# February 14, 2018 Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Council Members Present: Krista Bulger, Mario Eiland, Francisco Felan, Sandra Goodwick, DJ (Daniel) Lindberg, Kimberly Meck, Lee Olsen, Andrew Pettersson, Kamran Rasul, and Tyler Schrenk

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

Council Members Absent: John Bresko

## Welcome and Introduction of New Council Members

We welcomed new council members, Daniel Lindberg, a new consumer member and Andrew Patterson, who will be representing the Workforce System.

## WATAP Activity and Partnership Updates

Alan reported that Congress passed a 2-year budget deal but the details have not yet been fully negotiated so it remains to be seen the impact on the Assistive Technology (AT) Act Programs. The most likely scenario is that we will be flat funded for FY 2018 and FY 2019. The line item which include the State AT Programs (of which WATAP is one) received a 2 million dollar cut in the President’s Budget Request for FY 2019 (which included many cuts to other disability-related programs). It is unclear as to whether this will directly impact AT Act implementation (which includes the State AT Programs) or if the 2 million dollar earmark for AFPs was eliminated- this earmark is actually not part of the funding for AT Act implementation but has been bundled along with these programs in past budgets. We are also keeping tabs on the ramifications of tax cut that was passed in late 2017 with regards to discretionary spending (which includes the AT Act Programs) and entitlement programs.

## We are currently negotiating the DVR contract in which we are proposing a tiered structure for training that includes a new Introduction to AT training for all DVR staff, as well as the in-depth topics WATAP has been offering for the past 8 years , including a new topic for AT and Transition (which could be counted under DVR’s requirement to spend 15% of their funding in pre-employment activities.

## iCanConnect WA (the FCC funded program that provides telecommunication equipment and training to deaf-blind individuals) has been very busy as we have moved all applicants off of the waiting list and into receiving services. WA’s program is one of the top performing programs in the country.

## We have 3 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.

## Curt provided a highlight of the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) Conference. New technologies in the exhibit hall:

1. Digital Magnifier “Plugable” $35: <https://www.amazon.com/Plugable-Microscope-Flexible-Observation-Magnification/dp/B00XNYXQHE/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1518560179&sr=8-1-fkmr0&keywords=plugable+digital+magnifier>
2. SitMatic Little Person Chair $500-2000: <http://sitmatic.com>
3. Vibrating Alarm Clock “Sonic Boom” $35-$70 example: <https://www.amazon.com/Sonic-Alert-SBR350ss-Vibrating-Alarm/dp/B000EX9JYQ>
4. Strongarm Ergoskeleton Lift Assist Device Amazon $440-630: <https://www.amazon.com/3M-27523-Strongarm-Ergoskeleton-Assist/dp/B072JND35C/ref=sr_1_cc_1?s=aps&ie=UTF8&qid=1518561460&sr=1-1-catcorr&keywords=strongarm+ergoskeleton+lift>
5. Solo and Dual LiftMate Cardboard Box lift tool $31-49: <https://www.alimed.com/impacto-liftmate.html>
6. Tapio iPad and iPhone Switch Interface $108: <http://www.orin.com/access/tapio/>
7. Ablenet Hook+ Switch interface $193: <https://www.ablenetinc.com/hook-switch-interface>
8. GlassOuse Hands-Free Mouse $370 (head mouse/bite click): <https://www.amazon.com/GlassOuse-Hands-Free-Gaming-People-Disabilities/dp/B01MR6L7VC>
9. Beacon Medical Alert $9.95/mon (currently only in Minnesota): <https://thevitalsapp.com/>. There was also discussion about how Beacon is being more widely used to aid blind and low-vision. Mario talked about American Printing House for the Blind has deployed Beacons for orientation and mobility at the airport in Louisville KY. Kimberly mentioned that the work group focusing on making Sea-Tac accessible is also exploring using this tech. DJ mentioned that NFC (Near Field Communication) is being built into Qualcomm chips and we will see more broad application in the future.

## Curt also mentioned that digital assistants (like Amazon Echo Alexa, Apple Siri, and Google Assistant) playing a large role at the conference being a part of nearly 25% of presentations. DJ talked about Samsung’s new digital assistant, Bixby which provides voice assistant from a feature called TalkBack (<https://www.samsung.com/us/explore/bixby/>). Lastly, Curt said there was a Maker Day (<https://www.atia.org/conference/2019-atia-maker-day/>) featuring the maker movement . An online resource for those who would like more information is <http://atmakers.org/>.

## Council Member Updates and Upcoming Events

## Mario presented on some highlights from DSB. There are 3 new AT specialists (2 in Seattle and 1 in Tacoma). He and other DSB AT specialists will be going to CSUN. Mario will be looking at Mathematics accessibility in particular. He mentioned that Jessica Thompson has been providing Accessibility webinars every Tuesday from noon-1pm; the next session will highlight STEM accessibility. Lastly, DSB is looking at expanding awareness and will be providing open house events at each office in the I-5 corridor.

## Kimberly announced she just elected to the Region 10 position on the National Council for Independent Living (NCIL).

## DJ provided a resource: Internet Essentials (<https://internetessentials.com/>) which affordable internet service (9/95/month) including seniors (pilot in Seattle), families with children who are part of the National School Lunch Program, and individuals who qualify for HUD housing.

## DJ requested a brief overview of the expertise and representation of council members and staff. Alan will send out a brief survey and will send to the group.

## Council Executive Committee discussion

Tabled until April.

## Next Advisory Council Meeting:

April 11, 2018: Council meeting in-person at the University Village, Seattle or via Zoom 11am-3pm; Meeting ID: 929 230 442