denton, Texas, 2020.
 - Lecture discussed endoscopy and pediatric dysphagia and provided opportunity for live question and answer session following formal presentation.
- Invited guest lecturer at Edinboro Speech-Language Pathology Dysphagia Graduate Program, Virtual, 2020.
 - Lecture discussed the Speech-Language Pathologist's role in the NICU and facilitating safe oral feeding experiences, providing opportunity for live question and answer session following formal presentation.
- Invited guest lecturer at University of North Dakota Speech-Language Pathology Dysphagia Graduate Program, Virtual, 2020.
 - Lecture discussed the Speech-Language Pathologist's role in the NICU and facilitating safe oral feeding experiences, providing opportunity for live question and answer session following formal presentation.
- Invited guest lecturer at Saint Augustine's University NSSHLA meeting, Virtual, 2021.
 - Lecture discussed the Speech-Language Pathologist's role in the NICU and facilitating safe oral feeding experiences, providing opportunity for live question and answer session following formal presentation.
- Invited guest lecturer at Abilene Christian University Dallas, Dysphagia Graduate Program, Virtual, 2021.
 - Lecture discussed the Speech-Language Pathologist's role in the NICU and facilitating safe oral feeding experiences, providing opportunity for live question and answer session following formal presentation.
- Invited guest lecturer at Abilene Christian University Abilene, Dysphagia Graduate Program, Dallas, Texas, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.
 - Lecture discussed the Speech-Language Pathologist's role in the NICU and facilitating safe oral feeding experiences, providing opportunity for live question and answer session following formal presentation.
- Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, "FEES is so Myth Understood," Houston, Texas, 2020.
 - Presentation provided education regarding FEES as well as clinical myths associated with this instrumental examination.

- Invited speaker, Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Virtual, 2020.
 - This presentation discussed neurosensory vulnerabilities of the preterm infant, how to identify methods to adapt care that positively support development of the brain and sensory system, and defined the Speech-Language Pathologist's and Neonatal Therapist's role in the NICU as it relates to infant swallowing.
- Invited speaker, Oklahoma Speech-Language-Hearing Association- "Complications of Feeding on CPAP and HFNC in the NICU" and "Intentional Caregiving in the NICU: How the Speech-Language Pathologist can Support Infant Development," 2020.
 - "Complications of Feeding on CPAP and HFNC in the NICU" focused on identifying neurosensory vulnerabilities of the preterm infant, identifying methods to adapt care that positively supports development of the brain and sensory system and defining the speech-language pathologist's (SLPs) and neonatal therapist's roles in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) related to infant swallowing.
 - "Intentional Caregiving in the NICU: How the Speech-Language Pathologist can Support Infant Development," explored the complications of feeding fragile infants on CPAP and HFNC in the NICU environment, as oral feeding is the first developmental milestone for all infants and is a discharge criteria from the NICU.
- Invited speaker, Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association- "Complications of Feeding on CPAP and HFNC in the NICU" and "Intentional Caregiving in the NICU: How the Speech-Language Pathologist can Support Infant Development," 2020.
 - "Complications of Feeding on CPAP and HFNC in the NICU" focused on identifying neurosensory vulnerabilities of the preterm infant, identifying methods to adapt care that positively supports development of the brain and sensory system and defining the speech-language pathologist's (SLPs) and neonatal therapist's roles in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) related to infant swallowing.
 - "Intentional Caregiving in the NICU: How the Speech-Language Pathologist can Support Infant Development," explored the complications of feeding fragile infants on CPAP and HFNC in the NICU environment, as oral feeding is the first developmental milestone for all infants and is a discharge criterion from the NICU.
- Invited speaker, The Medical SLP Collective, Med SLP Summit, "Neonatal Therapy: The Keepers of the Brain," 2020.
 - Presentation focused on providing information regarding the neonatal therapist's role in the NICU, as it relates to protecting the fragile neonatal brain from potential injury and fostering a brain healthy and healing environment.
- Provided direct, hands on, mentorship to upcoming NICU SLP across a 12-month timeframe to achieve full NICU competencies, 2021-2022.
 - As a result of this process, personally spearheaded creation of NICU therapy/neonatal therapy competencies within the Medical City hospital system.
- Provided direct, hands on, mentorship within Medical City Lewisville NICU to seasoned SLP employed at Medical City Las Colinas to educate regarding successful methods for developing a strong neonatal feeding and swallowing program.
- Provided direct, hands on, mentorship to neonatal therapy clinician within Medical City Arlington NICU to aid in achieving neonatal therapy competencies as well as understanding of methods required to develop a strong neonatal feeding and swallowing program.
- Led education to multiple healthcare organizations within the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex regarding the benefits of Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing Services, speaking directly to medical directors, rehab directors, nursing leadership as well as staff Speech-Language Pathologists. Facilities include critical access hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation hospitals, community hospitals, home health agencies, and skill nursing facilities.
- Lead investigator, approved by Institutional Review Board at Medical City Plano #463 (2 years in duration), *Evaluating Staff Uptake, Perceived Usefulness, and Impact of an Evidence-Based Feeding Decision-Algorithm for Reducing Length of Stay in Hospitalized Neonates*, HCA Corporate.
 - Collaborated with Director of Clinical Innovation, Magnet and Research at Medical City Lewisville and Director of Nursing Research at HCA corporate across 2-year time frame as well as Director of Nursing Research for HCA Healthcare, to work to implement NICU Oral Feeding Algorithm© into practice, and to access medical team uptake, understanding, and perceived usefulness among staff members.
 - Presented findings at National Association of Neonatal Therapists conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, 2022.
- Invited guest lecturer, Eastern Washington University, Virtual, April 2024 and April 2025.
 - Lecture addressed dysphagia advocacy in the NICU.

LEADERSHIP

- Created Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services partnership with Medical City Lewisville (one of the first in Texas), ECI now attends weekly discharge rounds to improve care regarding swallowing/feeding therapy follow-up provided once infant discharges from the NICU, 2017-2024.
- Led and served on NICU Developmental Care Committee, Medical City Lewisville, 2021-2023.
- Served as a leader on the Speech-Language Pathology and Respiratory Therapy committee, Medical City Lewisville, 2018-2021.
 - Focus for years 2018 and 2019 were improving Speech-Language Pathology and Respiratory Therapy relationships, understanding of each professional's dynamic role in both the ICU and NICU as well as educating the Respiratory Therapy team regarding effects of high-flow respiratory support while consuming oral intake in the critically ill adult and fragile neonate. Results of leading this dynamic team led to improved patient care, teamwork, as well as improved physician relations, while navigating the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Advocated/achieved multidisciplinary presence during daily NICU/ICU bedside rounds, Medical City Lewisville, 2018-2024.
 - Upon initiating role in the NICU and ICU, it was found that Speech-Language Pathology did not have a leadership position during physician daily rounding and multidisciplinary weekly rounding. This had a significant impact on patient care, specifically relating to the fragile individual navigating dysphagia. 1:1 conversations were initiated with physicians, Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, nursing leadership and therapy management to ensure that a routine practice was initiated for Speech-Language Pathology to have an opportunity to discuss patients with Dysphagia with the multidisciplinary team. Relating to the NICU, a document was provided to each nurse at shift change to complete regarding each discipline's role and care regarding a specific patient. This document improved teamwork, staff understanding of dynamic roles as well as the management and care of the individual navigating dysphagia.
- Advocated/achieved Dr. Brown's bottle system(s) for NICU purchasing orders, Medical City Lewisville, 2019.
 - This project was initiated to improve care of the fragile neonate that is learning how to safely consume oral intake. At the time, the NICU was only utilizing disposable nipples; these nipples are positive for facilitating improved infection control, as the user uses them once and then disposes. However, the flow rates of disposable nipples are unpredictable. Research has shown that Dr. Brown's nipples offer a consistent flow rate, which is vital for the fragile neonate that is learning how to coordinate sucking- swallowing-breathing, especially if requiring respiratory support. Meetings were held with nursing leadership, therapy management, Chief Financial Officer and Dr. Brown's Medical to place this equipment on future purchasing orders. As a result of this process improvement, all NICUs in the Medical City division have Dr. Brown's bottles on their NICU purchasing orders.
 - Worked with Nursing leadership, Dr. Brown's Medical and Quality Department to create and implement an infection control policy for the cleaning process of newly acquired Dr. Brown's bottles/nipples.
- Advocated/achieved standing orders for post-extubated patients in the ICU, Medical City Lewisville, 2019.
 - Multiple 1:1 conversations with ICU physician leadership, ICU nursing leadership and therapy leadership regarding the role of Speech-Language Pathology in the ICU. Ultimately, a presentation was provided to this leadership team regarding evidence-based practice regarding the possible effects of intubation on a fragile individual's swallowing abilities. This led to standing orders for all post-extubated patients in the ICU.
- Advocated/achieved procedure change for implementation of oral care in the NICU, Medical City Lewisville, 2019.
 - Met with nursing leadership regarding suggested change in process for way in which care is completed in the NICU, focusing on purchasing very small non-flavored oral swabs as well as the use of colostrum vs. sterile water during this therapeutic care. Additionally, the process was improved to focus on placement of the colostrum in the fragile infant's buccal cavity for absorption, providing immunotherapy benefits and ultimately setting the framework for future swallowing/feeding abilities.
 - Provided education to nursing during annual Skills Fair to further this process improvement.

- Preemie World, Preemie Pro of the Month, 2020
 - Preemie World is a support group and educational forum created to help bridge the gap between parent and professional in the NICU, at home and beyond. Preemie World strives to serve two main audiences: parents of preemies, and the doctors, nurses, therapists, and other individuals who help treat preemies in the NICU and beyond.
- Personally recognized during Level 3 NICU Designation by Surveyor for Neonatal Therapy Program/Feeding Program, 2020
 - Recognized by state surveyor for excellence in documentation as well as feeding program initiated, leading to small to limited need for placement of Gastronomy tube post discharge.
- Leader for policy initiative regarding the Speech-Language Pathologist's role during skin-to-skin care with fragile infants in the NICU, 2020
 - Research has shown the positive effects of skin-to-skin care on the infant's brain development, positive relationship building with mother and father as well as setting the framework for future positive oral feeding experiences (infant is near mother's breast, smelling mother's breast and forming a therapeutic relationship with caregiver, all of which are vital when learning how to consume safe and pleasurable oral intake). Led creation of video training regarding the multidisciplinary team approach to the standing transfer during skin-to-skin holding with fragile infants and their caregivers.
- Director of Public Relations Board Member, *Dysphagia Outreach Project*, 2020-2021
 - The mission of The Dysphagia Outreach Project is to provide meaningful assistance to individuals who are affected by dysphagia.
 - Operated directly under the Vice President of Education and lead a team of 20 independently interviewed Speech-Language Pathology professionals. Responsible for directing the organization's public presence, spreading awareness and education regarding dysphagia, work to ensure that our mission is communicated well/clearly to the public and ensure that organization's image was respectable, intriguing and that our branding is maintained throughout the process. Volunteered 10-30 hours/week for 15+ months.
- Expert Witness 2023-Present
 - Personally pursued by an attorney secondary to developed expertise in Neonatal Dysphagia. Currently serving as an expert witness on a legal case serving as an expert in the field of Neonatal Dysphagia and Neonatal Therapy. The details of the case are unable to be disclosed secondary to confidentiality as the case is actively ongoing.
- Invited speaker, Dr. Brown's Medical, National Association of Neonatal Therapists conference, San Destin, FL, 2024
 - Lecture focused on my own personal experience of navigating my journey going from clinician to caregiver in the NICU space, after experiencing a placental abruption and subsequent emergency cesarean section. My baby spent 23 days in the NICU. Addressed dysphagia advocacy as a NICU mother.
- Marketing Liaison Board Member, *Neonatal Therapy Certification Board*, 2024-Present
 - It is the mission of the Neonatal Therapy Certification Board™ (NTCB) to recognize and advance inter-professional neonatal therapy practice through evidence-based certification standards including validation of clinical experience and knowledge essential for effective delivery of neonatal therapy. NTCB offers the Certified Neonatal Therapist™ CNT™ certification program. This voluntary certification in neonatal therapy identifies those therapists who have demonstrated the expertise to work independently in the NICU. The NTCB is a non-profit association.
 - Role focuses on the visibility, funding, participation, and positive public image of the NTCB both nationally and internationally.

SCHOLARSHIP

- Created NICU Oral Feeding Algorithm© to improve NICU staff understanding of navigating oral feeding decision-making in the NICU, 2018
 - Initiative created to improve physician, neonatal nurse practitioner and nursing understanding of the feeding specialist's decisions regarding oral intake. Once a decision was made by therapist regarding care of the fragile infant navigating oral intake, therapist discussed the decision with nurse, who then explained the components involved in the decision-making process. Ultimately, patient care and consistency of patient care was improved as well as the advancement of the multidisciplinary team's approach to the infant's care
- The Dysphagia Outreach Project, Host of Journal Club reviewing, "Colostrum as Oral Immune Therapy to Promote Neonatal Health," 2020
 - Lecture focused on the the benefits of gently swabbing the cheeks of the fragile neonate with colostrum to reduce time to full enteral feedings.
- Development of Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing competency guidelines within Medical City Healthcare, 2020-2021
 - Collaborated across 6 hospitals within the DFW metroplex, as well as hospital leadership including CEOs and Directors of Rehab, to ethically formulate competency guidelines.
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Award for Continuing Education (ACE) eight-time award recipient (*The ACE is a formal recognition of professionals who have demonstrated their commitment to lifelong learning by earning 7.0 ASHA continuing education units (CEUs) (equivalent to 70 contact hours) within a 36-month period*)
- Attendee, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Washington D.C., 2021
- Attendee, National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT), Cincinnati, OH, 2022 & San Destin, FL, 2024.
- Presenter, Evaluating Staff Uptake, Perceived Usefulness, and Impact of an Evidence-Based Feeding Decision-Algorithm for Reducing Length of Stay in Hospitalized Neonates: A Cross-Sectional Study. Casey Lewis, MS, CCC-SLP, CNT, CLC, NTMTC; Meagan Lee, BSN, RN; Joy Sutton, BSN, RN; Choquette, MS, CCC-SLP; Gina Harrison, MSN, RN, NE-BC; Jamie Aponte, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC; Noah Zanville, PhD, BSN, BA. (Institutional Review Board approved research study). *National Association of Neonatal Therapists Conference, April 2022; Cincinnati, Ohio.*
- Invited Speaker, Dr. Brown's Medical, *Achieving the Goal: An Integrated Multidisciplinary NICU Where Everyone Has a Voice*, May 2022.
 - Lecture focused on neonatal therapy program development initiatives and suggestions to work to improve dysphagia program development and advocacy within the NICU space.
- Presenter, Evaluating Staff Uptake, Perceived Usefulness, and Impact of an Evidence-Based Feeding Decision-Algorithm for Reducing Length of Stay in Hospitalized Neonates: A Cross-Sectional Study. Casey Lewis, MS, CCC-SLP, CNT, CLC, NTMTC; Meagan Lee, BSN, RN; Joy Sutton, BSN, RN; Choquette, MS, CCC-SLP; Gina Harrison, MSN, RN, NE-BC; Jamie Aponte, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC; Noah Zanville, PhD, BSN, BA. (Institutional Review Board approved research study). *Union of European Neonatal & Perinatal Societies, September 2022; Krakow, Poland.*
- Presenter, Evaluating Staff Uptake, Perceived Usefulness, and Impact of an Evidence-Based Feeding Decision-Algorithm for Reducing Length of Stay in Hospitalized Neonates: A Cross-Sectional Study. Casey Lewis, MS, CCC-SLP, CNT, CLC, NTMTC; Meagan Lee, BSN, RN; Joy Sutton, BSN, RN; Choquette, MS, CCC-SLP; Gina Harrison, MSN, RN, NE-BC; Jamie Aponte, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC; Noah Zanville, PhD, BSN, BA. (Institutional Review Board approved research study). *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, November 2022; New Orleans, Louisiana.*
- Presenter, Oral Feeding Decision-Making in a Level III NICU. *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, November 2022; New Orleans, Louisiana.*
- Invited Speaker, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, *Rethinking Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing, Professional Advocacy Within the Interprofessional Practice (IPP) Team*, Virtual, March, April & December 2023.
- Upcoming speaking engagement in June 2024 with Dr. Brown's Medical "Ask the Experts-Improve Safety and Quality of Neonatal Oral Feeding."
- Upcoming speaking engagement in September 2024 at the International Association for Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing (IAPFS) conference, New Orleans, LA. The IAPFS is an international group of multidisciplinary clinicians who treat pediatric feeding disorders.
 - Lecture will focus on oral feeding decision-making in a Level III NICU.

PERSONAL MENTORSHIPS

- Modified Barium Swallow Study Competency; Lewisville, TX, 2017
 - Spent 8 weeks with Jodi Stewart, Speech-Language Pathologist, completing Modified Barium Swallow Studies with patients navigating dysphagia in the Acute Care/Intensive Care Units, worked on building my advanced interpretation skills/report writing abilities as well as learned how to build strong relationships with the Radiology Department.
 - Mentorship led by Jodi Stewart MS, CCC-SLP
- IGNITE: Core Training and Mentorship Program for Neonatal Therapists, Virtual, 2018-2019
 - Online program that provided foundational education regarding the theories, models of practice, attributes, assessments, and treatment interventions needed for Neonatal Speech-Language Pathologists to build a thriving and evidence-based practice in the NICU.
 - Mentorship led by Jenny Reynolds MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, CNT, CLC and Jenene Woods PhD, MBA, OTR/L.
- Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing Competency, Ruston, LA, 2019
 - Spent 1 full week with Hillary Cooper, Speech-Language Pathologist, completing endoscopic procedures with patients diagnosed with dysphagia in the Skilled Nursing setting, worked on building my advanced interpretation skills/report writing abilities and completed High Level Disinfectant cleaning procedure competencies.
 - Mentorship led Hillary Cooper MS, CCC-SLP
- Inner Circle Leadership Academy, Virtual, 2019-2020
 - 8-month group coaching program which focused on improving leadership skills in the world of Speech-Language Pathology
 - Mentorship led by Theresa Richard MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S
- Launch Leadership Program, National Association of Neonatal Therapists, June-December 2022
 - 6-month leadership program designed for healthcare professionals who are ready to fully step into being a powerful leader in their lives and/or careers.
 - Mentorship led by Sue Ludwig, President and Founder of National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT) as well as Chrysty Sturdivant, NANT Vice Present.
- Board Certification in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders mentorship
 - Ramya Kumar MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, CNT, IBCLC, NTMTC