

## **ATEL Committee Meeting**

### **Public Utilities Commission**

**June 11, 2015**

**9:00 am**

#### **Attendees:**

**Denise Corson, Ellen Lenox Smith, Pam Kling, Courtenay Petracca, Jeanne Panarace, Harry Mancoll, Jim Lanni and Cart Reporter.**

- 1. Review minutes - minutes were reviewed and accepted, motioned by Jeanne Panarace and seconded by. Ellen Lenox Smith.**
- 2. Legislative update – Denise discussed that after March’s ATEL Meeting Jim Lanni stated that we should speak with Thomas Kogurt of the PUC, to see if there was anything we could do to make sure the bill passes. Thomas stated that we need to make sure we have Verizon’s support, and suggested that Peter Bowman, Verizon Lobbyist, was not in favor of our bill. Denise contacted Peter prior to the hearing, and explained what we were looking to accomplish. Peter said he would remain neutral on the bill, and would not stand in the way of it being passed. At the hearing, Denise presented numerous letters of support to the HEW Committee to show the strong support of the bill. Denise, Courtenay, Steve Florio, and a representative from the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities all spoke in support of the bill. There was only positive feedback from the HEW Committee. We reiterated that there would be no increase in funded requested just the opportunity to offer more options to our**

clients, especially the Deaf since the ATEL program rarely services this population anymore. As of today's meeting, the bill has been held for further study with no feedback on the status. The committee agreed that if the bill doesn't pass that we need to start very early to prepare for next year. Some suggestions are to get additional Representatives to support the bill, have a meeting with the House Chair, make sure to have a companion bill in the Senate, possibly have Governor sponsor bill thru Steve Florio, request governor give an Executive order, use the upcoming ADA event in July to bring attention to the fact that not supporting this bill is in violation of the ADA.

3. New Monthly Demonstration- The new OSCIL demonstration program, Removing Barriers To Independence "Lunch And Learn" has been well attended. Each month there has been a different focus; hearing, vision, mobility, but always a time for ATEL and Hamilton Relay. This program is in addition to our monthly Wednesday night Demonstration on Hearing Loss, and will be held from 12-2 on the last Wednesday of the month. We continue to do our nights Hearing Loss Demonstration which is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month; unfortunately, no one came to last night's meeting, but the month before was well attended. There will be no Wednesday night meeting for July and August, but will resume these meetings in September.

4. Open discussion-

- o 25th Anniversary ADA Celebration at Fort Adams on July 24th would be a great opportunity to rally people to support the need for

**wireless technology to be a part of the ATEL Program.**

**o The ATEL Committee should replace members that are unable to regularly attend meetings, when their term expires.**

**o Speak with Melissa Rosenberg or James Litvack from OSCIL to see what happened to PARI's recycled program and the name of the warehouse OSCIL sometimes gets AT from (Masons?)**

**o Big expense to the new owners of Channel 10 by adding real time captioning**

**5. Next quarterly meetings were scheduled at 9am- 11am at the PUC:  
September 10th and December 10th.**