

Assistive Technology Advisory Council Meeting
May 16, 2019
Final Minutes

Members Present: Joann Willis Lindholm, Chair; Kelvin Harris, Vice Chair; Tony Gentry; Matthew Shapiro; Korey Singleton; Sarah Pruet; Scott Pruet; Daniel Irwin

Members Present by Conference Call: None

Guests:

Robin Ramsey, Director, F.R.E.E.
Cathie Cummins, Executive Director, CATS
Beth Beach, CATS
Sandy Welfare, OT Student

Presenters (Zoom Conference Call):

Candice Driskell, Executive Director, Access Partnership
Carolyn Phillips, Director, Tools For Life/Pass It On Center, Georgia Tech – Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation

Staff Present:

Barclay Shepard, Manager, VATS
Elin Glass, VATS
Sonja Schaible, VATS
Emily McKeough, VATS
Paula Martin, VATS

Interpreters were not needed for this meeting.

Call to Order:

Joann Lindholm, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
Ms. Lindholm stated that this meeting was focused on local, state and national “Reuse” efforts and services.

Approval of Minutes:

The April 19, 2018, minutes were approved after one change made.

Public Comment:

There were no comments from the public.

Old Business:

No report

New Business:

VATS Program Updates:

Mr. Shepard provided an overview of the meeting as well as general program updates:

- Explained that the meeting will show members a perspective from variety of local and statewide Virginia reuse programs, to include both formal and informal partners. Also, the meeting will include a national perspective of considerations and trends in AT Reuse
- Provided a summary of the 2019 ATAP Leadership Symposium Update in Washington, DC March 25-27. VATS presented a new initiative during the Symposium's "One Big Thing" section. Mr. Shepard and Ms. McKeough delivered a presentation titled "Connections with Corrections" and positive experiences providing technical assistance, demonstrations and loans with staff from correctional facilities and individuals with disabilities who are incarcerated. VATS staff networked with other state AT Act program and ACL staff. Discussed future changes in data elements for the 2020-2022 reporting period. Meeting included an update from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to include the five pillars of ACL.
- Reviewed a recent meeting among AT Act programs, ACL, the Army's Warrior Transition Unit representatives and the Wounded Warrior project.

Sonja Schaible provided an overview of activities in which she is involved to include reuse and AT & Aging activities.

Emily McKeough provided an overview of activities in which she is involved to include AT demonstration and loan activities.

Paula Martin provided an overview of activities in which she is involved in. Highlights include:

- Provided an update on Career Pathways for Persons with Disabilities (CPID) initiatives to include upcoming CPID academies this summer.
- Discussed the success of the 1st Sensory Academy held at Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC). The academy included students with disabilities as well as WWRS and DRS AT staff.
- Demonstrated several AT devices that students with disabilities are using in CPID programs to include the Dream Pad and Tranqwheel.
- Asked ATAC members how their different organizations are addressing the sensory needs of individuals with disabilities in order to further develop ways to address the sensory needs of adults VATS serves. Discussion ensued regarding post education addressing sensory needs through managing behavior, developing coping skills, counseling and psychological services. Further conversations will need to happen within colleges to review assistive technology and additional supports needed to help manage students in the classroom.
- Discussed upcoming conference at Liberty University in August.

Virginia Formal/Contracted Reuse Partnerships/F.R.E.E.

Robin Ramsey (F.R.E.E.) provided an overview of adult reuse service provided F.R.E.E. F.R.E.E. is VATS' contracted community-based reuse partner.

Virginia Formal/Contracted Reuse Partnerships/CATS

Cathie Cummins and Beth Beach (CATS) provided an overview of children's reuse service provided CATS. CATS is VATS' contracted community-based reuse partner.

Virginia Informal Reuse Partnerships/Access Partnership (Zoom Conference Call):

Candice (Candie) Driskell, CEO-Access Partnership, provided an overview of their program via Zoom conference call. PowerPoint slides were shared with members participating in person and using the Zoom application. The presentation included: an overview of programs and projects; partners and board members; types of donated supplies and equipment; office location; and progress.

Virginia Informal Reuse Partnerships/All Blessings Flow:

Ms. Schaible provided a brief overview of All Blessings Flow's reuse program. All Blessings Flow is located in Charlottesville, and is an informal partner of VATS. The PowerPoint slides contained information regarding their mission, program and contact information.

Considering AT Reuse-A National Perspective (Zoom Conference Call):

Carolyn Phillips, acting Director from Georgia Tech's Center for Include Design and Innovation (CIDI), and the Director of the Pass It On Center (National AT Reuse technical assistance center) and Tools for Life (Georgia AT Act program) provided a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom conference call. The presentation gave participants a big picture perspective of national AT reuse efforts. The presentation included:

- Overview of Georgia Tech's programs to support individuals with disabilities: (CIDI, Pass It On Center, Tools for Life)
- How AT Reuse started
- Resources for AT reuse
- Comparison national aggregate reuse data to Va
- Policies/Program Liability
- Considerations in AT Reuse
- Emergency Relief Efforts

VATS Contractor Updates

Robin Ramsey from the Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment (F.R.E.E.) provided a program update to include updates from full-service reuse sites. Ms. Ramsey noted the significant increase in services, reported outcomes data, staffing changes, new partnerships, and F.R.E.E.'s marketing efforts. Ms. Ramsey discussed efforts to partner with Goodwill Industries-Central Virginia for durable medical equipment (DME) storage for disaster relief efforts.

Cathie Cummins from Children's Assistive Technology Service (CATS) provided an update on CATS to include the following:

- CATS was founded in 2014 and follows a medical model
- In addition to DME, started trial/loans with communication devices. These are 3-month trails in the Hampton Roads and Roanoke areas.
- Since 2014, has served approximately 1,100 individuals.
- Growing at a rate of 20-30% per year in terms of individuals served
- Expansion includes: Richmond and Charlottesville
- Working on a research project to look at insurance denials of equipment

ATAC Member Updates:

Several ATAC members reported updates from their organizations or constituent groups. Below is a list of some of those reports that were significant to ATAC:

- Scott Pruett and Sarah Pruett discussed the Universal Design Project that they co-founded. This project has evolved from a consulting model to a non-profit model. The organization will help builders design homes to be as functional as possible.
- Tony Gentry Reported/Discussed:
 - The OT department at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) moved to a new building (School of Allied Health Professions).
 - Challenges presented by an OT student run free AT Assessment lab / Clinic for the community. More information to come about this clinic as it continues to evolve.
 - VCU graduated its 1st Doctoral Class for Occupational Therapy. Discussed Capstone project required by students. VCU is looking for partners in the community. VCU Contact Mr. Gentry if you or your organization has ideas for projects this next semester.
- Korey Singleton discussed AT initiatives at Mason to include the contract for captioning and transcription services in the higher education setting. Mr. Singleton discussed the negotiation of this contract with three vendors. Contract not only covers higher education but additional secondary education and state offices under the governor. Contact Korey for more information.
- Kelvin Harris reported on services / initiatives from his position with the Office of Community of Wealth Building. Mr. Harris discussed WIOA, assistive technology, senior programs and workforce programs. Mr. Harris emphasized the importance of assistive technology to help people to be effective in employment.
- Daniel Irwin discussed the success of the “TechKnowledgey” conference and future plans to have this conference annually or bi-annually. Mr. Irwin also discussed capacity building for AT services in school divisions and ways to enhance AT assessment and AT considerations.
- Cathie Cummins reported on CATS fundraiser “Hallow Wheels”. The fundraiser utilizes college students and or community organizations to build a costume around a child’s wheelchair. The public votes for the best costume by bidding, thus raising funds. Beth Beach reported on CATS Communication Loan Library in Norfolk. This library was initiated in 2018. Last year (first year), the library loaned 22 communication devices the entire year. This year, the library has already loaned 14 devices and anticipates to serve more people than the previous year.

Next ATAC Meeting:

The next ATAC Meeting:

- **Thursday, November 21, 2019 (10:00am-2:30pm)** (AT for Work Theme)

*Meetings will be held at the DARS Central Office, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, VA.
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Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at
2:30pm