



Assistive Technology and Communication
Committee
Meeting Minutes
Cherry Valley Lodge, Newark, Ohio
December 11, 2015

Committee Members:

Name	In attendance
Robert Shuemak, Chair	X
Kimberly Stults, Vice Chair	X (phone)
Gregory Dormer	X
Douglas Frank	
Lisa Krauss	X
Linda Kunick	X
Heather McFarlin	
Paula Rabidoux	X
Jill Radler	X
Ilka Riddle	X
Michael Schroeder	X
Marci Straughter	X
Sue Willis	X
Victor Wilson	X
Carla Cox (staff)	X
Kim Crishbaum (staff)	X

Others in Attendance:

Other Council Members: Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Mark Seifarth

Staff: Fatica Ayers, Carolyn Knight

Guests: Melody Brauninger, Eric Rathburn, Sharon Shuemak, Tim Tobin, Mindy Vance

Introduction

Chair Robert Shuemak called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. and introductions were made. A motion was made and seconded to approve both the September and October 2015 Committee meeting minutes. Michael Schroeder made a motion to accept the minutes. Linda Kunick seconded the motion. A roll call was held to vote on the motion. Motion passed.

Group discussion to approve Assistive Technology plan language

The assistive technology plan language was reviewed. This will be the version that will go out for public comment. There were no questions or changes made. Linda Kunick motioned to accept the plan language. Lisa Krauss seconded the motion. A roll call was held to vote on the motion. Motion passed.

Group discussion to approve Communication plan language

The public awareness plan language was reviewed. It is now called “Communication to Increase Public Awareness for People with Developmental Disabilities.” This will be the version that will go out for public comment. During the discussion, two changes were suggested. Under the first two bullet points in the “Key Activities” section, the use of the word “Council” was changed to “the AT/Communication Committee or Council staff.”

The group continued to discuss how some parts of the plan language are difficult to understand. Several of these areas are where Council is required to use “stock” language that we cannot change because it is required by the federal agency that reviewed each Council’s plan. Sue Willis suggested that we include a plain language version of the stock version, such as in a text box next to the stock language. Paula Rabidoux recommended that we let the feds know that the language is difficult for some people with developmental disabilities to understand, as well as potential grantees. Ilka Riddle suggested creating a summary sheet and will email an example to the Committee. Jill Radler recommended using a free online service – Wordify at <https://rewordify.com/> - which is a tool to help improve the readability of complex sentences. The group agreed we will consider these ideas as we move forward through the planning process. This should also be shared with the full Council since the entire plan could benefit from this change.

A motion was made by Michael Schroeder to accept the plan language with the two bullet point changes. Sue Willis seconded the motion. A roll call was held to vote on the motion. Motion passed.

Guest presenter: Jan Rogers from OCALI

Jan Rogers from the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) presented about the work they have been doing to support assistive technology service delivery in Ohio through the use of online training modules. The current modules are focused on services for school-age children and young adults with disabilities. She said this is because their funding source is focused on this population. However, OCALI is interested in expanding to the adult community. Several members of the Committee asked questions and felt that the presentation was helpful as the Committee begins planning for potential projects for 2016 and beyond.

New business

Robert Shuemak's term as a Council member will end after this meeting. Kim Stults recommended that Robert Shuemak be made a Special Advisor for the Assistive Technology and Communication Committee. Victor Wilson motioned for Robert Shuemak to be a Special Advisor for the Assistive Technology and Communication Committee. Marci Straughter seconded the motion. A roll call was made to vote on the motion. Motion passed.

Marci Straughter asked what the process was for a new chair to be assigned to the Committee. Mark Seifarth said he is responsible for doing this and will be making decisions within the next several weeks.

Kim Crishbaum asked for suggestions for speakers for future meetings. Sue Willis recommended that Disability Rights Ohio speak about their work through the funding they receive through the AT Act for assistive technology cases and projects. Another recommendation was to have Miss Geeky – a presenter who had to cancel at the last minute from our Tech II conference this year. She may be a good fit to speak to the full Council and not just the Committee.

Eric Rathburn from AT Ohio spoke about the status of assistive technology lending libraries. He said that this is a difficult area to expand in because of the increasing costs associated with it, yet lending libraries continue to receive the same (level).

A motion was made by Victor Wilson to adjourn. Sue Willis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.