



**Assistive Technology and
Communication Committee
Meeting Minutes
Doubletree Hotel, Newark, Ohio
September 16, 2016**

Committee Members:

Name	In attendance
Marci Straughter, Chair	X
Victor Wilson, Vice Chair	X
Gregory Dormer	
Douglas Frank	
Linda Kunick	X
Heather McFarlin	X
Blaine O'Leary	X
Paula Rabidoux	X
Jill Radler	X
Ilka Riddle	X
Kimberly Stults	X
Mindy Vance	X
Sue Willis	X
Carla Cox (staff)	X
Kim Crishbaum (staff)	

Others in Attendance:

Other Council Members: Mark Seifarth, Council Chair, Dara Walburn, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Vicki Jenkins

Staff: Carolyn Knight, Fatica Ayers

Guests: Kristen Helling (OOD), Sonja Marchant (PCA), Betsy O'Leary (PCA), Essie Pederson (PCA), Eric Rathburn (AT Ohio), Robert Shuemak (special advisor), Brenda Stevens (PCA), Tim Tobin (contract assistant with OSILC), Elly Walburn (PCA), Renee Wood (special advisor)

Introduction

Marci Straughter introduced herself as the new Chair of the AT and Communication Committee and Victor Wilson as Vice Chair. Chairperson Straughter called the meeting to order at 10:57 a.m. and introductions were made. The May 6, 2016 minutes were presented for approval. Sue Willis **motioned** to accept the minutes. Kim Stults seconded the **motion** passed. Vicki Jenkins and Rochelle Hall-Rollins abstained.

Paula Rabidoux - Recap of the “Supporting Lives and Expanding Choices with Technology” Conference held by Nisonger Institute

Paula briefly informed the committee members that there were speakers from New York, Denver Colorado and Kansas with approximately 140 people in attendance. The purpose of the conference was to get a national perspective of how to utilize technology and to further educate ourselves about technology.

Paula also spoke briefly about a joint project with DODD to look at the issue of remote monitoring. The deliverables for the project include: a national review of the use of remote monitoring across the country to determine what is being done and what is working; the formation of a technology Council by DODD to assist with understanding the issues; holding focus groups of current remote monitoring users within the state; completing an analysis of how remote monitoring can support direct services. Paula explained that they know that remote monitoring cannot replace people but can assist in regards to workforce issues. Paula stated that Council may want to be involved with this project.

Carolyn Knight mentioned during their Strategic Planning Workgroup meetings, the remote monitoring group came and discussed the various issues. She stated that the main concern is to find a way to make the connections with those families that need the service and they are trying to determine how to do that. Carolyn also added that Council has already been asked to sit on that taskforce.

Tim Tobin – Update about activities of the AT Task Force

Tim Tobin, who is working with the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (OSILC) on special projects, provided a brief summary of the initial meeting of the AT Task Force that took place on August 31, 2016. The establishment of the AT Task Force was approved by the AT Committee and the full Council at the May, 2016 meeting. It is comprised of representatives from the DD Network (DD Council, UCEDDs and DRO) and other relevant individuals and organizations. Tim stated that although the taskforce is trying to align its schedule with the AT/Communication Committee, the purpose of the AT Task Force is to identify overarching, systemic issues and current gaps in assistive technology in Ohio and to assist Council in determining potential grant projects beginning in 2017.

The following individuals were in attendance at the August AT Task Force meeting: Robert Shuemak, special advisor of the AT Committee, Kay Grier, Executive Director of the OSILC, Adonna Wilson-Baney, Disability Rights Ohio, Paula Rabidoux, Nisonger Center, Eric Rathburn, AT Ohio, Carolyn Knight, Executive Director, DD Council, Kim Crishbaum, DD Council staff and Tim Tobin. The Task Force appointed Robert Shuemak as Chair of the AT Task Force after providing members with a brief history on why the Task Force had been created. The Task Force is considering adding additional members to the Task Force including, but not limited to, representation from the CILs, OOD, DODD and other people with disabilities.

Tim highlighted some of the topics discussed at the meeting which included the need to survey county boards of DD to determine the scope of services provided around AT. Eric Rathburn also explained several programs that AT Ohio is involved in with various libraries around the state and the equipment lending program administered by AT Ohio. There was discussion about the use of IPADs, the need to establish a comprehensive assessment tool, apps that make devices accessible to people with disabilities, and AT resources for families and people with disabilities. The Task Force also touched on some of the topics that were presented in the interim report in March and will discuss those items in greater detail in subsequent meetings.

In an effort to work within the timelines and processes of Council, it was important that the AT Task Force at its first meeting recommend to the AT Committee potential issues for further research and to develop draft plan language. The AT Task Force recommended that a survey be conducted to assess the level of AT services in the county board system. The Task Force also is suggesting that there is a need to identify the number of lending libraries and equipment loan programs in Ohio. Because the AT Committee staff person was unable to complete draft plan language for the latter issue, draft plan language on lending libraries and equipment loan programs will be discussed at the next AT Committee meeting in December.

The next AT Task Force meeting will be held on October 19, 2016, from 1-3:00 p.m. at the OSILC office. The Task Force will try to meet in November prior to the Council's December meeting.

Tim Tobin - Proposal Plan Language – Assessing AT Service Delivery in the Ohio CB of DD

Chairperson Straughter asked Tim Tobin to explain the draft plan language that was in the Committee packets. Since Tim wasn't sure when the committee members had received the draft plan language, he asked for direction on how to proceed. Sue Willis asked that he go over the language with the committee and highlight any important details of the language.

Tim then began discussing the plan language for the Assessing AT Service Delivery in the Ohio County Board of DD. He went into depth about the survey that would provide AT information from the 88 county boards. After Tim highlighted the significant aspects of the plan language, Carolyn Knight reminded the committee that the \$50,000 funding received from the Public Policy Committee would fund this project. Because Council would not meet again until December, once approval is made by the committee, Council staff would be able to move forward with receiving bids.

Kim Stults then asked what state plan year this project would be funded under. Fatica Ayers, Council Staff answered that the tech project funds are taken from 2016 dollars that will carryover to 2017. Since the project does not actually begin until April 2017, when it is time to complete the 2018 State Plan Update, this project will be marked Continuation because it does not end until April 2018.

Once discussion concluded, Chairperson Straughter asked for a **motion** to approve the project language for the Assessing AT Service Delivery in the Ohio County Board of DD project. Kim Stults **moved** to approve the language, Paula Rabidoux seconded, **motion** passed.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Kim Stults to adjourn. Paula Rabidoux seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.