

ATEL Committee Meeting

Public Utilities Commission

June 9, 2016

9:00 am

Attendees:

Denise Corson, Pam Kling, Ellen Smith, Jeanne Panarace, Melissa Rosenberg, Ken McCarthy, Courtenay St. Germain, Harry Mancoll, Melanie Sbardella and Cart Reporter.

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

2. Introductions - Melanie Sbardella is the new assistant administrator VR, RISBVI. She has worked in vocational rehabilitation here at ORS since 2001 and served as the VR supervisor of the blind division since 2009. Melanie has extensive experience working with assistive technology, blind VR and BEP. She will remain with the SBVI region, and her new role will be overseeing the BEP unit, coordinating the implementation of the agency's new MIS system and assuming a role with ATAP overseeing the tech grant and the ATEL program.

3. Review New brochure - new brochure includes information on wireless devices, and no changes were recommended by the committee.

4. Review New application- the committee felt that the application was a bit overwhelming, and suggested using page numbers and a simpler format. Also, the committee recommended separating the

application from the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), to make it not look so extensive. Denise stated that all the information was very relevant, especially since we need to show that individuals that request iPads are using it for telecommunications, since this is the purpose of the ATEL Program. Denise stated that she would move some of the information off the application onto the FAQ meeting, and reformat to make the application easier to navigate. Denise stated that she would revise and send to the committee on Friday for their approval. Also, if the committee wanted to further changes we could also do at a later date.

5. Discuss Teltex Training and wireless program launch date ;V Teltex will be doing a training for ATEL Committee Members and ATEL Partners next Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at TechACCESS from 9-1.

Teltex will be doing IOS training and reviewing the criteria that the ATEL Program selected. If all goes well at training the release date of the new program will be September 14th; since this is the date of our wireless monthly demo and the Independent Living Conference is the following day.

6. Open Discussion ;V

o Jim Lanni retired last Friday, and Jeannie requested that we recognize him in some way for all his years of service. Denise will look into. Ken stated he would provide Jim's email so we can try to get him to come to our next Quarterly meeting.

o Ellen released another new book on Amazon: Remarkable Maggie, My Life as a Service Dog.

„X Ellen will be doing a book signing with Maggie (ink paw print) at

the N. Providence Pool, date TBT.

o OSCIL is hosting the RI Independent Living Conference on September 15, 2016 from 8AM- 2PM. There are only 50 people signed up so Melissa requested the committee spread the word. Denise stated she would email the committee information on signing up for the conference. Also, the Keynote is John Moon from NEADS.

O Next quarterly meeting is scheduled at 9am- 11am at the PUC: December 8th.