RI Council on Assistive Technology
September 9, 2010 ~ 2:30 – 4:00 pm
PARI IL Center
500 Prospect Street ~ Pawtucket, RI

Minutes

Attendees: Flo Adeni-Awosika, Thomas Karweh, Melissa McDonald, Michael Matracia, Teresa O'Brien, Ying Sun and Kim Wennermark.

Guest: Becky Wright – RIDE.

Partners: Denise Corson, ATEL; Roberta Greene-Whittemore, ATAP Program Director; Kat Grygiel, former ATAP Program Director; Judi Hammerlind-Carlson, TechACCESS; Lisa Labitt, EBEC; Lezlee Shaffer, OSCIL.

Welcome: Meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. by ATAP Program Director – Roberta Greene Whittemore. Roberta stated that Co-Chair Dan Pieroni was unable to be here today. Introductions were made by everyone.

Approval of Minutes from 9/9/10: Kim Wennermark made motion, seconded by Mike Matracia to approve minutes. Motion unanimously passed.

ATAP Partners' Reports:
Denise Corson – ATEL: Denise handed out a flyer (attached) on the new Hearing Loss Demonstration Program being held monthly at TechACCESS. She discussed how there were 10 attendees at the first demonstration, 4 at the second, and 15 at the third. Instead of just showing equipment, James Litvack did a "Day in the Life of…". At each demonstration, they have a new subject

matter and guest speaker. Last month was Tina Johnson from Hearing Loss Association of America. They are also discussing a walk in approach from 1-5 to piggyback this demonstration program. Roberta commented that several of the attendees have also taken equipment for use. Denise had given some equipment to Judi at TechACCESS for their loan program. Good for people who don't qualify for program to be able to test out equipment. Roberta also added that since Denise has become a quantity purchaser, she has gotten discount prices.

AT Project Director's Report: Roberta commented that we have a successful AT Conference in November, 2010 with over 350+ attendees and 50 vendors. They received very good feedback. At that conference they established the Elizabeth Dalton Assistive Technology Award, which was awarded to Betsy Dalton. They were working on specific criteria to determine next recipient. This years conference will be held November 30, 2011 at Crowne Plaza at the Crossing, 501 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI. Anyone interested in being a part of the planning committee for the conference can contact Judi Carlson at TechACCESS.

Roberta noted she will be attending her 1st AT Conference in Washington, DC on May 15th. She will report back on that at the June meeting.

Currently they are in the process of completing their 3-Year Work Plans. The partners are getting a little extra money to update their equipment for the 1st quarter of the 1st year of this work plan. Roberta added that at the June meeting she would like to have the partners give a snapshot of their Work Plans. At the October meeting, she would like to discuss putting together the 3-Year State Plan.

New Business (Roundtable):

At AT Conference in November, there was interest expressed in the AT School Swap Program session. We obligated ourselves to facilitate if this is a viable option. Roberta explained what program would consist of, and how schools have AT sitting in their closets collecting dust. Melissa MacDonald discussed how there were several issues that needed to be looked into – money used to purchase items, federal requirements, federal or state dollars used, when AT be recycled, Medicare purchased equipment, etc. Kat commented that some AT Programs used their grant money to establish an AT School Swap. RI, being so small of a grant, offered technical assistance to put something like this in place but felt unable to provide money towards it. Melissa added that schools have to have an inventory process but it is up to them. There are guidelines for this. Roberta added that when they got the group together to look into this, she also connected with Dorothy Frechette of RILinks. Lisa Labitt added that at different school districts AT is managed by different people. Some might be through a secretary, another through the Special Ed Directors Office, technology coordinators or the OT. Roberta added that at this point we are in the preliminary stages.

Roberta addressed structure of RICAT. Congratulations to Teresa O'Brien, Thomas Karweh and Bill Robinson for another 3 year term. Also she noted that Flo Adeni-Awosika, Mike Matracia and Dan Pieroni are all coming up for another 3 year term. Flo and Mike are still interested. We will contact Dan to see if he is still interested, and then ballots will be sent to everyone. Roberta also noted that 2 required seats were vacant – the first being someone from the Workforce Investment Board and the second someone from ORS. She added that Mike Montanaro who previously represented ORS has taken on other responsibilities with the Access to Recovery grant. Lisa had given Roberta a contact from RIPIN. Time was discussed for meetings.

Roberta brought up RICAT Guidelines, stating that this is one area that is problematic. She suggested that we consider changing the Council structure. She did a survey of NE AT Programs to see if they have Chairs. In CT, a member and Program Director Co-Chair; MA has a Chair; NH – AT Program Director chairs. As we are an advisory council and not a board with any type of fiduciary responsibilities. Kim W. asked if it was written up yet. Kat noted it is getting harder and harder for people to volunteer and take on the responsibility of planning a meeting. This makes is easier to have members be participants in analyzing how well the ATAP partners are doing. Looking for suggestions regarding time and place of meetings. Teresa agreed with Roberta regarding the stress placed on an individual to set up meetings. Roberta added that what she would like to do is have each meeting have a goal/project that she would need input on. June – Work Plans. October – State Plan. Deliverables – are we delivering? Collaboration that we can maximize upon to get information out.

Roberta asked if someone would like to step up and be the chair stating she would assist with facilitating. Kim asked to explain the how she would like to see the structure. Roberta explained there would be no Co-Chairs, and that the Program Director would "facilitate" the meetings. Kim then questioned who would set the agenda. Roberta responded that she would set the agenda, however, any member can put something on the agenda by contacting her. Kim stated he did not doubt the integrity. Roberta responded that the ATAP partners also questioned the propriety legality of it. Agenda will be driven by Federal requirements. Kat added that since ORS is the lead agency, they used the State Rehabilitation Council as a guide. Revised guidelines will be sent out to members for their review and to be discussed and voted on at next meeting. Ying Sun added that he believes that this will be a much more efficient way to run meeting. He commented that when he first started on this council, there was a strong

encouragement of independence of council. Over the years things have changed. Kat responded it has been an evolutionary process. Ying's concern is that down the road will it come back that things were not run the correct way. Regulations really only define membership. Otherwise not much guidance, so each program around country comes up with model that works for each state. Both Roberta and Kat noted that the model used for RICAT was the SRC, however, that was based on federal mandates that do not apply to the AT grant. They will check on Open Meetings Law prior to putting time frames in new Guidelines. Kat asked if anyone else had experience with other Councils. Melissa stated she was involved with two groups – each one run differently. She feels that facilitating for RICAT is good because of the stress otherwise placed on the member who would be chairing. Roberta ended up with noting that we can better use our time if we have a direction. Denise also commented that the committee she is on does have a chair; however, she sets the agenda. Energy has changed and improved since then. Roberta asked if we should consider morning meetings for next calendar year. Several people agreed to having a 9am meeting.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2011 from 2:30 – 4:00 pm at
TechACCESS of RI, 10 Jefferson Blvd, Suite I, Warwick, RI.

Motion was made by Teresa O'Brien and seconded by Kim Wennermark/Mike Matracia to adjourn meeting at 3:50 pm. Motion passed.

(Attachments)

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan (ATEL) Program
40 Fountain Street ~ Providence, RI 02903
401-421-7005 ext. 357 ~ 401-222-3574 FAX ~ TTY (401) 222-1679

NEW HEARING LOSS TECHNOLGY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Next Meeting - May 11, 2011.

(And continued on the 2nd Wednesday of each month)

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ATAP
assistive technology access partnership

This demonstration is presented at TechACCESS of RI by
Denise Corson, ATEL Program Coordinator, and
James Litvack, PARI Independent Living Center Representative

GUEST SPEAKER FOR MAY DEMONSTRATION
Melissa Rosenburg, OSCIL (Ocean State Center of Independent Living)
Will demonstrate their Home Accessibility & Adaptive Equipment Program

Technology for Persons with Hearing Loss is a demonstration that looks at technology that can improve access at home, work and in social settings.

The following equipment will be demonstrated:

- Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan (ATEL) Program equipment, which includes amplified phones, and the CapTel. The CapTel is a fairly new technology that allows you to view word-for-word captions of your telephone conversations.
- Signaling devices such as: alarm clocks telephone ringers, doorbells and baby monitors.
- Personal amplification for conversations, meetings, social events and television.

All attendees can loan out equipment, on a first come first service basis, to see if the equipment is appropriate for their needs. Also, qualified attendees can apply for a **FREE** telephone thru the ATEL Program.

Location: **TechACCESS**
110 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite I, Warwick, Rhode Island

Time: **5:00 to 6:00 PM - view and demonstrate ATEL equipment ONLY!**
6:00 to 8:00 PM- ***Technology for Persons with Hearing Loss Demonstration,***
followed by Q&A session (weather permitting).

These workshops are free, no registration is required. Cart Services will be provided; however, if you need any other special accommodations, please call 3 weeks in advance.

For more information, call 401-463-0202 (V/TDD), in state 800-916-8324

2010 AT Conference

Thank you to all who attended the 2010 AT Conference On Tuesday, November 30th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. It was another successful conference with approximately 350 persons in attendance and 50 vendors demonstrating new technology.

Presentations were held throughout the day showcasing Universal Design for Learning, Augmentative Communication, Kurzweil 3000 Literacy Software, Employment and Assistive Technology, Talking Books. Dragon Naturally Speaking, Apps for your iPad, Options and Rights for Paying for AT, Portable AT, Interactive Whiteboards, and Reusing AT Devices through our own regional website **www.getATstuff.com**. If you missed this years' event, you'll see you missed a lot of great information!

At this years luncheon, ATAP Program Director, Roberta Greene Whittemore presented the **1st Elizabeth M. Dalton Assistive Technology Award** to none other than Betsy Dalton. This award was a well-deserved award for Betsy as she co-authored the RI Tech Act Grant that established the RI Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP), as well as initiated and co-founded Rhode Island's annual state-wide conference on assistive technology in 1988. This conference has been held annually since 1988 but for two years. (Pictured in photo are R. Greene Whittemore-ATAP Program Director, B. Dalton-Award Recipient, and J. Carlson - TechACCESS Executive Director)

Betsy also was the Founder and Chairperson of TechACCESS of RI which was incorporated in 1991 as a non-profit, state-wide educational agency for assistive technology information, resources and training, serving all ages.

Currently Betsy is on leave from Rhode Island College where she is pursuing her Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Boston College with a focus on Leadership in Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

Throughout the years Betsy has had 14+ publications, received many honors and citations, and has been involved in community service activities for a number of committees and boards. She has even traveled to Seattle, Washington; Denver, Colorado; Alicante, Spain; and Kuwait City, Kuwait; just to name a few, to do presentations on assistive technology and universal learning.

Congratulations to Betsy Dalton for this well deserved honor.

The 2010 ATAP Assistive Technology Conference also would like to thank their sponsors of the conference:

HMEA, Inc.
Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS)
Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)
Schools Project at TechACCESS of RI
Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Student, Community, and Academic Support (RIDE)
Rhode Island Department of Health Disability and Health Program
Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College
Rhodes to Independence
TechACCESS of RI
Nuance Communications, Inc.

Continental Breakfast and Breaks Compliments of:
Cambium Learning Group
Rhode Island Rehabilitation Association (RIRA)

Scholarship Sponsors:
Tobii ATI

Interpreters Compliments of:
Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS)