

## **ATEL Committee Meeting**

### **Public Utilities Commission**

**September 11, 2014**

**9:00 am**

#### **Attendees:**

**Denise Corson, James Litvack, Pam Kling, Harry Mancoll, Ellen Smith, Courtenay Petracca, Jeanne Panarace, Laurie Duffy, Melissa Rosenberg, Joe Pereira, Jim Lanni and Cart Reporter.**

- 1. Review minutes - minutes were reviewed and accepted.**
- 2. Committee update – James Litvack may be no longer able to attend the quarterly ATEL Meeting, due to the closing of PARI Independent Living Center. James has flexibility with PARI which allowed him to attend the meetings, but not sure where he will be in the future. The committee decided it would be a good idea to elect a vice chair, in the event that James cannot attend the meetings; Courtenay volunteered for the position. The Gift of Hearing will continue with URI and OSCIL.**
- 3. Legislative update - Representative Naughton’s assistant responded that she is unsure exactly what happened with Bill 7068, but pledges to prefile it and work to pass it. Denise stated that there were no objections to the Bill, and everyone thought it was a good idea. The ATEL Committee felt that there were probably no objections to the Bill but probably were too busy to discuss. Courtenay stated that she knew Representative Handy and would**

discuss with him how we can get this bill passed. Denise stated that with all the decreases in equipment expenses that this is the perfect time to add wireless technology to the program. The Committee also discussed ways to get more people to write letters to the chair of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee, including putting a blurb in OSCIL's newsletter, email blitzes, Becan Newspaper and contacting Channel 10's Health and Technology reporter. Jim Lanni mentioned the ATEL Committee should testify at the hearing.

4. New FCC rules for Captel- Effective August 28th there was changes to IP Captel: the captioning button can now be defaulted to stay on, and the requirement of the last 4 digits of a users Social Security button and DOB.

5. New Devices: Captel 2400i and Clarity Alto – The Captel 2400i does not replace any of the other Captel models: 840, 840i and 880i; it is just another offering. The Captel 2400i is for a more tech savvy individual that is familiar with touch-screen technology. The Clarity Alto is a new phone device from Clarity that was tested by TEDPA and found to have better clarity and ease of use then the Clearsounds CSC600D. The volume wheel controls the ringer volume, handset volume and speaker volume.

6. Open discussion- Ellen mentioned trying to get the word out for the pain awareness event that is sponsored By the US Pain Foundation will be help at Miriam Hospital On September 27th , 2014; 2-5PM. The Committee members mentioned contacting 211/United Way and OSCIL to put the information in the newsletter.

7. Next quarterly meetings scheduled at 9am- 11am at the PUC:

**December 11th.**