# April 11, 2018 Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Council Members Present: Krista Bulger, Mario Eiland, Sandra Goodwick, Kimberly Meck, Lee Olsen, and Tyler Schrenk

WATAP Staff and Partners Present: Scott Canaan, Curt Johnson, Maria Kelley, Alan Knue, Naomi Namekata, and Emerson Sekins

Council Members Absent: John Bresko, Francisco Felan, DJ (Daniel) Lindberg, Andrew Pettersson, and Kamran Rasul

## WATAP Activity and Partnership Updates

Alan reported that Congress passed a 2-year budget deal that included an increase of 2 million for the Assistive Technology (AT) Act Programs. The most likely scenario is that we will be flat funded for FY 2018 and FY 2019. It is not certain how ACL will divide this increase between the section 4, 5, and 6 grantees but we believe it will be proportional along the lines of the allocating formula. We are also in the process of advocating for full funding for the AT Act in the FY 2019 budget.

## We are still in negotiations with DVR with regards to the 2018-2020 contract which will have a start date of July 1, 2018. The contract is on track to look similar to the expiring contract and will hopefully provide funds for training, equipment for the WATAP Lending Library, and quarterly device lending fees. We have 3 more trainings under the current contract ending on June 30th.

## iCanConnect WA (the FCC funded program that provides telecommunication equipment and training to deaf-blind individuals) continues to be very busy. This year we are on track to spend twice the annual allotment for the state.

## We have 2 more trainings for the ALTSA (Aging & Long-term Support Administration) network in our current agreement. We are in the process of exploring what the collaboration will look like after this agreement ends with at best very limited funds.

The NW Access Fund is working steadily toward lending targets in Washington to meet the goals set in the recently received CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution Program) grant. The Access Fund is also looking to expand its reach in Oregon.

Bridge Mobility has reported 1.5 million dollars in savings in device reuse in the first 6 months of FY 2018 which is on trend with last year.

The Hearing, Speech, and Deafness Center continues to provide more hearing aids through modification of its business model where it schedules all fittings quarterly for those clients who need the reused hearing aids to maximize staffing resources and minimizing costs.

On February 28th, WATAP attended the grand opening for the Eastside Adult Day Center Assistive Technology Lab in Bellevue. At the event, Comcast announced that Easter Seals will be receiving a second grant to expand the program into their 2 other adult day centers (South King and Kitsap). WATAP will be acting as consultant for the 2 new centers.

WATAP is applying with WSU Skagit County Extension and NW Access Fund to reapply for the AgrAbility grant and we feel positioned to get funded. Should WA receive an AgrAbility program, WSU, NW Access Fund, and WATAP will be able to expand their combined reach through education, networking and assistance, and marketing activities to better serve the AT needs of agricultural workers.

Naomi and Mario provided a highlight of CSUN showcasing several new and forthcoming AT. The trend for the near future is lower cost braille displays and using sensors and cameras to provide vibrational feedback for mobility aids for blind and low vision individuals. PowerPoint included with notes.

## Tyler and Curt discussed newer Amazon digital assistants including the new Spot which has a 2.5 inch screen and modern design and the Echo Connect which uses your existing home phone service (landline or VoIP) to make and receive calls including 911 calls.

## Council Member Updates and Upcoming Events

## Kimberly provided a long list of information and will provide further details separately:

* ACL is looking for feedback on the Federal Coordination Plan on TBI and it is due April 19.
* AARP announced Community Challenge grants to promote more livable communities.
* The APRIL annual conference will be in October in Denver, CO and they released a call for presentations.
* NCIL posted its summer policy intern positions.
* The SILC will soon release an infographic on the services CILs offer in WA.
* She is participating in the Travis Act Workgroup around providing disability awareness curriculum to all first responders and emergency personnel.
* Microsoft will have its Ability Summit/ Expo and Inclusion Fair May 30-31.
* APRIL is hosting calls regarding the state of rural housing- May 8th is the first call.
* GCDE is now accepting participant applications for the 2018 Youth Leadership Forum.
* APRIL is organizing a forum for people w/ disabilities running for office on April 17th from 10-11am.
* Sue Ammeter’s Memorial Service will be in Silverdale.
* King 5 news is working with the SILC to interview children who have experienced restraint, isolation, and not having needs met.
* Wallet Card Project that will identify and individual’s specific needs regarding their disability.
* NCIL Annual Conference will be in the last week of July in Washington, DC.
* Kimberly was recently elected to the Region 10 position on the National Council for Independent Living (NCIL); she would be happy to help contact the Oregon CILs who are NCIL members to distribute NW Access Fund materials.
* Kimberly was interviewed by Cooks Town Radio for a 44 minute spot on getting involved in advocacy; she will send link.
* Seattle Coalition on Disabilities, the ARC, and the Alliance of People with Disabilities is seeking to have the large disparity of people with disabilities in the homeless population included in the homelessness in Seattle discussion.

## Mario presented on some highlights from DSB.

* DSB Order of Selection starts in September or October; DSB is notifying consumer groups and preparing the information package about the Order to RSA.
  + As a result of the Order, staff travel has been cut except when related to client services.
* As a result of DVR’s Order of Selection, DSB is seeing more deaf-blind clients.
* DSB is working to educate Worksource staff to insure accessibility of resources for blind/ low-vision customers.
* He also presented a list of activities for the DSB youth: contact Maria for further information:
  + Southwest Region
    - WSSB Track Meet - May 17th
    - Skills Vancouver (ages 6-11) - June 25-29
    - WSSB ePower Camp (ages 11-14) - June 25-29
    - YES 1 (ages 14-16) - July 8-19
  + East Region
    - Student Work and Academic Growth   (SWAG) - June 18-August 17
    - Bridge - July 15-August 17
    - Skills Kennewick - June 29-July 1
    - Skills Spokane - July 27-29
    - Star Wars Night with the Spokane Indians baseball team - for ages 9 to 21 and their families) - July 14
  + North Region.
    - Spring In To Cleaning! ages 9-21, Seattle - April 28
    - Business management and administration, ages 9-21, Mt. Vernon - April 28
    - Pizza and pups, all ages, Olympia - May 9
    - Finance, ages 9-21 Mt. Vernon - May 19
    - The Amazing OM scavenger hunt, ages 9-21, Burien - June 2
    - A zoo Keeper’s Life For Me! (overnight) ages 9-21, Seattle - June 15-16
    - YES2, ages 16-high school graduation, Seattle - June 24-August 3
    - LEAP, Ages 14-21, Mt. Vernon - July 9-13
    - Skills Mt. Vernon, ages 9-13 - July 16-20
    - Skills Seattle camp, ages 9-13 Burien - July 23-27
    - Skills Olympia camp, Olympia - July 23-27
    - LEAP (TBA) ages 14-21, East Pierce County
    - Moving on and Moving Out! (TBA) ages 14-21 (TBA)

## 2018-2020 State Plan Review

Alan provided an overview and summary of the AT Act Program requirements and hoe WATAP plans to conduct the various required activities for 2018-2020. We had a longer discussion around expanding the hearing aid reuse program and the challenges of funds, staffing, and collection of reusable hearing aids. Additionally, Sandy is willing to help facilitate having a device collection in the Forks, Port Angeles, Sequim Library system.

## Next Advisory Council Meeting:

June 13, 2018: via Zoom 11am-noon; Meeting ID: 659 360 685