



RPSG Meeting Minutes
September, 2016

Our guest for September was Speech Pathologist Nancy Barcal. Her business is Granite Bay Speech. She has worked with many PD patients and knows the problems with speech very common to them. Their voice becomes softer with low volume; words are slurred and are not clearly pronounced. As speech problems persist, it can impact PD patient's social lives causing them to withdraw from family and friends. Nancy became aware of a tool called SpeechEasy that was originally designed to help with stuttering issues. Along the way it was discovered to benefit the PD patient as well. Similar in appearance to a hearing aid worn in one ear, it has been shown to effectively help communication and thus help with confidence. SpeechEasy uses a time delay and a change in pitch to help with intelligibility in speech. Specifically the repetition of speech exhibited with PD. With the time delay and change in pitch a person experiences "the choral speech effect.

Choral speech is simply people speaking in unison and has been shown that this effect can lessen repetitions and hurried speech. Using this device and hearing oneself speak at a slight delay and change in pitch trains the brain to feel someone is speaking along with you. You can purchase the SpeechEasy device for \$4,000 from the manufacturer. To allow this product to be available no matter the cost Nancy allows you to download the program on your iPhone, iPad or any android device at no charge. Nancy is not concerned with making money with SpeechEasy. To download the necessary software go to www.fluencycoach.com.

Shelly Butler

Secretary RPSG