

## Washington Assistive Technology Act Program – Technology for Independence

Advisory Council In-Person Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2015

10:00 - In attendance: Introducing new member Kimberly Heymann, the Executive Director of Alliance of People with disAbilities; John Bresko, OSPI; Sue Ammeter, Consumer; Naomi Namekata, DSB; Kamran Rasul, Columbia Basin College; Alan Knue, WATAP; Curt Johnson, UWMC; Maria Kelley, WATAP; Samantha Murphy, WATAP; Debbie Cook, WATAP; Gaby de Jongh, WATAP; Jack Brummel, Washington Access Fund

10:05 - WATAP Annual Report – See activity highlight document at end of the minutes

10:45 - Council and WATAP Staff Happenings, Updates, and Upcoming Events

- Alan – The Tech Act Programs are moving from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to Administration of Community Living (ACL) – Office of Integrated Programs, the purpose is to attract more funding for Social Services. The Project Director for the Tech Act Programs is moving as well. Biggest challenges will revolve around reporting and fiscal management.
- John – Legislative season is in full swing. Conference planning for combined Summer Institute, still in early stages; John will talk with Jackie and Jerry Connelly about having WATAP involved. Standardized testing is still a big issue for students who need accommodations.
- Jack –The Access Fund is collaborating with DVR on a project that focuses on issues related to promoting financial security for individuals with disabilities. Looking into the AgrAbility grant, working with economic development group at Washington State University, and Francisco Felan at DVR, will propose involving WATAP once WSU is on board.
- Sam – Clallam Library project implementation in the spring, AT ‘kits’ for Daily Living activities. John would like to collaborate as he is a liaison with the school district in that area.
- Kimberly – has been working in IL for 20 years. As the new ED for the Alliance with People with disAbilities, Kimberly is currently working on infrastructure rebuilding at the Center and enhancing relationship with DVR. Administratively, CILs are also moving to ACL – adding a fifth core service for reporting: transition services for education and health care institutions. Met with ACIL-WA, they are interested in collaborating with WATAP to have arranged times for the AT Roadshow at the CILs statewide.
- Kamran – attending the DO-IT conference. Connected with Veterans department at Columbia Basin College and is advocating WATAP services. Presenting at Building Bridges inaugural conference in Spokane, IT conference for higher education with a focus on e-Learning. Has connections with libraries in the Tri-Cities area, will advocate WATAP and Access Fund services.
- Naomi – MOU is in place with WATAP and Device Lending Library borrowing. DSB keyboarding class has been eliminated, changed the prerequisites for minimum requirements of competency to be accepted for computer class.

11:45 - Lunch

12:30 - Technology Time

- CJ and Maria went to ATIA last month, cool technology they encountered:
  - 3D printers to enhance multi modal learning for all students in the classroom
  - RoboKind Social Robot for kids with Autism
  - Self-feeding automated robotic arm – lightweight and portable
  - SnugVest inflatable pressure vest to relieve anxiety

1:00 - Update and invitee list for WATAP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

- Sam has a draft list that includes 80 people, we have a budget and venue space to include 120 people. New folks were added to the list.
- Sam will come up with a list of people from legislative committees to also invite and distribute to the AC.

1:30 - Committee Updates

1. Website Committee – skipped due to time limits
2. Executive Committee
  - A. Selection of the next Executive Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Member-At-Large
    - i. Chair: Vicki Gilleg
    - ii. Vice Chair: Kimberly Heymann
    - iii. Member-At-Large: Naomi Namekata
  - B. Council Member Recruitment Update and Next Steps
    - i. Kamran has some folks he has contacted and will follow up, will talk with VA program at CBC
    - ii. Curt has two folks he has referred to Sam and they have followed up.
    - iii. Sue has someone who is interested from Spokane
    - iv. Naomi suggest asking the ATPN, will bring it up at the next meeting
    - v. Sam sent the recruitment letter out to Benjamin Rodgers, Director of the TBI Council

2:00 - Adjourn

## 2014 Activity Highlights

### Device Demonstrations

- 604 (from 637) participants in demonstrations this year. 83% (531) are people with disabilities and their family.
  - There was new equipment added to DVR “go-Kits”. Through the updated contract.
  - Easter Seals closed their Spokane location and that partnership was dissolved.
  - Computers and related continues to account for over almost 50% of demonstrations (49%). Followed by mobility, seating, and ergonomics; and learning and cognition at 18% and 13% respectively.

### Device Lending

- 257 (from 304) loans.
  - Aids for Better Living Project at Timberland Regional Library System dropped from 129 last year to 65 this year. I’m planning to meet with Tim to discuss potential reason for the drop.
    - We have another library interested in the project and will provide updates to the council as things progress.
  - 21 were for accommodation which is up from 17 last year as more people are using the program as a stop gap while equipment is on order or being repaired.
    - Note <In 2015 we will have a performance measure to capture this although it has always been a need of AT users.>
  - We have seen a drop in use of the program from partners at SETC but have increased partnerships HMC, DVR, and in 2015 DSB.

### Training

- 609 total from 386 last year.
- 233 people participated in “5 Minute Solutions” trainings.
  - Primarily community employment providers but also individuals and families. (as a note – I got a request for this training from a group in Bellingham this week)
- Reps of community living 80 participants from 0 last year. Due to collaboration in offering training at events.

### Reuse

- We launched the reuse inventory system and can now collect more accurate data. The system is helping to streamline operations at Bridge. We chose to collect all of their data this year instead of a percentage like we have in the past. The collaboration shows how monetary and in kind support can be leveraged.
- Overall 1,701 (510) devices redistributed with an overall cost savings of \$1,089,560 (\$172,571)
  - The Washington Access Fund CCTV leasing program. (12 devices)
  - HSDC saw more people being able to make a financial commitment to the purchase of their reused hearing equipment due to serving some of the highest need people through this program last year who had been waiting for assistance. 39 device (16 devices)

### Financing

- 73 loans for \$237,070 – up from 58 loans last year
  - 66% had an income of less than \$30,000, 85% of people had an income under \$45,000
- 53 (from 27) IDAs last year resulting in \$60,427 (from \$9,607) distributed in matched funding.

### Technical Assistance

- The majority of our technical assistance continues to be with community living related projects (78% from 80%) The percentage of TA in education and employment has increased due to the creation of the AT Providers Network.
  - iCanConnect project
  - ATPN
  - The Evergreen Reuse Coalition