

RI Council on Assistive Technology
July 24, 2014 ~ 2:30 – 4:00 pm
Tech ACCESS of RI
110 Jefferson Blvd, Suite I, Warwick, RI

MINUTES

Attendees: Chair Michael Matraccia, Flo Adeni-Awosika, Elisabeth Hubbard, James Litvack, Teresa O'Brien, Daniel Pieroni, Ying Sun, and Kim Wennermark,

Guest: Pat Robert

Partners: Roberta Greene-Whittemore, ATAP Program Director; Denise Corson, ATEL; Lisa Labitt, EBEC; Lezlee Shaffer, OSCIL; and Kelly Charlebois, TechACCESS.

Excused: Margaret Hoye, Colleen Poliselli, Bill Robinson, Becky Wright, and Allen Parent-Wentmore.

Welcome: Meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Matraccia at 2:35 pm. Introductions were done by all attendees.

Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2013: Lezlee Shaffer noted that under the EBEC Program Report section it stated that "EBEC is the only partner that does a hard copy newsletter", however it should read "OSCIL is the only partner". Teresa O'Brien made motion to approve minutes with changes. Ying Sun seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

New Business:

Contract Renewals: Roberta Greene-Whittemore stated that the partners have written their work plans, and she is doing a final review now.

Renewal of Terms: A vote was needed to extend the terms for the following individuals: Flo Adeni-Awosika, Margaret Hoye, Thomas Karwah, Mike Matraccia, and Bill Robinson. As we have not heard back from Thomas Karwah, he was not included in the vote. Kim Wennermark made motion and Mike Matraccia seconded the extension of terms for the other 4 individuals. Motion passed.

New Members Needed: Looking for seven new members. Chair Matraccia noted that he had outreached to members of the MS Dream Center, but with negative results. Emails were sent to the Disability Service Offices of all RI colleges and universities with a copy of flyer looking for new members and application, as well as RIPIN, Advocates in Action and RIDDC. Informational packets will also be sent to DD Social Workers, DLT, through DEI grant, youth programs, and other agencies. Kim W. stated he would give a flyer to netWORKri rep that comes to the VA weekly. Also still have the opening for WIA representative.

Program Director's Report: Roberta Greene Whittemore reported that the ATAP Partners are in their last quarter of their current contract, and they are working to finalize the 2014-2017 contracts. Still level funded, working with limited dollars but additional requirements – looking for deliverables and outcomes. Using data collection tool to capture appropriate data.

Roberta added that the President signed into law the Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA) on July 22, 2014, which reauthorizes programs that had previously been authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. She explained that there would be movement of some programs to different departments. This will include the AT Grant which will move from Dept of Ed, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to the Administration for Community Living in the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). She is not sure what the implications will be regarding administration and implementation of grant. IL and Rehabilitation Research, NIDRR are also moving to HHS. There had been discussion that the VR program was also going to be moving, however, they are not. Going forward status quo for now. Not sure if AT grant will still go through VR agency or may go more towards IL centers. Lezlee added that there was going to be a 5th core service for all IL centers. At this time it had been optional to offer transition services, now it will include youths transitioning out of schools. There will be an impact on the VR program too. Focus on integrated community living, integrated community employment with an emphasis on

transition age youth. There is a requirement for a formal agreement between VR and state IDD groups.

ORS will be working more with Dept of Labor & Training and universal access of employment networks. Roberta said a lot of good stuff will be coming out of this. She discussed the Consent Decree in RI because of Dept of Justice filing complaint with state re: individuals not working in an integrated setting but in sheltered workshops.

New world - AT world has been our world, but now it is time to bring awareness to others how AT can help in employment and day to day lives.

Chair Matraccia asked when this would be taking effect. Roberta responded some requirements will be by July 2015.

ATEL: Denise Corson stated that for 3rd quarter Device Demonstrations, ATEL did 82 demos to 125 participants. She told of a 92-year old client who has aphasia, and how she could not communicate with her family living in Florida. By testing a CAPTEL phone with the assistance of the captions, she was able to focus on the conversation and better process and understand what was being said. (**Aphasia** is a condition that robs you of the ability to communicate, and can affect your ability to express and understand language, both verbal and written.)

In the category of Public Awareness, ATEL participated in two dozen events during the third quarter.

In State Financing, ATEL issued 93 clients and issued 120 devices with a retail value of approximately \$26,647.

They are still trying to get wireless through the legislation.

Dave Abell from the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing had spoken with Denise about legislation stating that clients need to be informed about T-coils

and the ATEL Committee, because many audiologists are not aware that this is legislatively mandated.

Denise also noted that she and Melissa from OSCIL are working on a collaboration to be able to offer both the freedom alert emergency device and adaptive telephone to RI residents, and potentially to find a way to fund lock boxes through their local Fire Department enabling fire personnel to enter without breaking down doors.

Member, Flo Adeni-Awosika questioned regulations regarding repair or purchase of hearing aids, stating issues with her insurance carrier. James explained some areas, however said she could also try to go through OSCIL or PARI's "Gift of Hearing Program" which allows individuals who meet a certain income guidelines to purchase a reduced cost.

EBEC: Lisa Labitt stated that EBEC is pretty busy. They had 17 loan devices. She told of an Employment Specialist who was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis who she worked with. She was loaned an iPad using it for recording video of students, access her writing using the on screen keyboard, voice recognition app for text production and completing reports. Several of the loans went out to young adults under 26 years old that needed low tech systems. She noted that there is a big change in vocational rehabilitation counselors coming to her for loans for career exploration. Lisa has also been talking with agencies looking for professional development for their staff. With Device Demonstrations, Lisa noted that transition has been a very hot topic. East Bay high school students have seen demos on iPads, mobile tablets, responsibility in technology, social media, ongoing education.

Training for the 3rd quarter included sessions on iTunes basics, iPad and table formats, different modifications and settings, literacy and dyslexia needs, focusing.

Lisa added that she continues to work with Dept of Ed and RIVSP for leadership and technical assistance.

EBEC is also working with RILINK, reconstructing their website. She wants people to be able to fill out forms online,

Ying Sun questioned if the focus was just on the iPad or Android too. Lisa responded that it depended on certain districts adding that it is a personal preference. Most trainings are on iPads though. Districts seem to still prefer laptops vs iPads probably due to financial issues. Dan Pieroni added that Scituate School Dept still uses laptops vs iPads. Kelly Charlesbois also noted that they are sometimes driven by the apps available. Major software made for iTunes and apps are not available for androids. Apple has software for Blind/Low Vision.

OSCIL: Lezlee Shaffer started by saying she attended the Annual Resident Services Coordinator Conference, which was an opportunity for OSCIL staff to have access to 100-200 service coordinators at one time. OSCIL has received a lot of referrals for transition services. Lezlee talked about OSCIL's new *Young Adult (YA) Transition* program which is a seven-week program aimed at addressing the needs of young adults (18 – 24) transitioning into independent living. Program provides independent living skills training and information on disability resources, where Sage Neto, OSCIL's IL/Transition Specialist, presents discussions on social norms, money management & budgeting, social media & internet safety, developing & maintaining friendships, employment etiquette and housing options. AT will be coming into presentation too. Dan P will be speaking at one of the sessions. Teresa O'Brien asked what types of disabilities individuals had. Lezlee responded it varies. Lisa Labitt questioned if she had contacted West Bay Collaborative for referrals. Lezlee responded they had not but definitely would connect.

Lezlee ended by saying that OSCIL's long-time Information & Referral Specialist (Susan Eleoff) is retiring after over 20 years at OSCIL, and that a luncheon will take place at the OSCIL office on Thursday, July 31 from 1 pm – 3 pm.

PARI: Allen Parent-Wetmore was unable to attend (see attached report).

TechACCESS: Kelly Charlebois status they are status quo, and continue to do Technology Demonstrations monthly, although Device Demonstrations have decreased due to summer. She discussed the AT Conference and how they are

utilizing Twitter to get the word out about it, and are having positive results with it. They are now reviewing all of the fact sheets they have displayed and want to have revised ones ready for AT Conference. They recently participated in the Achievement through Assistive Technology Conference in Connecticut.

AT Conference – November 20, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza – Warwick.

The committee is working well together and now has several sub-committees (each contains an ATAP Partner) which include: Program Committee, Exhibitor Committee, and Sponsorship Committee. The Conference currently has: 14 Presentations selected (and several to be reviewed), 15 paid exhibitors, close to 20 registrants (from Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island).

Kelly noted they continue to write and submit grants to fill in the gaps. They are working with funds received by the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Science) called ALLAccess, which focuses on the potential for integrating library, digital literacy, technology access, adult education, and workforce services through the library, with a focus on the needs of the underserved in RI (including those with disabilities). Kelly also noted that TechACCESS received a grant from Walmart.

Roundtable: Liz Hubbard from the Disability Law Center – The center provides free legal services to people with disabilities. Each year the center reviews the types of cases it takes and the systematic work done to make an impact on law and availability of services. Liz also does work on the AT Grant and she felt this would be a good group to ask what sort of legal issues people might be seeing with regard to Assistive Technology.

This year there were a couple of cases where people were told their wheelchairs could be repaired when, in fact, the wheelchairs were beyond repair and needed to be replaced. They acted on the first level of appeal and were told the same. The Disability Law Center managed to have a couple of cases where it was reversed and new wheelchairs were provided.

She inquired if anyone works with people who might be dual eligible meaning getting both Medicare and Medicaid. Those people have to accept a managed care plan unless they opt out.

Feel free to contact Liz Hubbard with any questions or concerns at her office located at the Disability Law Center.

Next Meeting Date: October 23, 2014 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., TechACCESS of RI, 110 Jefferson Blvd, Suite 1, Warwick, RI.

Adjournment: Elisabeth Hubbard made motion to adjourn at 3:50 pm. Seconded by Flo Adeni-Awosika. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Attachments: Partner Reports

ATEL Partner Report for 7/24/14 RICAT Meeting

Device Demonstrations

We did 82 device demonstrations and had 125 participants from 4/1/14 – 6/30/14.

Anecdote –

This was the first Captel that I installed to help with aphasia. A 92 year old lady, that not only has hearing loss but aphasia, couldn't communicate with her family that lived in Florida. Her son and I tested her with the Captel, and with the assistance of the captions, she was able to focus on the conversation and better process and understand what was being said.

Public Awareness/Information & Assistance

We did 3 Technology Demonstration programs on Technology and Communication Strategies for Persons with Hearing Loss: April 9th, May 14th and June 11th.

Presentations and Expos/Conferences:

4/2/14- We did a presentation for Network RI in Warwick.

4/3/14- We did A booth at The Leading Age Conference.

4/8/14 – We attended the monthly WCRG meeting for elder care providers.

4/9/14- We attended the monthly Middletown Senior's Rule meeting.

4/10/14- We did a presentation for the Village at Waterman Lake in Greenville and a presentation at the Warren Senior Center.

4/14/14-We did a presentation at Gentiva Homecare

4/30/14- We did a booth at the Primetime Senior Expo at the Warwick Mall

5/6/14- We attended a monthly senior provider's networking meeting for northern RI at the Atria Lincoln place.

5/7/14- We did a booth at the RI Assisted Living Assoc. Conference

5/9/14- We did a booth at the 2014 RIHAP conference. Women & Infants hospital RI hearing Assessment Program Annual Conference

5/14/14- We did a booth at the RI Speech-Hearing Assoc (RISA) annual conference and attended the northern area Senior's Rule networking meeting.

5/15/14- We did a booth at the annual hearing loss expo at the state admin. Bldg

5/19/14- We did a presentation at the Hamilton Relay Annual Town Hall Meeting.

5/21/14- We did both with the Seniors Rule for Emerald Bay Manor Health Fair

5/28/14 – We did a booth for the Butler Hospital Wellness Fair

6/13/14 – We did a presentation at Homeinstead.

6/18/14 – We did a Seniors Rule joint outreach!

6/24/14 – We did a presentation at the SK senior center

6/27/14 - We did a booth at the yearly Resident Service Coordinator Collaborative (RSCC) meeting.

State Financing

We serviced 93 clients and issued 120 devices with a retail value of approximately \$26,647.

Anecdote –

I installed both a wireless router and internet Captel, for veteran who lost his hearing in the service. He is almost completely deaf and told me how much of an extravert he was, but now that he lost his hearing he is completely depressed since he can't talk to friends or family anymore. He said the first person he wanted to call was his sister because she was the one whom encouraged to get the phone. They were so happy to talk to each other again. He then showed me all his coaching baseball awards, and told me his grandson loves baseball and how he can't wait to hear "read" about all the great plays he made next time he calls.

Other Activities

Legislative update - Representative Naughton, along with representatives Coderre, Jacquard, Walsh, Handy introduced bill H7068 to the Health, Education and Welfare Committee on 1/14/14, the hearing was held on 2/21/14, but the committee recommended measure be held for further study on 2/26/14. Denise contacted representative Naughton's office to check on the bill status and her reply was "*committee typically and usually votes to hold for further study. Next step the committee will post bill for consideration ie an up or down vote by committee. If committee approves bill then it is referred to house calendar for a vote. If passes house bill is referred to senate and assigned to a senate committee. The committee sets hearing on bills and consideration of bills. If bill passes, committee then to senate calendar. If bill is passed by both senate & house then it goes to governor. The governor has 10 days to either sign the bill or veto it or do nothing which allows bill to become law as well. Hope this helps! It's not over with "held for further study"!*"! The committee was disappointed to learn this considering this is a budget neutral bill.

Title 5- Business and Professional, Chapter 5-49 –Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters- Dave Abell with the CDHH is advocating for hearing loops and t-coils, and is in the process of setting one up in a church in NK. Denise had a meeting with him a few months ago in which he discussed the following from 5-49-3 d and e:

D) the receipt shall contain language that verifies that the client has been informed about the benefits of audio switch technology, including increased access to telephones and assistive listening systems required under the "American with Disabilities act of 1990", and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The client shall be informed that an audio switch is also referred to as a Telecoil, T-coil or T-switch.

(e) the receipt shall contain language that informs the client about the Rhode Island Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program Committee established by chapter 39-23 that provides assistive communications devices to residents of this state who have hearing loss and about the Rhode Island Commission on The Deaf And Hard Of Hearing established by chapter 23-1.8 that provides resources related to hearing loss.

This legislation states that clients need to be informed about T-coils and the ATEL Committee, which many audiologists are not aware that this is legislatively mandated. In June, the RICDHH officially approved our Technology Committee's effort to publicize the requirements in the hearing aid dealers and fitters statute to provide information on t-coils and the ATEL program. A joint letter will be sent out in August to RI audiologists and hearing aid dealers from the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters and the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Through these efforts, we hope to educate HOH individuals on the benefits of T-coils and increase the number of loop systems available to HOH RI residents, and to increase referrals from Audiologists that don't refer individuals to the ATEL program. Even if the Audiologist refers a client that is ineligible for the ATEL Program, we can still provide those services through referrals to vendors and other organizations, demonstrations and our loaner library at TechACCESS.

OSCIL Collaboration - Denise and Melissa are working on a collaboration to be able to offer both the freedom alert emergency device and adaptive telephone to RI residents, and potentially to find a way to fund lock boxes through their local Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted:
Denise Corson

RICAT Meeting Summary July 24, 14 East Bay Educational Collaborative

The ATAP Children and Youth Resource Center at East Bay Educational Collaborative provides a Lending Library of Assistive Technology Devices and a Demonstration Center for school age children, educators, families and agency service providers.

Device Loan: Number of devices borrowed this quarter: **17**

Anecdote: A employment specialist had been diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Carpel Tunnel Syndrome. She was unable to perform her job recording student work site activities and writing reports on student progress and vocational skills. She loaned an ipad using it for recording video of students, access her writing using the on screen keyboard, voice recognition app for text production and completing reports.

Device Demonstration: **14**

Anecdote: Transition was a hot topic this quarter! A student event was held that included 76 East Bay Students from area high schools. I pad/tablet use: Healthy Apps and responsibility in technology use was the theme of demonstration. The demonstration was also shared with Transition Coordinator at the RISD (Rhode Island School for the Deaf).

Device Training: 21

1. Teacher Assistants in classrooms: Assistive Technology Basic 101 training. ATAP Resources, materials and some hands on low tech tools were provided.
2. I Tunes Basics: i Tunes account and associated e mail management for purchasing Apps (*District & IT decisions*) Accessibility features of an I pad, Settings and Modifications. Best Accessories for the I pad. (holders, mounting systems, speakers, protective cases)

Technical Assistance:

On going Technical Assistance for RIVESP, RIDE and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors to include aspects of Assistive Technology in their working with clients with disabilities in school and vocational opportunities.

Working with RILINK Rhode Island Library Information Network to reconstruct the ebec -ATAP website increasing access for technology on line referrals and loaning devices.

Respectfully submitted: Lisa Labitt 7/24/2014



OCEAN STATE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

1944 Warwick Avenue Warwick RI 02889401-738

Report for July 24, 2014 RICAT Meeting

Highlights from Quarter: April – June 2014

- **Demonstrations**
Home visits and assessments continue. Funding for AT & minor home modifications is still available through grants from Tufts Health Plan Foundation & RI Foundation through December 31.
- **Public Awareness, Information & Assistance:** OSCIL participated in several outreach activities this quarter including exhibits at the annual Resident Services Coordinator Conference, St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen Health Fair, Hearing Loss Awareness Expo, Senior Health Fair (North Foster), and the Prime Time Senior Expo; presentations were held at the Salvatore Mancini Center (N. Providence) and OSCIL's Annual Meeting.

The summer 2014 issue of OSCIL's quarterly newsletter, *Signs of Independence*, included an article by OSCIL's AT Specialist Melissa Rosenberg on *Selecting Assistive Technology*, in addition to articles on Accessible Golf at Button Hole, the NE Amputee Association, updates on Accessible Taxicabs and RIPTA services, and accessible housing opportunities.

- **Options Counseling** (Sue Shapiro & Jennifer Brandon): Funding for this program has ended although OSCIL's Transition Specialist (Sage Neto) continues to provide options counseling as part of her work with nursing home residents interested in transitioning back into the community.
- **Transition Services:** During the last quarter OSCIL provided assistance to eleven (11) individuals through its *Community Living Program*. Two consumers transitioned back into the community; five others are in process. Four consumers either withdrew or were determined ineligible/unable to transition.

The pilot group for OSCIL's new *Young Adult (YA) Transition* program got underway on July 8. This seven week program aimed at addressing the needs of young adults (18 – 24) transitioning into independent living, provides independent living skills training and information on disability resources. Under the leadership of Sage Neto, OSCIL's IL/Transition Specialist, sessions presented include discussions on social norms, money management &

budgeting, social media & internet safety, developing & maintaining friendships, employment etiquette and housing options.

- **Reutilization.** During the quarter OSCIL was able to recycle two pieces of AT (fold up grab bar and steel ramp) to enable consumers to address home safety issues and eliminate the necessity of having to purchase these items.
- **Other Activities.** OSCIL's AT Specialist (Melissa Rosenberg) is serving on the AT Conference Planning Committee.

OSCIL's long-time Information & Referral Specialist (Susan Eleoff) is retiring after over 20 years at OSCIL. A luncheon will take place at the OSCIL office on Thursday, July 31 from 1 pm – 3 pm to say farewell to Susan and wish her well in the next phase of her life. Please email Carol McKenna, OSCIL's Office Manager at cmckenna@oscil.org by Friday, July 25, if you plan to attend. A job description for the part-time I & R position is posted on JobsInRI.com and on OSCIL's website.

Case Study

Consumer is a 68-year-old woman residing alone in a family owned apartment. She is blind and very independent. She contacted OSCIL requesting devices that would help her to read her own mail, take her own temperature, monitor her weight for health reasons, and assist with tying her shoes. She ambulates unassisted and has no help with activities of daily living. She relies on an aunt who lives on the second floor to read all of her mail to her. Consumer had been referred to OSCIL by a representative from Freedom Scientific who thought a SARA (a self-contained scanning and reading appliance for the blind and those with low vision) would be appropriate for her. OSCIL visited and conducted an assessment. Following OSCIL's formal intake/assessment, consumer was referred to INSIGHT to for an assessment to determine whether she could benefit from obtaining a

SARA. OSCIL was eventually able to provide consumer with a SARA. In addressing other issues, OSCIL provided consumer with a talking scale to manage her weight, a talking thermometer and elastic shoelaces. Consumer reports feeling more independent in her daily activities and can now read her own mail.

Lezlee Shaffer
OSCIL Program Director



RICAT Meeting Thursday, July 24th, 2014
ATAP Partner Reporting – PARI PAAT Program
Data Reporting Period April 1, 2014 – June 30, 2014

Device Recycling and Exchange (Reutilization):

The PAAT program provides DME (durable medical equipment) assistive technology equipment to people thru two primary methods, device recycling and device exchange.

70 recycled devices were sold to consumer and their families at an estimated cost savings of over \$8,340.00 dollars. This equipment consists of durable medical equipment used in daily living and mobility activities.

There was no reportable exchange activity this quarter.

Device Loan:

The PAAT program provides two types of device loans, short term accommodations and very short time loans of durable medical equipment for the purposes of evaluation.

Accommodation Loans:

The objective of this loan service is to provide a short term accommodation while an individual's own equipment is being repaired or are if they are in need of equipment which might be prohibitive to purchase for short term use, such as a portable ramp, electric wheelchair, scooter, transport wheelchair or patient lift. The loan is provided with a \$10.00 charge for each week with an average loan term length of two weeks. Instructions on proper usage and care of the equipment are provided as well as follow-up assessment of the loan.

3 accommodation loans were provided this period.

Evaluation Loans:

The objective of this loan service is to provide the consumer or therapist with the opportunity to bring an assistive device to evaluate in their home environment. Often equipment designed for a particular use does not work in every environment or with every consumer. The ability to simply take one or two types of equipment home and try them prior to purchase rather than accessing all of one's concerns in the showroom and making an immediate decision promotes the right choices being made regarding assistive technology equipment.

4 loans for evaluation were provided this period.

Device Demonstration Center

The PAAT program operates a demonstration center within our sales area, attempting to provide at least one example of all the durable medical equipment that is available through recycling or exchange. Consumers, families and service professionals are able to compare and gain an understanding of the choices available concerning assistive technology equipment.

19 demonstrations of equipment were provided this period, often to families who were for the first time facing the need of assistive equipment. As an example of one of the benefits we provide, after having determined Flora T. did need crutches and properly fitting her we sat at the computer to watch instructional videos of the proper techniques for walking as well as ascending/descending stairs until she felt comfortable.

Information and Referral

Often, quite often actually, people call PARI in need of equipment or services that aren't available nor provided by PARI. In those instances the PAAT program will provide *any* information possible, including referrals to appropriate agencies, searching for the lowest price on a specialty tub transfer chair, calling a therapist to clarify a consumer's needs or simply providing a Denise's number at ATEL to obtain an assistive telephone. Many of the phone calls we receive require just listening to and asking questions of the consumer or family member, determining what their needs are and trying to help as much as possible.

84 I/R's provided this period.

Thank you.

RICAT MEETING
Thursday, July 24, 2014
ATAP Partner Reporting: TechACCESS of RI
Highlights from Quarter: April – June 2014

Demonstrations

We continue to offer monthly Technology Demonstrations, with a focus on Technology for those with Blindness/Low Vision, Alternate Computer Access, and Tablet Technologies. We have seen a decrease in the attendees for these demos and we are developing a marketing plan to “get the word out” to different adult agencies.

Public Awareness, Information & Assistance

- We will be reviewing and updating all of the Fact Sheets that we have in the lobby and on our website. These handouts are downloaded frequently and are presented at all of our workshops, conferences, etc.
- We have been exhibiting at local and regional conferences, including the Achievement through Assistive Technology Conference in Connecticut (4/1/14).
- We continue to support I&R calls received at TechACCESS as well as the Equipment Loan Program.
- We provided an AT Overview Presentation to Providence College.

Updates

- The response to the Assistive Technology Conference (scheduled for November 20th at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick) has been remarkable. Hannah Tessitore (our former receptionist) has agreed to be the Conference Chair (in the wake of Brian Dennis leaving TechACCESS). The committee is working well together and now has several sub-committees (each includes an ATAP Partner):
 - Program Committee
 - Exhibitor Committee
 - Sponsorship Committee
- The Conference currently has:
 - 14 Presentations selected (and several to be reviewed)
 - 15 paid exhibitors
 - Close to 20 registrants (from Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island)
- We continue to write grants and continue to work on a grant received by the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Science) called ALLAccess, which focuses on the potential for integrating library, digital literacy, technology access, adult education, and workforce services through the library, with a focus on the needs of the underserved in RI (including those with disabilities).
- In October, we will be hosting an event to acknowledge the grant we received from Walmart.
- We continue to offer Professional Development to educators, therapists and families. We have several scheduled for the summer months and are working on the 2014-2015 PD Schedule.
- As an initiative from the RI Department of Education, we are beginning the development of an AT School Share program and website in conjunction with MassMATCH. This is done through the web developer Agoranet.



- We will also be starting an AT Digital Badge program/curriculum in partnership with RIDE. This program will provide teachers and therapists with an opportunity to participate in a 20 hour program to earn a Digital Badge in AT.

Respectfully Submitted: Kelly Charlebois



110 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888 • email: techaccess@techaccess-ri.org

Voice/TDD: 401-463-0202 • Fax: 401-463-3433 • In state: 800-916-TECH (8324)