

Assistive Technology Committee Meeting
Hyatt Regency Hotel
May 2, 2014

Committee Members Present: Greg Dormer, Linda Kunich, Ilka Riddle, Robert Shuemak, Kim Stults, Sue Willis

Other Members Present: Linda Krauss, Jo Spargo, Karen Kerr

Staff Present: Fatica Ayers, Kim McConnell

Guests: Melody Brauninger, Eric Rathburn, Sharon Shuemak

Chair Robert Shuemak called the meeting to order at 10:55 and introductions were made.

Because a quorum was not present, the approval of the July and December meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Michael Corbett and Bob Laux

Michael and Bob spoke about the Council housing grants they have worked on (currently the Maximizing Resources Including Technology for Housing and Supports for Adults with Disabilities grant) and how each grant has ended up including the use of technology to assist in the “universal design” building concept. Michael shared information put together by Cory Grywalski who works for the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Cory was not able to attend the meeting). Cory works with Michael and Bob to assist in the information technology and assistive technology (AT) components of their home building projects. Cory is also disabled and has had first-hand experience with the use of AT and other electronic advancements to create a home where he can live independently.

Michael also talked about the equipment lending program that his company is providing as a free service to the public. People are encouraged to donate and to check the warehouse for items they might need.

Bob spoke of the importance of developing “smart” homes (homes that have programs and/or adaptations that automate certain features or functions) and of establishing of AT Donation Centers throughout the state which could also provide assessment and training.

Kim Stults commented that affordability continues to be an issue for many of the AT solutions that can be involved with universal design.

In regard to home monitoring systems that require an Internet connection, Eric Rathburn suggested Comcast as a reasonably priced service provider at around \$9 per month. The hope is that other cable companies will follow Comcast’s lead.

Carolyn asked the AT Committee to consider how Council can assist in the start-up and funding AT Donation Centers.

Robert Shuemak

Robert provided a recap of a presentation he made at the 30th Annual OACB Convention in December 2013. His presentation focused on greater independence through AT, in particular the use of iPhone/iPad apps and other resources for people with no vision or low vision. Robert reviewed the features of several apps. He pointed out that there are hundreds of apps to help people with all different types of disabilities.

Carolyn asked Kim McConnell to post Robert’s PowerPoint presentation to the DD Council website.

2014 AT Conference

Carolyn Knight, Sue Willis, Kay Grier (OSILC), Leslie Paull and Kim McConnell met two times since the last meeting. One meeting was to talk about the initial planning steps for the AT Conference. A tentative date has been set for December 1-2, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency. The focus of the conference will be AT as it relates to supporting employment for people with disabilities.

The other meeting was with Director Miller of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to see if OOD would like to partner in the conference. They will be able to provide staff to conduct workshops.

Linda suggested that the conference include a speaker on the topic of the step-by-step process of how to get the AT device you need. Sue said that topic was a common thread throughout the comments received after the Tech Tablet Conference – people want to know how to be evaluated, how to obtain funding, and how to get trained for AT. Kim Stults suggested that for the evaluation piece, an assessment tool could be developed, possibly through funding by a grant from Council.

Greg Dormer asked who the primary audience is for the conference – employers, professionals, or people with disabilities. The group said people with disabilities; however, Sue noted that most of the people who attended the Tech Tablet Conference were professionals. Greg suggested developing different tracks of training for the each conference audience.

A motion was needed for OSILC, who did the Tech Tablet Conference last November, to be given a \$75,000 non-competitive allocation grant to plan, organize, and implement the conference. Since a quorum was not present, the AT Committee decided to ask the full Council to vote on the motion during the Business Meeting.

New Business

Kim Stults shared information about the use of the Health Tracker system to manage and share electronic medical records. Certain hospitals and providers are required to use Health Tracker. If they do not, they will be penalized through their Medicaid reimbursement. Kim stated this is a system that would support health information exchanges across the board, but unless mandated, it will not be a universal system. The largest obstacle is the cost to implement and maintain the system (it's in the millions of dollars). She asked that we consider having Health Tracker and/or similar companies present on this concept at the AT Conference.

Kim Stults asked why the AT Committee isn't included in the State Plan amendments currently being discussed in other committee meetings. Carolyn explained that the AT Committee is still considered new and doesn't have any projects or funding information that needs changed at this time.

Kim McConnell brought up that the AT Committee rarely has had a quorum present since it started over a year ago. Members present asked that Kim M.

contact all current AT Committee members to see if they want to continue on the committee, and to open up joining the AT Committee to the full membership.

Robert asked for committee members to send any AT resources to him and Kim McConnell so we can start developing a resource list for statewide use.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn.

ADJOURNED: 12:15 p.m.