



**Assistive Technology and
Communication Committee
Meeting Minutes
Crowne Plaza North – Columbus
July 14, 2017**

Committee Members:

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

Others in Attendance:

Other Council Members: Jean Jakovlic, Mark Seifarth, Council Chair, Mark Smith (ODE)

Staff: Carolyn Knight, Gary Groom, Kay Treanor

Guests: Heather Bridgman (OCALI), Laura Leach (Dept. of Medicaid), Essie Pederson (PCA), Devika Rao (O’Neill Public Relations), Eric Rathburn (AT Ohio), Mark Smith (PCA), Laurel Steedman (DODD), Brenda Stevens (PCA), Tim Tobin (contract assistant with OSILC), Jordan Wagner (Nisonger Center)

Introduction

Chairperson Marci Straughter called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and introductions were made. The May 5, 2017 minutes were presented for approval. Kim Stults **motioned** to accept the minutes. Linda Kunick seconded. **Motion** passed.

Grantee update: Ohio Coalition for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)

Heather Bridgman from the Ohio Coalition for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) provided an update of the activities that OCALI has worked on for their two grants. Work on the “Assessing Assistive Technology Service Delivery in the Ohio County Board of Developmental Disabilities System” grant began on April 1, 2017. Heather reported that they have been in the planning and information gathering stage during this time. This includes attending many meetings of different organizations, having information booths at meetings/conferences to hand out a “save the date” about the upcoming survey, contacting people and organizations by phone and email, and planning on conducting a focus group. The survey begins September 15, 2017 and end on October 13, 2017.

Work on the “Identification of Assistive Technology Lending Programs in Ohio grant” just began on June 1, 2017. Heather said that OCALI is in the information gathering stage of this grant and that much of the information they are gathering for the other grant is proving to be useful for this grant, too.

Carolyn Knight announced that the Nisonger Center’s Technology Council, through a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DODD), is planning a town hall meeting for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to share about their assistive technology needs. Carolyn suggested that OCALI attend the meeting because the information shared at the meeting would probably be helpful to OCALI’s grant work. Carolyn said Council staff will let OCALI know when a date is decided upon for the town hall meeting.

Grantee update: Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (OSILC) Assistive Technology (AT) Task Force

Tim Tobin, consultant for the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (OSILC), provided an update on the work of the Assistive Technology (AT) Task Force. Tim stated that the AT Task Force has had several meetings and a conference call, mainly to discuss a proposal about telehealth services and assistive technology. The proposal was originally submitted to Tim Tobin by the Assistive Technology Center at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical

Center when Tim interviewed organizations for the “Interim Final Report” submitted by OSILC to the Ohio DD Council in March 2016. The proposal described a pilot project of assessing and obtaining assistive technology equipment for people with developmental disabilities using an initial face-to-face appointment and subsequent appointments being done using telehealth technologies. Tim explained that telehealth technology uses information and communication technologies to deliver health-related services when the provider of services and the individual are in different locations. This is especially helpful for those who live in rural areas. An example of a telehealth technology is using video streaming services (like Skype) to communicate. Tim said that, after thorough review and several discussions on the pros and cons of this pilot project, the AT Task Force recommends that Council fund a grant through the Assistive Technology & Communication Committee for a “telehealth” pilot project grant.

Mark Smith said that the Ohio Department of Education currently uses telehealth for some of their services involving Medicaid coverage. In his experience, he said this has helped Medicaid to understand that the outcome of using telehealth is the same, if not better, than doing only face-to-face interactions.

Tim also talked about two other projects the AT Task Force may do before the OSILC grant ends on September 30, 2017. One is to write a series of Fact Sheets on how the different Medicaid waivers do (or do not) cover assistive technology. The other project is to identify and document national best practices and standards with the intent to recommend that Ohio adopt them as well.

Plan Language for Telehealth Services in Assistive Technology

Kim Crishbaum reviewed the proposed State Plan language for a telehealth grant. Kim stated that the objective of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of providing assistive technology assessment utilizing telehealth technologies, and will demonstrate and document the feasibility of obtaining Medicaid reimbursement for this service so that more adults with developmental disabilities have access to obtaining assistive technology. In addition, a Manual of Procedures will be developed for administering these services. Kim stated that the grant will be called “Telehealth Services in Assistive Technology” and will be a one-year grant for \$70,000. The potential recipient of the grant will be the Assistive Technology Center at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Kim Stults moved to approve the draft Telehealth Services in Assistive Technology Plan Language, Rochelle Hall-Rollins seconded. During discussion Rochelle proposed to amend the motion to identify the unserved/underserved population and include it to the plan

language, Kim Stults seconded, and without objections, the motion to amend was approved. A vote was taken and the motion was passed.

Kim Crishbaum stated that the unserved/underserved population language would be added to the plan language.

Plain Language Workgroup update

Sue Willis provided an update on the work of the Plain Language Workgroup. She stated that they met in May and Maryjo Mace Woodburn from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) attended as a guest. Maryjo is in charge of creating the DODD's "Easy Read" documents. Sue said that Maryjo helped the group better understand the differences among plain language, person first language, and easy read. She said that the Workgroup plans to look at the formatting of DD Council's documents, including making recommendation to change certain documents to easy read language. Sue said that ideas will be presented to DD Council first before implementing them. For now, Sue said the Workgroup recommends that each Committee staff person should print their Committee's materials on a unique color of paper. Council staff agreed to take this into consideration when preparing for the next DD Council meeting in September.

Committee's Mission Statement

Carla Cox provided a draft version of a mission statement for the "public awareness" part of the Assistive Technology & Communication Committee. Sue Willis also provided a draft version that was created by the Plain Language Workgroup. There was much discussion about the mission statements, but no decisions were made. Members were asked to review the mission statement and be prepared for further discussion at the September Committee meeting.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.