



**Assistive Technology and
Communication Committee
Meeting Minutes
Crowne Plaza North, Columbus, Ohio
March 3, 2017**

Committee Members:

Name	In attendance
Marci Straughter, Chair	X
Victor Wilson, Vice Chair	
Douglas Frank	
Rochelle Hall-Rollins	X
Kristen Helling	X
Linda Kunick	X
Heather McFarlin	X
Blaine O’Leary	
Paula Rabidoux	X
Jill Radler	X
Ilka Riddle	
Kimberly Stults	X (via GoToMeeting)
Mindy Vance	
Dara Walburn	X
Sue Willis	X
Carla Cox (staff)	X
Kim Crishbaum (staff)	X

Others in Attendance:

Other Council Members: Mark Seifarth, Council Chair, Laura Leach, Vicki Jenkins

Staff: Carolyn Knight, Fatica Ayers, Gary Groom, Ken Latham, Robin Shipp

Guests: Christine Brown, Beth Graham (PCA), Sonja Marchant (PCA), Eric Rathburn (AT Ohio), Robert Shuemak (special advisor), Robinet Smith (PCA), Laurel Steedman (DODD), Brenda Stevens (PCA), Tim Tobin (contract assistant with OSILC), Jordan Wagner (Nisonger Center), Jerelle Rollins

Introduction

Chairperson Straughter called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and introductions were made. The December 9, 2016, minutes were presented for approval. Linda Kunick **motioned** to accept the minutes. Dara Walburn seconded, the **motion** passed.

Carolyn Knight – Plan Language amendment

Carolyn Knight explained that there are several projects in progress that were started by Yocum Communications (the previous Public Awareness grantee) and these projects need completed. Therefore, she asked the Committee for an additional three-month extension, as she already approved one three-month extension prior. The extension will run through June 2017 of Yocum's grant for \$40,000. Dara Walburn **motioned** to grant the extension and the amount of \$40,000. Heather McFarlin seconded the **motion** which opened-up the matter for discussion. The role of the Public Awareness grantee was discussed. Sue Willis said that the grantee should be initiating what to do, rather than being told what to do by Council. Mark Seifarth said he wanted Council to make sure that the new grantee isn't producing work that is a "cookie cutter" approach, since the grantee has worked with other state DD Councils. Carolyn indicated that this is a transition year for the grantees and that all of this would be taken into consideration as we move forward. After this discussion, the **motion passed** to be sent to full Council.

Concerns were expressed about how the focus of the Committee has been more on Assistive Technology rather than Communication (Public Awareness). Ideas were discussed on how equal time could be given to each. "Plain Language" is one of the topic areas that several Council members want to have addressed. It was decided that Council staff would work on convening a "Plain Language Subcommittee" through the Leadership Development Committee. Carolyn added that staff would rethink the model of the Committee and present ideas at the next meeting.

Carla Cox – Update on new Public Awareness grantee

Carla Cox reported that she has spoken several times with Gordon O'Neill and Devika Rao of O'Neill Public Relations, Inc. (the new Public Awareness grantee). Several staff also participated in a conference call with Gordon and Devika. Carla stated that they will be coming to the DD Advocacy and Awareness Day event in March and will also meet in-person with staff at that time. Carla repeated what Carolyn Knight said earlier about the first year of this grant being a transition time since the previous Public Awareness grantee and the new grantee have different strategies for communication, and O'Neill is also going to have a learning curve on how our Council works compared to other state DD Councils.

Kim Crishbaum shared that O'Neill is currently assessing the website and Council's social media presence to see how they could help "enhance and amplify" Council's activities and products.

Kim Crishbaum – Update on Assistive Technology grant applications

Kim Crishbaum reported that the grant application review panel met on February 13, 2017, to review the three applications received for the "Assessing Assistive Technology Service Delivery in the Ohio County Board of DD System" grant. This is a one-year grant for \$50,000 and will begin on April 3, 2017. OCALI was chosen as the grantee pending acceptance of conditions and approval from full Council. Approval from full Council is required since OCALI already has a grant with DD Council (Employment grant for \$85,000) and the total of that grant plus this one will be over \$100,000. A vote by full Council is required per our by-laws.

Kim also provided an update on the "Identification of Assistive Technology Lending Programs in Ohio" grant. Applications are due for this grant by Monday, March 6, 2017. Kim asked for volunteers and recommendations for a grant review panel. Kristen Helling and Jill Radler volunteered to sit on the grant review panel.

Jordan Wagner, Nisonger Center and Laurel Steedman, DODD – University Support in Technology Evaluation and Development project

Laurel Steedman from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Jordan Wagner from Nisonger presented about a technology project that DODD and Nisonger are working on together. The project is looking at how technology can improve and expand remote monitoring services. Laurel said that the remote monitoring rule is being modified to expand the types of technology and devices that can be covered. Individuals will also have more control over the times they can be monitored. Laurel said that with the inclusion of technology, the overall goal of the project is to explore what's already in place and redefine what an effective remote monitoring model should look like.

Jordan Wagner said they have an advisory committee for this four-year project. The first two years of the project will focus on evaluating technology that can support remote monitoring. He said that currently there are only 170 people in Ohio using this service and the project would like to increase to 600. During the first two years, they will also send out a survey and hold focus groups. The last two years of the project will be the development phase. People can contact Jordan if they would like more information or be included in focus groups. His contact information is 614-688-3155 or Jordan.Wagner@osumc.edu.

Tim Tobin, OSILC – Update on AT Task Force activities

Tim Tobin, consultant for the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Centers (OSILC) provided an update on the activities of the AT Task Force, which is funded through a DD Council grant to OSILC. The Task Force met in February and discussed several project ideas. The AT Task Force and grant activities are scheduled to end June 30, 2017, so the Task Force is making a final recommendation for a grant activity by the May DD Council meeting.

New Business

Ken Latham, Council staff for the Outreach Committee, provided background about “Triple Jeopardy” which is an Outreach project made up of 87 African American women who have a disability in Ohio. The project’s goals have evolved over the years and it is currently focused on the development and delivery of a program to train the group of women on safety and security when using the Internet, including websites and social media. The grantee is asking for \$30,000 to complete this project and it was suggested that the Assistive Technology & Communication Committee provide funding toward the \$30,000. The Committee did not choose to make a motion at this time.

Adjournment

A **motion** was made by Heather McFarlin to adjourn. Dara Walburn seconded the **motion**. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.