



Assistive Technology and Communication
Committee
Meeting Minutes
Doubletree Hotel, Newark, Ohio
March 4, 2016

Committee Members:

Name	In attendance
OPEN, Chair	
Kimberly Stults, Vice Chair	X
Gregory Dormer	
Douglas Frank	X
Linda Kunick	X
Heather McFarlin	X
Paula Rabidoux	X
Jill Radler	X
Ilka Riddle	
Marci Straughter	
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, Dara Walburn

Staff: Carolyn Knight, Gary Groom, Paul Jarvis, Kay Treanor

Guests: Kay Grier (OSILC), Donna Lowe (PCA), Essie Pederson (PCA), Sharon Shuemak (PCA), Wiley Roberts (PCA), Keyanta Shaunte (PCA), Robert Shuemak (special advisor), Brenda Stevens (PCA), Tim Tobin (contract assistant with OSILC), Elly Walburn (PCA), Renee Wood (special advisor)

Introduction

Vice Chair Kim Stults called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and introductions were made. The December 2015 minutes were presented for approval. Victor Wilson motioned to accept the minutes. Heather McFarlin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Tim Tobin – Final report on Tech II post-conference activities

After the Tech II Conference, the Committee approved a grant extension for the grantee to perform a post-conference activity. The activity involved the grantee to contact several of the presenters and providers who expressed an interest in discussing what they had to offer in the way of assistive technology to Ohioans with disabilities. Tim Tobin, contract assistant for the Tech II Conference grantee OSILC, distributed a report that detailed his discussions with these different entities. Tim highlighted the report for his presentation. The report included an introduction, informal survey results from county boards of developmental disabilities, a recap of the Tech II Conference held May 13-14, 2015, details of the follow-up interviews, overview of assistive technology certification programs, and information about the AT Act and AT Ohio's role as the federal Tech Act project in Ohio. Attachments included numerous proposals from organizations on assistive technology project ideas, including the estimated cost of each project.

In regard to the post-conference activity, Tim met with a variety of stakeholders who represented professionals from provider agencies, colleges, county agencies, and private industry. He highlighted what each of the stakeholders was currently doing in the area of assistive technology and the ideas that each had to further their mission. Tim discovered that each had its strengths and weaknesses in the field of assistive technology and disability-related services in general. It was clear that collaboration among the stakeholders would help each other and strengthen their ability to provide services in a more standardized and streamlined way to Ohioans with disabilities who need assistive technology. He stressed that there are many activities currently being done in different areas of assistive technology. The key is to trying to find a way to collaborate these activities in order to create sustainable systems change.

Based on Tim's presentation, it was recommended to form a Task Force to plan and prioritize assistive technology initiatives, with the overall goal of encouraging collaboration across the system. The Committee members discussed this idea and

felt that a good starting point for a Task Force would be to have the DD Partners (DD Council, Disability Rights Ohio, Nisonger Center, and University of Cincinnati), OSILC, and AT Ohio initially meet. From there, the Task Force would decide on other organizations and individuals who would be a part of the Task Force. Carolyn Knight asked Committee members if the focus should continue to be on adults with disabilities who need assistive technology. Paula Rabidoux felt that children should be included and Committee members agreed. The ultimate goal is for the Task Force to produce a statewide plan to improve the assessment, attainment, and training of assistive technology for Ohioans with disabilities.

The Committee also considered funding a small initiative while the Task Force is doing its work. Ideas for what to fund will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Sue Willis motioned to consider the idea to continue to work on developing a Task Force, with the approval of OSILC. Victor Wilson seconded the motion. Motion approved. Kim Crishbaum will work on drafting plan language to support this and will present it at the next Council meeting.

New business

Paula Rabidoux announced that the Nisonger Institute will hold a day-long conference on June 10, 2016 called "Supporting Lives and Expanding Choices with Technology." It will be held at The Ohio State University.

Doug Frank and his personal care assistants shared information on the status and process of Doug getting his new assistive technology device. He has the device now and is learning how to use it. They will be training staff at where he works on how to use it, too.

A motion was made by Doug Frank to adjourn. Linda Kunick seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.