

Washington Assistive Technology Program

In Person Meeting – Wednesday, June 11, 2014

In Attendance:

Aditya Ganapatharaju, Samantha Murphy, Kent Mickelson, Naomi Namekata, Kurt Johnson, Jack Brummel, Maria Kelley, Meka White, Sue Ammeter, Debbie Cook, Vicki Gilleg, Gaby de Jongh, Julie Peddy, Kurt Johnson, Mark Harniss

Agenda:

State Plan Discussion – State Level Activities

- a. Device Demonstration discussion (continued from teleconference) – conducted by individuals who are familiar with the device and its functions, one on one environment
 - Option 1 - Open an RFQ to locate another community partner with qualified staff (cost \$10,000)
 - Naomi – do we have any community partners in mind to serve E WA?
 - Jack – organization in E'burg; Accessibility Resource Center - they have a limited service area, mostly in and around E'burg
 - Debbie – we've considered Edith Bischel, Lilac, Community Services for the Deaf/Blind – challenge is we have only a little money and we need to be able to serve a wide range of disabilities
 - Option 2 - Figure out an effective means to conduct demonstrations using video and web services
 - Kent – IL centers have had success with showing a pre-video of their services before a video conference which saved staff time
 - Naomi – video and web services may not be accessible to folks with visual disabilities
 - Debbie – in order for it to count as a demo, the individual has to be able to interact with the device. Another challenge is the limitations of availability of internet and hardware configurations of the individual
 - Vicki – are there Worksource Navigators who could provide this? Debbie – they are more focused around employment
 - Sam – there are multiple State agencies with high quality video conferencing equipment and good connection. But wouldn't get people outside those services.
 - Kurt – there isn't a 'one size fits all' solution so we may need to consider multiple options
 - Option 3 - Conduct a "road show" where we have a schedule of dates where WATAP staff will be at various communities around the state to provide devices demonstrations by appointment
 - Julie – where these scheduled with the GCED? Can these be scheduled around when they have their Town Hall meeting?
 - Sam – wrapping these around other events may increase success, however there is a lot of staff prep time involved
 - Vicki – could these be presented in conjunction with the DVR trainings?

- Jack - if we linked them with other things we would already be in the area and get more bang for the travel while bring greater breathe of services.
 - Naomi – maybe include volunteers from agencies (DVR, DSB, etc.) in those locations to help with demos
 - Kent – could community partners help out as well?
- Option 4 – Combination of all 3
 - Jack – likes a combination of Option 2 and 3 and would like to tag along
 - Kent – could video conferencing be part of the road show, so not all staff with expertise would have to travel
 - Sue – news orgs (outside of Seattle) are hungry for content, so reaching out to them for marketing would be useful
 - Jack – the Access Fund is to charting the accessibility needs of each community
 - Aditya – the GC has a list of every Town Hall meeting across the state, and the contact person responsible for setting them up. Jack – can that be sent to the Access Fund and WATAP (Melinda Johnson)
 - Kent – the possibility of having an RV donated by a dealer. Kurt – there are fixed costs to consider, insurance and parking
 - Debbie – start small, attach the road show to DVR trainings, then reach out to chapter groups and community meetings
- b. Conclusion: Option 3 is what we will plan for, then add other options as we negotiate contracts with other agencies
 - Will let the AC know when the DVR trainings will happen
 - Look into next GC Town Hall in Spokane (October)
 - Things for us to look into:
 - What would the event look like?
 - How do we get folks signed up? Or get a head count?
 - Could we group demos by category?
 - Can we reach out to Disability Services Organizations

Council and WATAP Staff Happenings, Updates, and Upcoming Events

- a. Kent (Alliance for People with DisAbilities) – new IL Director, no events at this time but will keep everyone posted.
- b. Naomi (DSB) – recently had the Families with Low Vision Open House, about 20 families attended. General Open House will be in September, will send more information soon. Debbie – the JumpSnap was very popular. Michael did a presentation on accessible iPhone games.
- c. Mark (UWCTDS) – WISE Community Summit in Wenatchee next week, presentation on Ethics and Technology and two ‘hot topic’ discussion panels.
- d. Jack (Washington Access Fund) – will also attend the Community Summit. Nov. 12th at Town Hall John Hockenberry will speak on being a NPR foreign correspondent with a physical disability. Matched Savings program – working with folks to improve their credit score, then convert matched savings to a loan – waiting to hear from the Allen Foundation to see if this program will continue to be funded.
- e. Maria (WATAP) – will present with Curt at the Community Summit on Low Tech AT Solutions. Just got back from Georgia at the IDEAS Conference, presented materials resources for low tech AT solutions, audience was educators, SLPs and OTs. Will do a similar presentation in October for Spokane County.

- f. Meka – Chair of Committee for WCB, shared opportunity to visit library and check out computers and new technology for blind students (screen readers, Braille printers, etc.). Facilitate AT Forum teleconference that go over multiple items (kitchen gadgets, games, high tech and low tech stuff), will reach out to others to be guest speakers.
- g. Sue – Governors Committee has a fund that helps with Emergency Preparedness for people with Disabilities, discussing what needs to be in place if a disaster happens, what was done right/wrong in other disasters. Kurt – Regional ADA Center may be able to help as an additional resource.
- h. Debbie (WATAP) – WATAP has a role in local and state level emergency preparedness, a lot of material is available from the Red Cross that is accessible. Providing assessments for the National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program, we helped ODHH get the grant and set up policies, WATAP may assume the program from ODHH. Will acquire a new guide dog in two weeks.
- i. Vicki (DVR) – contract with WATAP is complete, including training and new equipment for demo. Vicki will also be at the WISE Community Summit, will chat about DVR and the relationship with WATAP.
- j. Julie – Governors Youth Leadership Forum meeting at Western Washington University in B'ham last week in July.
- k. Gaby (WATAP) – ATPN meeting in May at HSDC, next meeting in August at DSB.
- l. Sam (WATAP) – Reuse coalition meeting back in May, lots of new faces, conversations with FEMA rep and others to work together to collect devices for use in emergency situations, moving forward with looking for new partners and writing policies etc., included conversations about hiring a VISTA volunteer to manage the coalition and keep it going. Jack inquired about the Library Device Lending program, how it's going and if it's working, is data being collected. Meetings are being set up to talk to library staff.

State Plan Discussion – State Leadership Activities

- a. Training – new focus on IT and Telecom
 - Kent – Alliance has staff that attend youth events for schools, maybe WATAP can provide information about AT for transition to add to the presentations and Alliance can collect data for WATAP. Sam – we should talk more about that. It would at least be good to do as public awareness.
 - New contract in place with DVR for trainings on transition and employment, 5 trainings per year in each DVR area over a span of 2 years
 - IT and Telecom category moved here, will look at this more closely as it becomes a requirement
- b. Public Awareness – rebranding and website updates
 - Coming up with a new name that is easier to say yet comprehensive of our services – can be a double edge sword
 - Using a consultant is a long and expensive process – maybe Google the topic and use worksheets available online
 - Updating logo – more inspirational, less literal
 - Concerns that people know WATAP and the time/expense of rebranding, including re-educating the public of the new name, may not increase use of services
 - Changing the name vs changing the image – changing the language used in communication rather than changing the name and adding a by-line/slogan

- Logo contest?
- Slogan contest?
- Language changes in communications:
 - Access issues vs. disability
 - Making things “easy” or “possible”
 - Using value words to show AT creates momentum and change
- By lines/slogans:
 - Increasing Independence Through Technology
 - Technology Making it easier to Live, Work, and Play
 - Technology Gives a Sizzle to Life
 - Technology Access for a Barrier Free Life
 - Increase Your Quality of Life Through Technology
 - Better Living Through Technology
 - Washington Opportunities through Winning
- Logo:
 - Images of people doing something
 - Showing momentum