

ATEL Committee Meeting

Public Utilities Commission

March 10, 2011

9:00 AM

Attendees:

Roberta Greene Whittemore, Denise Corson, James Litvack, , Jim Lanni , Charles Brown, Laurie Duffy, Laura Peterson, Pam Kling, Ellen Lenox Smith, Harry Mancoll, Mathew Provost, Melissa Rosenberg, Courtenay Petracca and Interpreter Dorothy Hodge.

1. Introduction

2. Minutes reviewed and accepted.

3. New Hamilton Relay Outreach Coordinator - Courtenay had been employed by NRI Community Service since 2005 and before that she worked at New Bedford Child and Family Services. Courtenay grew up in Massachusetts and attended the UMass and is working towards a degree in Psychology. Her office is located in Tiverton until the lease runs out in October; however, she works primarily out of her house in Johnston.

4. Cox Communication- Joe Pereira was successful in assisting two existing CapTel 800 users by changing their Cox Phone service from their Packet switched MTA device over to their circuit switched NIU. Also, Cox's Telephone Product marketing director has a group working on creating a lower High speed Data tier that will benefit ATEL customers when utilizing the 800i phones, and will update

ATEL on the details of that as he get them. Melissa also informed the Committee that Cox has formed a diversity group, and she has done presentations to them on OSCIL and ATEL equipment. Also, ATEL might want to display equipment at their retail sights. Also, Jim Lanni stated that we should try to do some type of service announcement on Cox Programming.

5. New ATEL Demonstration Program- The first meeting was scheduled for January 12th was cancelled due to snow; therefore, our first meeting didn't take place until February 9th and about 10 people attended. James thought a great format for the nighttime presentation- "A Day in the Life of James Litvack". James described the different assistive devices he used thru a typical day...i.e. waking up with his shake-a-wake alarm clock, alerting doorbell, FM system in a meeting...etc. Then, Denise discussed the various telephone devices available. Most of the participants of the first meeting were ATEL clients that wanted to learn more about other types of assistive technology; however, the 2nd meetings were referrals from SK Senior Center and Audiologist, Jim Healy. We had a CART reporter with laptop for first meeting, but realized many people needed this service but haven't heard of CART services, so didn't request it; the second meeting we had CART Services and a projector which worked very well. We decided we would make this service available without any special requests. Also, we are going to continue the pilot Demo Program for a total of 6 months, and then see if it's something we continue to provide, or reduce the frequency of meetings. Also, Roberta suggested having different guest speakers at the monthly

Demonstrations.

6. Unfortunately, Representative Naughton was unable to attend the meeting to discuss the Bill 2011 H5393 that replaces last year's Bill 2010-H7735. The Bill requests that 80K be remitted to the RI CDHH annually for emergency communication program, and public telecommunications access accommodations within the state, in coherence with section 23-1.8. Jim Lanni stated that he has not received any details on how specifically this money would be used, but stated that 911 was also interested in this program. Due to lack of information, further discussion of this Bill has been curtailed.

7. The most popular ATEL equipment is now available for loan at TechACCESS; a few of these new devices have already been loaned out. One of the loans went to an elderly lady on hospice who does not qualify for the ATEL Program, and her daughter lives out of state; when she visited her mom a few weeks ago, she was able to borrow equipment the day she flew in and her mom is now able to communicate with her until she is able to order and install equipment, at her next visit in a few weeks. Both the CapTe1 800i have been loaned out, so Roberta suggested we add more of these to the loaner library.

8. The time and date of this year's quarterly meetings were scheduled at 9AM- 11AM at the PUC: June 9, 2011, September 8, 2011 and December 8, 2011.