**Speech-Language Pathology Department**

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) are regulated health-care professionals who work to assess and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, voice and swallowing disorders.  They are integral members of the interprofessional team, and through collaboration, facilitate transitions of patients through the health care system.  SLPs work closely with Communicative Disorders Assistants (CDAs) to optimize therapy resources available to the patient.  There are 10 full- time SLPs, 1 part-time SLP, as well as 2 full-time and 2 part-time CDAs working across the Bridgepoint campus, including our Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) clinic.

Therapy is patient centred, with therapists preparing individual care plans with patient goals in mind. SLPs work with patients by supporting their transition back home or to community care facilities by maximizing their communication capability and safety in swallowing. SLPs at Bridgepoint work collaboratively and interprofessionally with all other professions on the units: communication and cooperation within the care team are paramount. SLPs participate in rounds and family meetings. Roles also include provision of education to family members, home programs for patients as they are discharged and supporting patient access to community resources to continue speech-language therapy.

*The health care we want to provide for the people we serve must be safe, high quality, accessible, person- centered. It must be a team effort. No single health profession can achieve this goal alone.*

*Carol A. Aschenbrener*