

RI Council on Assistive Technology
February 19, 2009 ~ 2:30 – 4:00 pm
TechACCESS of RI, Suite I
110 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI

Minutes

Present: Flo Adeni-Awosika, Gary Brandyberry, Kathleen Grygiel, Denise Corson, Liz Hubbard, Thomas Karweh, Lisa Labitt, James Litvack, Phyllis Lynch, Michael Matraccia, Teresa O'Brien, Jeanne Panarace, Dan Pieroni, Colleen Polselli, Charles Pollock, Bill Robinson, Ying Sun, and Kim Wennermark

Welcome:

Meeting was called to order by Chair Pollock at 2:40 pm.

- **Acceptance of Minutes:**
Approval of Minutes for 12/11/08: Motion made by Dan Pieroni seconded by Gary Brandyberry. Motion unanimously passed.
- **Chairpersons Report:** Chair Pollock stated he received an inquiry into RICAT's services by Department of Elderly Affairs to be used in their "Pocket Guide". J. Panarace commented that was a good sign that they wanted to know more about who RICAT is. Denise Corson added that they also contacted her for the first time in 3 years about ATEL.
- **Program Director's Report:** Kat Grygiel gave everyone a hard copy of the ATAP State Plan for 2009-2011, and noted that a committee made up of RICAT members helped with input into the state plan. Kat added she would like to enlist volunteers to develop an abstract of the state plan to be used on the website. The state plan is not user friendly in its current format. She will send out an email looking for volunteers. She asked them all to look through it and highlighted information from the directory on the front page. Device utilization, loan, and demonstration activities as well as the state leadership activities are what they should focus on. Kat Grygiel added that they have received confirmation that RSA had received the State Plan, but not that it is accepted or rejected.

Kim Wennermark questioned that since plan was due in January, and the political landscape has changed in the state, to what degree is this plan still viable. Kat Grygiel responded that the majority of

funding is federal funding. ATEL, which is primarily state funded, receives \$10,000 from ATAP for administrative costs. She added that she would like to say there is no risk at all, however, there may be a little risk for ATEL. Currently ATAP receives approximately \$312,000 a year in funding.

Go to last page – explained goals and access goal table. Generated to the numbers they supplied for device loan and demonstration. Baseline of 2007. Long term goals were calculated. A calculated that was developed by RSA that takes into consideration, the number of people served, decision was made and Look at year 2007 – education - % empl % CL - % Telecomm – 0%. 2007 – year for developing data collection system. Other AT programs were finding the same issues. Last years more reliable as baseline instead of 2007. Had to project long term goals. Top of chart. Was very conservative. Some growth but not dramatic increases. Next year – would like to have a small group of members look at the numbers and give explanations of how things are being done.

Acquisition Goal Table – refers to numbers related to reutilization reuse and state financing. Individuals are actually obtaining technology. ATEL program- telecomm, PARI – reutilization. Performance in ed and empl was 0. CL was 100. Extremely concerned. Several teleconferences with RSA and other AT programs. Across the country others struggling with same issues. Education – youth with special needs in school – School district handles. Explains why area is low. Employment – ORS handles. Company absorbs any cost for technology. Conversation included were RSA staff. Brought up lot of concerns and issues. Decided that for 2009 we currently have a perf measure of 0 in ed and empl. Does not want to interfere with school or employer, but would like to have some improvement. Set a target – low. If we work with 4 clients during the year and 1 Kim – what action constitutes a - KG an individual acquires the needed AT. Under acquisition – we have done something directly to help indiv obtain device. Gary – NEAT marketplace - once a month they have a clinic. KG – that would be access though not acquisition. In CL – don't have that many sources. CP – a lot of organizations that give AT free. Expectations from funding sources when delivering in these different arenas. As ATAP program we have not done as much as we need to have done is capturing data from clients. Did two surveys. Device demon. Or short term loan – asking people to complete survey. Tighten up the arena. 2nd survey is every customer a service is provided to, we are doing a satisfaction survey. Better handle on environment. Report on a regular basis. PL – post-secondary or just school age. LL – no

connections made. Dan P – March 6 symposium – college forum. Ease transition between high school and college. KG – we are supposed to be assisting with transitions. Do with OSCIL – nursing home to home. VR program again is a part of transition. May pick up some things with that population. VR might provide computer whereas school might provide books. Expectations that are at odds with reality. Approaching how they data collect differently, establish modest goals. JP – today's economic climate might have a positive effect on this. CP – goals – realistic? KG – kept incredibly modest. GB – can RSA change #'s expectation? KG – perception that they had to increase and keep increasing. Heard on teleconferences – reasonable. No place on plan to explain what numbers were and why? YS – who computes the performance number. KG – formula that is developed on the forms they use. YS – acquisition table – set 25% for education. How can we achieve? KG – 4 people that we work with – and 1 served acquires technology – would come out with 25%. Critically look at how we are capturing information. Have not consistently used same survey. Partners – have not increased any increases – yet she has piled on so many different things. Beginning with Dec to Mar report, each partner is going to have to submit to her, how many and what the results of the survey were for each of them. KW – in terms of acquiring something – is there not an assessment to determine the valid need. AT program and way guideline is written – it does not cover assessment. Covers acquirement, loans. Denise – before someone gets a phone, they have to have a certificate disability. KW – are they asking survey at the front end? Surveys that are from RSA. Spent a lot of time on how to get responses. Mail – return rate not good. Device demonstration, loan, reutilization – face to face with client - get info right then and there.

CT – developed School Swap program between several school districts. Thought it was going to help them with their acquisition portion. TO-small business association – would that be something with employment? Rhodes to Indep – existing services. Something we could look at. KW – disability services at colleges. Not typically held reasonable. Used to get ready to go to school/work. If they could see techaccesses lab prior to purchasing . It does it if leads to acquiring AT.

As we go through next year, check in with each other. Bring up questions such as who have you contacted and how is it going?

Share with them that back in November – asked for volunteers to look at By-Laws. Function more in sync. Meeting – did some brainstorming. That committee agreed to look at by-laws and send

comments. Was going to meet to go over at end of Jan. Because of flood – did not get a chance. Draft suggestion we sent out to committee members. Setup meeting in March – fine tune and present at next ricat meeting.

Increasingly looking at structure that has 2 more aligned with similar objectives and goals. Committee structure, frequency of meetings, size of membership. Resource to ATAP program.

- **Partner Reports**

ATEL: Denise Corson physician audiologist, school of deaf, ors, phycial therapist. Description – certificate of disability. CP – what justifies. Have to qualify either by having a hearing loss, speech or neuromuscular. Can special order things based on disability. All sorts of attachments that goes to a hands free speaker phone. Goes to see people – does not mail out. Also ask on application – for a specific. KG – customer choice in preference? New phone that they just added. Auto off the hook switch – resets itself after 10 minutes. CP - Cost would determine what phone? DC – less than \$10 difference. KG – ATEL program – been around for 20 years. ORS functions as the contract manager for this contract. A year ago it ATEL became a formal partner with ATAP because it made such sense. Good partnership. Denise and kat – 2 advisory councils they work with. Jeanne P. and now James L is the chair of the atel advisory council. DC – do keep adding this if they get a request. One of the speaker phones – could work the remote with his foot, they now have a foot one, so that was customized for that. JP – any help with cell phones? DC – has been in talks – Sidekicks are being looked at. Grant was based on landlines. Now get into whole different criteria. Two other states that have piloted it – Maine and CA. Pros and cons. One of the things committee may help with – Representatives from companies in business area to return her calls. Verizon etc. Contacted the calif progr to ask rep to contact our reps. Last week – suspended eligibility guidelines until end of this budget year. Governors supplemental budget. Sample letter. Do not have a waiting list. Re-evaluate the criteria they are using now. See what impact they have on program. Upgrading the phone they are giving majority of people, so less returns. A system in place where they are getting rid of all the backlogged equipment. Only things refurbished are brand new things or under warranty. About 400 obsolete equipment. JP – concerned about how does the PUC stand on this. Bill: doesn't know what it means to us. Leave out dollar amount if members do send letter to reps. KG – less on chopping block than they thought prior. Rely on advisory councils to take lead in sending

letters. JP – statistics for last couple of years – number of people who served. Uses Captel phone. Got cut \$2500 the year before. Suspended their ordering for a couple of months. Denise will send out numbers. DC handed out list of Cox Senior Journal dates. BR – would it be ok to have DC write letter with list of attendees and . LH - Makes a bigger impression to have a stack of letter.

EBEC: Lisa Labitt highlighted the upcoming college forum being held for students with disabilities on May 19th – “Dare to Dream”. Lisa added that there are fantastic disability service centers at the various colleges/universities in Rhode Island, and she is in touch with a lot of those colleges. Dan Pieroni commented that he will be doing a presentation at the forum, and added that if you are planning on doing a presentation, the request is due tomorrow.

OSCIL: Lezlee Shaffer was unable to attend but did send a report of activities which was mailed out to those unable to attend.

PARI: N/A

TECHACCESS: N/A

• **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

○ **Executive Committee:**

N/A -

○ **Membership/Outreach**

N/A

○ **By-Laws: at**

N/A

○ **Alternative Finance:**

N/A

○ **Legislative**

N/A

○ **Communications**

N/A

○ **Partner Support**

N/A

Roundtable:

- N/A

- **Next Meeting Date:** April 16, 2009

- Motion made to adjourn by , seconded by . Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

- **Reminder:** contact Sharon (sharond@ors.ri.gov or 421-7005 ext. 318) if you will or will not attend. Also – any question of where the meeting will be held or date, you can always check the website, www.atap.ri.gov/ricat2.htm.