



**Assistive Technology and
Communication Committee
Meeting Minutes
Sheraton Columbus Hotel at
Capitol Square
March 9, 2018**

Committee members in attendance:

Marci Straughter, Chair, Victor Wilson, Vice Chair, Douglas Frank, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Linda Kunick, Paula Rabidoux, Ilka Riddle, Mindy Vance, Dara Walburn, Sue Willis, Carla Cox (staff), Kim Crishbaum (staff)

Committee members not in attendance:

Heather McFarlin, Blaine O’Leary, Jill Radler, Kimberly Stults

Others in Attendance:

Other Council Members: Bobbi Burke (ODH), Jean Jakovlic, Shannon Komisarek (OOD), Laura Leach (Medicaid), Jo Spargo (Council Chair), Mark Seifarh (Former Chair), Renee Wood (Special Advisor)

New Council Members via GoToMeeting: Brenda Brandon, Michael Denlinger, Matt Harrison, Michael Richards

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

Guests: Summer Boyer (DODD Fiscal), Christine Brown (Nisonger), Kyle Corbin (DODD), Amy Eaton (Medicaid), Atondria Ghee (DODD Fiscal), Essie Pederson (PCA), Beth Graham, Donna Lowe, Jeremy Morris (OSILC), Jan Rogers (OCALI), Laurel Steedman (DODD), Eric Rathburn (AT Ohio), Jacquelyn Rigutto (Medicaid), Wiley Roberts (PCA),

Introduction

Chair Marci Straughter called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and introductions were made. The September 15, 2017 minutes were

presented for approval. Paula Rabidoux **motioned** to accept the minutes. Rochelle Hall-Robbins seconded. **Motion** passed.

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

Jan Rogers from OCALI provided an update on the progress of their two grants:

1. Assessing Assistive Technology Service Delivery in the Ohio County Board of Developmental Disabilities System
2. Identification of Assistive Technology Lending Programs in Ohio.

The first grant ends March 31, 2018; the second ends May 31, 2018.

Jan gave an overview of the information that they are currently evaluating. Overall, Jan said that there are extreme variations from county-to-county on both the definition of assistive technology and the knowledge of what types of assistive technology and regular technology could be used by a person with a developmental disability. She said that numerous county boards are not aware of technology lending libraries. She provided examples of what some counties are doing well, and what others are not doing well.

Jan said that OCALI data collected is currently being evaluated by OCALI staff. An outside expert review will be done, too. OCALI will complete the grant by providing Council with a final report with recommendations.

Laurel Steedman from Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) informed the Committee that DODD is currently revising the Remote Supports (formerly Remote Monitoring) rule, and introducing a new rule for Assistive Technology. She stated that the Department expects that these rules will address some of the issues that OCALI found in their assessments of county boards. The rules should be out for public comment in June or July, and are expected to go into effect January 2019.

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

Kim Crishbaum spoke on behalf of Tim Tobin, consultant for the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (OSILC), about the final activities

completed by the grantee for the AT Task Force. As reported at the last Council meeting, the AT Task Force asked Melanie Hogan, executive director of Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP), a Center for Independent Living (CIL) located in Cleveland, to write a series of Assistive Technology Fact Sheets on how the different Medicaid waivers cover assistive technology. The initial drafts of the fact sheets were reviewed by the Department of Medicaid and then provided to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Since DODD is currently working on a rule regarding assistive technology, they asked if they could use the information from the fact sheets as they begin developing their own new fact sheets.

The Task Force also submitted its final report that summarized the activities of the Task Force and provided a list of recommendations for Council to consider as the Committee funds new grants in the future. Copies were provided to all in attendance.

New Grant Ideas Discussion

Kim Crishbaum provided the Committee with proposed State Plan Amendment language to provide a grant of \$20,000 to AT of Ohio for the purchase of three telepresence robots. The robots will be used in schools only for children with disabilities who are not able to physically attend class due to their disability. AT of Ohio originally submitted this as a Discretionary Fund request to the Executive Committee. The request was moved to the Assistive Technology & Communication Committee. In addition to purchasing the robots, AT of Ohio will travel to schools and communities to assure training of the student, family, and school staff on the proper use of the robot. They will also conduct research with schools, hospitals, and governmental agencies, as well as families, on the impact of the use of the robot from the educational, social, medical, and financial perspectives. Eric Rathburn of AT of Ohio answered several questions from the members about how the program works (it is a leasing program), how results would be measured, and other pros and cons. A **motion** was made by Victor Wilson to approve \$20,000 for funding the purchase of three telepresence robots to AT of Ohio. Rochelle Hall-Rollins seconded the motion. Paula Rabidoux voted “no.” **Motion passed.**

The Committee then discussed ideas for new assistive technology projects. The Committee focused on the idea of offering a grant to develop and implement a “Technology Training Series.” The goal would be to teach

people with disabilities how to use the Internet and social media so they can use technology to help improve their daily living and self-advocacy skills. It was suggested that this be a state-wide training held in person. Ilka Riddle suggested that ensure sustainability, a “train-the-trainer” program could be developed. Those who became could continue to conduct trainings and regional and local levels. Dara Walburn said that safe Internet and social media use should be an important part of the training. Rochelle Hall-Rollins spoke of the outreach issues this may or may not have. For example, Mindy Vance brought up that the cost of Internet services can be negative factor. Essie Pederson said that SABE is currently updating their “My Technology” guide that teaches people how to use different types of technology and the Internet. This could be a good resource to follow or to collaborate with SABE. Kim Crishbaum will work on plan language for a grant of this nature and bring it to the Council meeting in May.

Kim Crishbaum encouraged members to continue to think of other ideas for future assistive technology projects.

Announcements and New Business

Carla Cox reported that the continuation grant for the Public Awareness Grantee was approved.

Kim Crishbaum proposed that the name of the Committee be changed from “Assistive Technology & Communication” to “Technology & Communication.” A **motion** was made by Marci Straughter to change the name of the Committee to “Technology & Communication.” Dara Walburn seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Christine Brown announced that the Nisonger Center will be holding a Technology Summit in June 15, 2018.

Renee Wood shared how she now uses Amazon Echo and what a wonderful use of “off-the-shelf” technology it is for her and her husband to use for daily living activities and other tasks.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.