



**Assistive Technology and
Communication Committee
Meeting Minutes
Doubletree Hotel – Newark
September 15, 2017**

Committee Members:

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

Others in Attendance:

Other Council Members: Jean Jakovlic, Mark Seifarth, Council Chair

Staff: Carolyn Knight, Gary Groom

Guests: Christine Brown (Nisonger), Betsy O’Leary (PCA), Essie Pederson (PCA), Devika Rao (O’Neill Public Relations), Eric Rathburn (AT Ohio), Wiley Roberts (PCA), Brenda Stevens (PCA), Tim Tobin (contract assistant with OSILC), Laura Tucker (DODD)

Introduction

Vice Chairperson Victor Wilson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and introductions were made. The July 14, 2017 minutes were presented for approval. Rochelle Hall-Robbins **motioned** to accept the minutes. Jill Radler seconded. Paula Rabidoux abstained. **Motion** passed.

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 activities of the Assistive Technology (AT) Task Force. He indicated that the work of the Task Force will be completed by the end of September. Tim talked about the two remaining projects the AT Task Force. One is to write a series of Fact Sheets on how the different Medicaid waivers cover assistive technology. Melanie Hogan, executive director of Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP), a Center for Independent Living (CIL) located in Cleveland, is currently writing the Fact Sheets. There will be five Fact Sheets covering each of the following waivers: Individual Options (IO), Level 1, SELF, Home Care, and PASSPORT. Once she has completed the fact sheets, they will be reviewed by the Department of Medicaid, Department of Developmental Disabilities, AT Task Force and then by the Assistive Technology and Communication Committee.

The other project the Task Force is working on is the final report of recommendations. Tim said that the Task Force had recently reviewed a draft of the report and he is now working on making changes based on the input from the group. The final report will be delivered to Council staff by the end of October.

Grantee update: Assistive Technology Grants

Kim Crishbaum provided an update on the assistive technology grants. She first thanked Tim Tobin and the OSILC for their work on the grant that led to the involvement of the AT Task Force. She stated that their input was instrumental in providing guidance to the committee for the types of grants to offer during the last year.

Kim read an update provided by OCALI who has two grants: (1) Assessing Assistive Technology Service Delivery in the Ohio County Board of Developmental Disabilities System, and (2) Identification of Assistive Technology Lending Programs in Ohio. Both grants are on track with their work plans. Both grants are currently conducting surveys. Initial results should be available by December.

The Telehealth Services in Assistive Technology grant application was received by the Assistive Technology Center at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Staff have reviewed the application and had a few conditions and requests for clarifications. Once these are met, the grant will be approved with a target date to begin on October 1, 2017.

Committee's Mission Statement

Carla Cox presented on the Public Awareness Mission Statement. She informed the committee that after review of the draft presented by the Plain Language Sub-committee at the July meeting, she felt that it came close to covering the mission of Public Awareness. She distributed copies of the draft and asked for suggestions/revisions from the committee. After discussion, the committee reached consensus for the following mission statement:

“To educate all Ohioans about the options, choices and disability issues that are important to people with developmental disabilities and their families.”

Sue Willis made a **motion** to approve the Public Awareness Mission Statement as written. Heather McFarlin seconded, **motion** passed.

Carla then informed the committee of an action item. The action item was for a no cost extension to extend Yocum Communication through December 31, 2017, to complete outstanding projects. Dara Walburn made a **motion** to approve the no cost extension to extend Yocum Communication through December 31, 2017, to complete outstanding projects. Heather McFarlin seconded, **motion** passed.

Grantee update: Public Awareness Grantee

Devika Rao provided an update on the work that O'Neill Communications, the public awareness grantee, has done and is currently working on. They continue to build Council's social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. She provided statistics of each social media outlet showing that each is performing well and engaging people to learn more about Council. Press releases and other announcements have been sent using an email marketing program, Constant Contact, including a new monthly newsletter called "DD Council Connection". The newsletter provides information about Council, such as highlighting activities, members, and grants of the Council, and other disability-related information. They have increased media relations, such as with the announcement of the transportation study which was picked up by WOSU radio, the Hannah Report, and The Columbus Dispatch, as well as other media organizations. Currently they are working with staff on a media outreach plan for the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week.

Paula Rabidoux asked if a guide could be made for Council members to help them learn how to use social media. Carla Cox indicated that this will be one of the topics at the Council retreat in December and that Devika will be the presenter.

Devika reminded Council members to send information to Kim Crishbaum about events happening where they live, stories about what's going on with their lives, and anything else that may be of interest.

Carolyn Knight introduced Laura Tucker from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Carolyn linked Laura with Devika to have Devika help the Department with videos for stories about people moving out of institutions and into the community.

Blaine O'Leary and Sue Willis suggested that Devika link to the Ohio Association of County Board of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) to show all county board sponsored activities. Devika indicated that she currently receives OACB's newsletter and has made connections with most of the county boards.

Ilka Riddle reminded Devika and Kim Crishbaum (both Devika and Kim post to social media and the website) that social media posts from others in the DD Network should be shared to increase DD Network partner collaboration. (The DD Network is made up of DD Council, Disability Rights Ohio, and the two UCEDDs: Nisonger Center and Cincinnati Children's Medical Center at the University of Cincinnati.) Sue Willis suggested that writing an article about the DD Network may be helpful.

New Business

Kim Crishbaum shared that the Nisonger Center and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, in collaboration with the Ohio DD Council, will be holding a Family Town Hall meeting on assistive technology in October. It will be held at the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities. An email will be sent to all members once the details are finalized. Those who use assistive technology or have tried to get assistive technology are encouraged to testify at the Town Hall meeting.

Adjournment

Blaine O'Leary made a **motion** to adjourn. Heather McFarlin seconded, **motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.