

## **ATEL Committee Meeting**

### **Public Utilities Commission**

**December 11, 2014**

**9:00 am**

#### **Attendees:**

**Denise Corson, Roberta Greene, James Litvack, Pam Kling, Ellen Smith, Courtenay Petracca, Jeanne Panarace, Joe Pereira, Jim Lanni and Cart Reporter.**

**1. Review minutes - minutes were reviewed and accepted, motioned by Jeanne Panarace and seconded by Ellen Smith.**

**2. Hearing Aids Dealer/Fitters update- the joint letter of the health department and RICDHH went out on November 19, 2014. The letter is sent to educate Hearing Aids Dealers/Fitters on RI Law 5-49-3(d) to inform their clients about t-coils, CDHH and the ATEL Committee; also, enclosed were numerous pamphlets: "T-Coil & You", ATEL brochure and RICDHH brochure.**

**3. Legislative update – Denise and Courtenay attempted to meet with Representative Naughton to discuss reintroducing the bill to allow wireless technology in the ATEL Program, but she is out of the office temporarily due to some medical reasons. Denise and Courtenay will try back after the holidays. Denise drafted a letter for the committee to review, and then Denise will bring it to home visits and outreach activities to try to get at least a 100 letters to present to the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee. The committee made**

**suggestions to the wording of the letter.**

**4. Possible Cox Collaboration-** Denise and Joe discussed the possibility of putting the new Captel 2400i in their retail stores, along with ATEL brochures featuring mostly the Captel phone. Also, discussed was the possibility of expanding the Cox program Connect2Compete, which provides discounted phone service to low-income families with children who qualify for the National Free Lunch program, to include individuals who qualify for Lifeline.

**5. Open discussion-** This will be James' last ATEL meeting due to his job at the Trudeau Center. Roberta will be retiring on January 23rd. Ellen mentioned contacting the Blue Cross Nurses for an outreach presentation and Katie Davis of Channel 10 News. Hamilton Relay's contract ends next year but can extend for an additional year to 2016. ATAP conference was different then prior years, less Independent Living focused and too expensive for non-profits.

**6. Next quarterly meetings were scheduled at 9am- 11am at the PUC:** March 12th, June 11th, September 10th and December 10th.