



**Technology and Communication  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
Embassy Suites, Dublin, Ohio  
March 7, 2019**

**Committee Members:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>In attendance</b>
Marci Straughter, Chair	X
Victor Wilson, Vice Chair	
Morgan Gattermeyer	
Rochelle Hall-Rollins	X
Matt Harrison	X
Blaine O'Leary	X
Paula Rabidoux	X
Jill Radler	X
Ilka Riddle	X
Mindy Vance	X
Dara Walburn	X
Sue Willis	X
Carla Cox (staff)	X
Kim Crishbaum (staff)	X

**Others in Attendance:**

**Other Council Members/Special Advisors:** Michael Denlinger, Linda Kunick, James Plasencia, Rachel, Rice, Jo Spargo

**Staff:** Carolyn Knight, Robin Shipp

**Guests:** Summer Boyer (DODD – Fiscal), Adalina Brandon (OSU), Christine Brown (Nisonger), Atondria Ghee (DODD – Fiscal), Beth Graham (PCA), Shannon Komisarek, Molly Kelleher (PCA), Deborah Kunick (PCA), Billie McAleer (PCA), Deborah Pennington (PCA), Eric Rathburn (AT Ohio), Ali Rahimi (MedforAll), Devika Rao (O'Neill Communications), Pam Rice (PCA), Casper Shahan (PCA), Jordan Wagner (Nisonger Center)

## Introduction

Chairperson Straughter called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. and introductions were made. The September 2018 minutes were presented for approval. Matt Harrison **motioned** to accept the minutes. Blaine O'Leary seconded. Jill Radler and Sue Willis abstained. **Motion** passed.

## Remote Support Updates

Carolyn Knight provided a summary about a meeting she attended held by Nisonger and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from several of Nisonger's grantees who received funding from DODD and the Ohio DD Council to build awareness of remote supports to people with developmental disabilities, and also to identify and train a person to be a central resource about assistive technology and remote support. The grantees are several county boards of developmental disabilities and councils of government, collectively representing 68 counties. Carolyn noted that Council provided \$100,000 in grant funds for this project (\$20,000 per project). She was very impressed about the progress made in the counties through these grants and felt that the work they are doing is similar to many of the activities that would be in a proposed grant that was on today's agenda. She suggested that the Committee hold off on reviewing the language. Instead, the Committee chose to talk about other ideas for possible grants, such as:

- Addressing the need for technology by people with developmental disabilities who do NOT receive county board of DD services.
- Creating training videos for SSAs, providers, and other professionals in underserved counties.
- Partner with Ohio's public library system to find ways to reach out and provide technology training and/or provide device lending programs.
- Create a newsletter about assistive technology information and news.
- Support the development of technology ambassadors throughout the state.
- Find a way to provide information about apps that help with transportation and other supports, such as a video series.
- Support DODD as they train technology staff, SSA trainings, and to encourage that the Ohio County Board Association collaborate with this.

Christine Brown and Marci Straughter were on the agenda to present about their experience with remote supports in the place where they live. Due to a change in the business meeting schedule, they were asked to present to the entire Council rather than only in the Committee.

## **Technology Updates**

Kim Crishbaum, ODDC staff, provided a handout (attached) and briefly explained the following technology updates:

- Technology First Initiative and Final Report of the Tech First Committee
- New Assistive Technology rule through DODD
- Grantee updates
  - Assessing Assistive Technology Service Delivery in the Ohio County Board of Developmental Disabilities System
  - Identification of Assistive Technology Lending Programs in Ohio
  - Telehealth in Assistive Technology Services
  - Remote Support
- Upcoming conferences
  - Tech:Fest Columbus
  - TechSummit 2.0
- In the news
  - Article in The Columbus Dispatch, “Technology increasingly bridges gaps in support for disabled Ohioans.”
  - The Integrated Digital Experience Act

## **New Business**

Sue Willis stated that new voting equipment will be available for demonstration at the Morse Road voting location in Columbus. She also said that absentee ballots are supposed to be revised for accessibility purposes.

## **Adjournment**

A **motion** was made by Matt Harrison to adjourn. Dara Walburn seconded the **motion**. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

# Supportive Technology Updates

## Technology First Initiative

In May 2018, the Governor signed an executive order naming Ohio as a Technology First State for people with disabilities. The order charged the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) with bringing together a Technology First Council to discuss ways to increase and improve access to remote supports and assistive technology in Ohio. The Council released its report with recommendations January 2019.

Recommendations report from the Ohio Tech First Council:

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/Communications/SiteAssets/Tech%20First%20Council%20Recommendations%20Report%20Draft%203.pdf>

More information about Technology First and remote support information from DODD: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/TechnologyFirst/Pages/default.aspx>

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## New Assistive Technology Rule

A new rule from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities went into effect on January 1, 2019. The rule specifically addresses assistive technology and how it is now defined as a coverable waiver service.

5123-9-12: Home and community-based services waivers - assistive technology under the individual options, level one, and self-empowered life funding waivers.

(A) Purpose: This rule defines assistive technology and sets forth provider qualifications, requirements for service delivery and documentation of services, and payment standards for the service.

Council staff are working with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to create a fact sheet that focuses on informing people about this new rule, in

addition to educating people about assistive technology. A draft of the document will be available at DD Council's May meeting.

Read the complete rule here: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/RulesLaws/Documents/5123-9-12%20Effective%202019-01-01.pdf>

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## Grantee Updates

***Assessing Assistive Technology Service Delivery in the Ohio County Board of Developmental Disabilities System:*** This grant concluded in 2018 and a final report was submitted by the grantee, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). The purpose of the grant was to find best practices and solutions to improve the local availability and use of assistive technology by Ohioans with disabilities, and to identify and provide recommendations for changes in policies that may further improve the assessment, funding, and ongoing training and support processes involved with assistive technology.

Final report: <https://ddc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/cbdd-at-assessment-finalreport-4-2018.pdf>

***Identification of Assistive Technology Lending Programs in Ohio:*** This grant concluded in 2018 and a final report was submitted by the grantee, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). The purpose of the grant was to develop a comprehensive list of assistive technology lending programs/libraries throughout Ohio and the services each provides so people with developmental disabilities can more easily explore assistive technology options. In addition to the final report, the grantee created an online guide that provides downloadable documents and an online Google map. The purpose of this additional product was to increase awareness and access to resources from lending libraries of assistive technology for Ohioans with disabilities.

Of special note: The online guide is now highlighted on the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities website and was included in the Ohio Technology First Council's final report.

Final Report: <https://ddc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/at-lend-programs-final-report-6-2018.pdf>

Online Guide: <https://ddc.ohio.gov/ohio-at-lending-libraries>

**Telehealth in Assistive Technology Services:** This grant began in October 2017 and was scheduled to end December 31, 2018. However, the Committee and full Council approved to extend the grant for another year. The purpose of the grant is to identify, support and pursue a sustainable technology service delivery program for adults with developmental disabilities using a hybrid telehealth service delivery program (in-person and communicating remotely via technology) so that more adults with developmental disabilities have access to obtaining assistive technology. The grantee is the AT Center at the Wexner Center of The Ohio State University.

**Remote Support:** This grant started January 2, 2019. It is a one-year grant and was awarded to the Nisonger Center. The Nisonger Center, through a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities, provided eight grants to county boards of developmental disabilities and/or council on governments (COGs), to expand remote support in their respective counties. The Ohio DD Council is providing funds for five additional counties and/or COGs for the same purpose. The funds will be used for county boards and/or COGs to identify and develop a CBDD technology expert. This person would assist individuals, SSAs, and provider agencies in setting up remote support services.

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## Upcoming Conferences

**Tech:Fest Columbus:** Disability Cocoon, an organization focused on education and the exploration of technological supports for people with developmental disabilities, will hold its Tech:Fest Columbus event on March 21, 2019. The event will feature demonstrations of technological supports and breakout sessions with speakers from the tech field. The event is meant for people with developmental disabilities, family members, agency provider staff, and county board SSAs. The Columbus event is presented in partnership with the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA).

Date and Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019

Location: VUE Columbus, 95 Liberty St., Columbus, OH 43215

Cost: \$37 for people with developmental disabilities and family, \$147 for professionals

To register: <https://disability-cocoon-tech-festival-columbus.eventcreate.com/>

**TechSummit 2.0:** This is the second year for the TechSummit, hosted by the Nisonger Center and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. From tablet and phone apps to in-home remote support systems, this one-day event offers attendees a chance to learn about different kinds of technology available to support people with developmental disabilities who want more independence in their lives.

Date and Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2019

Location: Crowne Plaza, Columbus North – Worthington, 6500 Doubletree Ave., Columbus, OH 43229

To register: <http://nisonger.osu.edu/adult/resources/technology-project/techsummit-2/>

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## In the News

**Article from *The Columbus Dispatch*:** “Technology increasingly bridges gaps in support for disabled Ohioans”

The article highlights the importance of remote support and the use of assistive technology in remote support.

Read the article: <https://www.dispatch.com/news/20190225/technology-increasingly-bridges-gaps-in-support-for-disabled-ohioans>

***The Integrated Digital Experience Act (IDEA):*** Under this rule, the US Congress requires all new and redesigned federal government websites to comply with new rules to be more accessible, user friendly and secure to everyone, including people with disabilities.

Read a summary of the IDEA Act: <http://www.peatworks.org/policy/accessible-technology-and-law/IDEA>

Read the IDEA Act: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5759/text>