

RICAT MINUTES

DATE: June 28, 2007

LOCATION: ORS, 40 Fountain Street , Providence, RI

PRESENT: Flo Adeni-Awosika, John Benevides, Jill Blaney, Gary Brandyberry, Kat Grygiel, Judith H. Carlson, Viviana Ciccia, Kerri Cicione, Elizabeth Hubbard, Jeanne Panarace, Charles Pollock, Lezlee Shaffer, Clair Sudng, Ying Sun.

TOPICS & DISCUSSION:

1. Meeting called to order at 2:35 pm
2. Agenda adjusted to accommodate members of Alternate Finance Committee attendance at Webinar at 3:00. Webinar, sponsored by RESNA, on Florida & Colorado AT funding option databases.
 - Lezlee Shaffer from OSCIL mentioned statewide IL Conference on 9/21/07 and provided highlights from OSCIL/ATAP. See attached report.
 - Judi Carlson from Tech Access informed RICAT about an equipment grant \$20,000 that will help with rent. Illustrates benefit of partnership with non-profits who can access money. ATAP Demonstration Center provides new day long open house. Continue public demonstrations occurs on alternate Mondays for Deaf and HOH devices, and collaboration with ATEL has almost tripled participation in these events; AT Conference on 11/27/07.
3. Program Director Report: updated about Device Exchange website & PARI marketing description (attached), Alternate Finance Committee concerned about lack of funds to initiate traditional alternative funding program but interested in promising data base model of Colorado & Florida (topic of Webinar). Mentioned Smart Staffing position on hold but exploring blending ATAP support functions into a clerical support position of ORS. Sherlock on hold pending updated Work plan.
4. Membership/Outreach Chair Report: Jill welcomed Gary & thanked him for his willingness to be a member of RICAT; congratulated Charles on his election as Chair. RICAT currently has three vacancies - received 5 applications through Providence Journal Newspaper. Sharon DiPinto had recommended Wednesday

as best day for reading advertisements. Received good pool of candidates: 13 consumer, 1 relative, 5 state employees and 3 professional staff. Hope to recommend members to RICAT at August meeting.

5. Legislative Committee: Bob in Washington representing state on transportation committee; Jeanne provided update of important bills: (1) Senate bill authorizing electronic communication for any public body so all have access to information even if can not attend meeting, (2) Emergency management plan for evacuation assigned Executive Director of CDHH as mandatory member, (3) Campaign ads have to be captioned, (4) Cab companies must have at least one cab or 2% of fleet that is handicapped accessible, (5) Act created the community support academy train for staff who work with special needs.
6. Communication Committee: Ying Sun presented current project - the RICAT pamphlet. He wanted feedback on font size, universal design vs. adaptation to specific needs. Would like to have completed by 11/27 for AT conference. Margaret Hoyer is good resource for feedback on font so will mail to her & e-mail to other members.
7. Partner Support: Jeanne talked about committee meeting & draft guidelines. Kat shared that ATAP partners were very comfortable with items #1 and #4 and felt that #2 & #3 were too much like a federal monitoring visit.
8. Roundtable Discussion: Ying Sun shared that URI has 8/7 – 8/9 experience from 9-3pm for high school students to experience engineering & math software development. Capacity for students from the 12th grade has been reached but if special consideration sought, talk to Ying. Most students with LD but open to everyone. Purpose is to demonstrate electrician/engineering opportunity to students.
9. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm. Next meeting: 8/16/07 @ 2:30 – 4:00 40 Fountain Street.
10. Attachments:
 - GET AT STUFF WRITE-UPS
 - Communications Committee Second Draft on Pamphlet for your review & feedback
 - OSCIL June 28, 2007 report

GETATSTUFF WRITE-UP

Recently, ATAP (Rhode Island's Assistive Technology Access Partnership) unveiled a new web-based clearinghouse for affordable assistive technology, daily living and accessibility devices throughout the New England region. This new site, www.GetATstuff.com, offers New England residents the opportunity to buy, sell or donate a variety of used items ranging from communication devices and wheelchairs to ramps and mobility devices. The site is the result of collaboration between Assistive Technology programs in the six New England states. Types of items you may find on www.GetATstuff.com are:

- Vision and Hearing - magnifying machines and assistive listening devices
- Speech and Communication - electronic augmentative communication devices
- Learning, Cognitive and Developmental - electronic organizers and specialized calculators
- Mobility, seating and positioning - walkers, canes and wheelchairs
- Aids to Daily Living - switch adapted small appliances or multi-sensory alerting devices, bath equipment, reachers, dressing aids
- Environmental adaptations - lifts, lighting controls and ramps.
- Transportation and vehicle modifications - modified vehicles, hand controls or extended directional mirrors
- Computers and computer related - alternative keyboards and mice, software and hardware that make computers accessible
- Recreation, sports and leisure - for example, mono skis and tandem bikes, switch adapted toys and games, musical instruments and adapted hunting and fishing equipment.

To post and item or to look at items available please visit the AT Exchange website at www.GetATstuff.com.

For more information, visit www.GetATstuff.com or call the Rhode Island Assistive Technology Access Partnership at (401)421-7005 ext. 373.

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Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL)
RICAT Meeting Report
June 28, 2007

***Device Demonstration, Public Awareness & Information Dissemination,
Training, Collaboration & Networking, and Transition Activities***

Device Demonstration

A new ATAP/NFT staff person (Brian Dennis) is scheduled to start July 16. He brings a background of working in the public schools and experience running his own carpentry and home remodeling business. He is also a COTA. With Brian, OSCIL Deaf Services and Home Access Specialists we will be able to continue visiting consumers in their homes providing independent living assessments and/or OT assessments to identify AT to assist with activities of daily living. Visits include bringing sample AT for demonstration, short-term trial use of AT, providing vendor catalogs and ordering information, and exploring alternative funding options to pay for desired AT.

Public Awareness & Information Dissemination

AT Page on OSCIL's website soon to be published. It includes information on how AT can address barriers to independence, where to go to determine what you need, links to ATAP Partners, and info on funding sources for obtaining AT. Also includes information on web-based services like Disability Dealer, www.disableddealer.com, and www.GetATstuff.com and local agencies offering new or used AT. The AT page is slated to appear on OSCIL's website mid-July.

Collaboration & Networking

Statewide Independent Living Conference (Sept. 21):

Conference will include one or more sessions on AT. One session will focus on telephone communications and encompass everything from cell phones for the visually impaired, Video phone technology and CapTel, as well as address issues relating to equal access for all including visually impaired/blind, Deaf or hard of hearing, and folks with neuro-muscular disability Collaborators includes PARI IL Center, ORS, MS Society, RI Rehabilitation Assn, RI Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Corliss Center, State Independent Living Council and RIPTA.

Technical Assistance/Transition Services

With new staff member coming on board we hope to expand our efforts to assist individuals residing in nursing facilities to transition back into the community. Donations of household items (linens, kitchenware, lamps, etc. continue to be received, as well as AT (commodes, wheelchairs, CCTV, walkers) in response to our newsletter write-ups in December and March requesting these items.

Lezlee Shaffer
OSCIL