Washington Assistive Technology Act Program – Technology for Independence

Advisory Council In-Person Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2015

In attendance: Sue Ammeter (community rep), Samantha Murphy (WATAP), Puck (guard dog), Kimberly Heymann (CIL rep), Alan Knue (WATAP), Maria Kelley (WATAP), Scott Canann (WATAP), Curt Johnson (UWMC), Gaby de Jongh (WATAP), Kamran Rasul (community rep), Vicki Gilleg (DVR rep), Eric Rea (community ep), Titus (service animal), Kenny Salvini (community rep), Alicia (Kenny's team), John Lemus (community rep), Julie Peddy (community rep.), Jack Brummel (Washington Access Fund)

Council and WATAP Staff Happenings, Updates, and Upcoming Events

- Kimberly –
    - Mayor of Seattle sent out notice of Public Comment for Accessibility of the city.
    - On the Steering Committee for the ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration on July 22nd at Westlake Park downtown, looking for volunteers and in kind donations; Cyrus Habib is Keynote speaker.
- Kamran – Gathering for Disability Support Services for higher education institutions in the fall, would like to have WATAP present on services.
- Vicki – Was nominated to Washington Student Achievement Council (http://www.wsac.wa.gov/): Governors committee taskforce on improving transition to post-secondary for students with disabilities, includes transferring AT from school use to transitional use.
- Kenny – SCI Association of Washington and Here & Now Project hosting the Walk and Roll event in October 3 (http://www.sciaw.org/#!greenlake-walk--roll/c63r).
- Alan & Sam –
    - WATAP and all Tech Act Programs now reside in the Administration for Community Living, Center for Integrated Programs, Office of Consumer Access and Self-determination (http://www.acl.gov/About_ACL/Organization/acl_org.aspx). Federal budget has not been finalized yet, there will be a cut of funds across the board.
    - National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program is permanent; rules will not be finalized for another year.
    - Community First Choice Options is a new DSHS Incentive program, offers individuals greater choices of how "care units" are used. There will be an option for the purchase of AT devices and services. WATAP has been providing guidance on defining AT and identifying vendors.
    - WATAP has been presenting at Emergency preparedness workshops put on by the Centers for Independent Living, the State Independent Living Council, and the Department of Health. There will be a 2 day planning summit at the end of this month, Alan will talk with Emergency Managers about how to access AT for those impacted by a disaster.
    - WATAP collaborated with WSU but missed the application date for the AgrAbility Grant (http://www.agrability.org/), will apply again next year.

- Jack –
  - Working with the Governors committee, Disability Employment Initiative Level 2 grant and matched savings program to purchase AT to help on the path to employment.
  - September 10 event, friends of Washington Access Fund featuring Mindie Lind at Urban Hardwoods.
  - November 12 awards dinner, looking for nominations.
- Sam –
  - Expanding AT Library Project in Clallam County, initial meeting will take place in July.
  - WATAP will be launching Demo Road Shows in the late fall. Have spoken with Kimberly about doing these in collaborations with CILs.
- John – People First WA, would like WATAP to present at their annual conference in Spokane in September.
- Sue – WCB 25th anniversary in October at the Double Tree in SeaTac.

Technology Time

- White Smoke (http://www.whitesmoke.com/) – subscription software that checks grammar as well as spelling.
- Be My Eyes App (http://www.bemyeyes.org/) - an iPhone app that lets blind people contact a network of sighted volunteers for help with live video chat
- Boost Your Post for Facebook pages (https://www.facebook.com/help/547448218658012/) - Boosted posts appear higher in News Feed, so there's a better chance your audience will see them
- Leap Motion Controller (https://www.leapmotion.com/) – allows you to control your device using gestures in space
- Tecla Shield (http://gettecla.com/) – allows people with limited physical mobility to access touchscreen technology (works with iOS and Android) through different switches or wheelchair drive controls.
- Pixie (https://www.getpixie.com/) – uses physical beacons to digitally map items in your household that might get misplaced.

Committee Updates

a. Reuse Coalition Committee (brief) – on hold, no specific goals at the moment
b. Website Committee (http://watap.org)
   I. New website overview – includes all of our services, links to our new and improved lending library, resources for vetting apps, a Tour of Assistive Technology, and a log in for Advisory Council Members to view contact list and meeting notes etc.
c. Executive Committee
   I. Council Member Recruitment Update and Next Steps – still need to recruit one more consumer as three members will retire from the council at the end of the year to keep our consumer majority, this will give us flexibility to add organizations if we choose to do so. Kamran has a recommendation for someone from Bellingham, Daman Wandke. Sue has someone from the Tri-cities area.