

ATEL Committee Meeting

Public Utilities Commission

September 25, 2008

9:30 AM

Attendees:

James Litvack, Pamela Kling, Kat Grygiel, Denise Corson, Laurie Duffy, Laura Peterson, Jim Lanni, Nancy Shuster, Sean Gill, Steve Florio, Ken McCarthy and Interpreter Elizabeth Nadolski.

1. Information packets were distributed and introductions made. Minutes reviewed and accepted, after Pamela Kling advised she was not on the minutes.

2. Discussion of what the possibilities for reutilized ATEL equipment. Denise suggested that we could possibly sell the outdated equipment to people that don't qualify for the program or who need a second phone by signing a contract that states there the equipment is **SOLD AS IS, NO WARRANTY EXPRESSES OR IMPLIED. Denise stated that this would allow for much more referrals because the referee wouldn't have to ascertain whether the client would be financially eligible. They could send client to ATEL and if meets financial requirements then could get a new phone; otherwise, we could give the client the refurbished phone Then ATEL would need the Committee's approval to change it's contact to reflect this change of procedure. However, Kat stated that she thinks this would be a problem since we would be creating another cash flow that wasn't**

intended in the contract; also, that the state already used funds to purchase these phones so shouldn't be resold. Nancy thought this would be too confusing for the clients and should keep things as is. Kat stated that we could bring the old equipment to the State Warehouse and have it put out for bid. Steve suggested that we might want to consider using vouchers, so that individuals could make their own purchasing decisions toward the equipment that they feel is most suitable for their needs. The Committee didn't feel that this would be a good idea at this point. Kat stated that the current system was working well. Also, that individuals could possibly use the voucher to buy equipment that was far more expensive than what was needed because they wanted more bells and whistles. Denise stated that a lot of people would not use it because they would want help deciding on the appropriate equipment and want the equipment to be installed; Denise states she doesn't mail phones to individuals because she has had phones returned that were mailed, which were never opened.

3. Denise discussed two new possible product offerings: the CSC600 and the Mailbug. The CSC600 was very well received and will be a new product offering. Denise stated that it is an amplified phone that is comparable price to the XL40 but has some great features that are often requested by ATEL clients: 12 db speaker in base, outgoing speech amplification, Caller ID, and Auto On Hook. The Auto on Hook feature is not mentioned on their spec sheet, but it automatically disconnects the line after 5-8 minutes if the phone is left off the hook, and allows your line to be able to receive another call while handset

is still off the base. Denise stated that the other product, the Mailbug was also requested by a client, the device uses the telephone line to send and receive email it cost \$125.00 and has a monthly access charge of \$9.95. Although it does work thru the phone line, the Committee didn't feel that this would be an appropriate product offering since not allowing an instant communication between individuals.

4. Open Discussion- Jim Lanni stated that the Captel minutes have exploded over Traditional Relay in the last few months. Sean stated that he will be starting a Pilot Program with 5 Captel phones that will be left at 5 Senior Centers for a specified time to get more exposure for the device. Nancy stated Brown University won a grant to develop a new hearing aid that has better sound quality, and is looking for paid volunteers to see if their hearing is improved. Also, Nancy advised that she did a presentation at the Hamilton House Senior Center and met with a lady that's child had a Cochlear Implant and needed a tutor, thru the elder volunteers they were able to get her an individual that will sit with her at class and help with her notes. Nancy stated that there were numerous other individuals that would like to volunteer their time to do the same. Denise stated that she would contact Lisa Labbits from ATAP to see if she knew of any organizations

5. The meeting was moved to Tech ACCESS for a Web Captel Demo, since the firewall would not allow Sean to demonstrate at the PUC. Steve questioned who paid for the Web CapTel minutes in States that did not have Captel; Sean stated that he wasn't sure, but will check

into

6. Dates of next meeting: January 8, 2009.