**Minutes of KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting**

**March 4, 2016**

**McDowell Center**

**Louisville, KY**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Rick Boggess, Chair.

**Advisory Council Members**

Andre Ryssemus, Lee Muncy, Rowena Holloway, Joe Cowan, Nathan Bolton, Vivian Lasley, Carol Weber, Matt Davis, Patrick Murphy, Kat McGee, Sharon Fields

**KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC Staff**

Jimmy Brown, Jerry Wheatley, Dave Matheis, Sheila Levy, Elizabeth Thompson, Rachael Johnson, Linnie Lee, Kelly Turnham, Cindy Huston, Peggy Farmer, Lisa Staub, Josh Skuller

**Advisory Council Members not in attendance**

Steve Burchett, Todd Stephens

**Others in attendance**

Malicia Hitch, Protection & Advocacy; Megan Williams, Intern to Kelly Turnham

**Approval of Minutes from past meeting (s)**

Rick called the next order of business; approving the December 4, 2015 council minutes that were e-mailed to members. Jimmy explained 2 corrections: Sharon was not at the last meeting; Page 10 bullet point was fixed from the draft. Row moved to approve. It was seconded by Joe. Voted on by the council, all were in favor.

**Advisory Council Membership – Review of applicants- Jimmy**

Nathan Bolton is in his second term; requests to be reappointed for an additional term.

The council is seeking nominations for three seats on the council as Sharon Fields, Matt Davis and Joe Cowan have each served 3 consecutive terms and are ineligible to serve. These 3 seats will be vacant after March 31, 2016. The nominees must be submitted to the Governor’s office for appointment.

Review of outside candidates- Jimmy will e-mail all of the applications to the council members for further review. Council will vote online.

Rick Boggess is Co-Chair, per last meeting vote. A motion was made and approved by the council for Carol Weber to be the other Co-Chair. Carol replaces Jennifer Hicks, as Jennifer is no longer with the ADA office.

**Updates from ATRCs**

**Bluegrass Technology Center – Linnie Lee**

* Providing same reuse services
* Conducted a training; set up as learning stations with OT students from EKY
* The center is now closed all day on Mondays.

**Enabling Technologies (enTECH) –Josh Skuller**

* KITE (Kosair Integrated Technology Experience) starts in April
* Scott takes his Resident Exam next month. This will make him the 3rd ATP at the center
* Continue to provide reuse services
* Provide ongoing AT information to students

**Redwood –Peggy Farmer**

* Staff provided several trainings and consultations, including some NKU special education students for some hands-on training
* Reutilizations, including wheelchair ramps and Jazzy Power chairs

**Western KY AT Center – Cindy Huston**

* Provided tours for participants in the Legislator’s Forum (statewide event)
* Provided a wheelchair in-service for PTA service from Madisonville Community College
* Continue the consultations regarding the TAP Program

**Carl D. Perkins Center –Racheal Johnson**

* Introduced by Jimmy. Racheal is the new staff hired at CDPTVC. She is splitting her time between Rehab Technology, the KATS Network and Project CARAT
* Participates in tours of the center by showing the library of items
* Has started working with the students who work on power chairs
* Processing donations in; will be receiving more power chairs from Gould’s Medical
* Grant money has covered some repair parts

**Discussion Notes:**

Each ATRC shared a consumer utilization story.

Row shared additional information on how the commission is providing services, such as stocking cabinets, visiting with audiologists and TAP.

**KATS Network Coordinating Center – Jimmy Brown, Jerry Wheatley,**

**Sheila Levy, Elizabeth Thompson**

* This current year’s budget- Federally, the AT Act increased. In KY, that translated to an increase in budget of about $15,000.
* We are spending on current year’s budget.
* The 2-year contracts with the AT centers will be up at the end of June.
* Annual report will be available in mid-March. It will be sent by e-mail to the council members & ATRCs. It will be posted on the KATS website and the KATS Facebook page.
* Transition has occurred to free online data base for reports.
* CARAT was not 1 of the 5 programs awarded the Christopher and Dana Reeve foundation grant. Plans are to submit a new application in August for CARAT or one of the other projects.
* Plans are to continue the projects in progress with the new ADA.
* Dave shared information on Third-Party billing and services.

**Discussion Notes:**

Lee inquired on ways the council could be impacted with Third-Party billing services. Dave has planned for follow up with the cabinet’s attorneys.

Sharon shared her knowledge of the ADA position/ history.

**SHARP (Statewide Hearing Aid Assistance and Reuse Program) – Jerry**

* KATs has put $60,000 into SHARP in the last 2 years.
* Currently in its second year with $19,000 remaining for Hear Now application fees.
* Starkey uses the credits (currently about $467) from our collection of donated hearing aids to cover the cost of repairs and refurbishment of hearing aids for individuals here in Kentucky.
* In 2015, KY was the #2 state in terms of the number of hearing aids given out through Hear Now, Starkey’s charitable foundation.
* In KY, 924 hearing aids were given out to just over 500 individuals. Pennsylvania was ahead of us by 6 hearing aids.
* Funding for application fees will run out in a few months. Recently, more consumers have been able to pay their own fees.
* We are helping people access applications and finding a Hear Now participating HHP.
* Looking for other places to refer consumers, such as the Lion’s Club and KATLC.
* Jerry has been following up on information about The John Calipari Foundation (suggested by Council Member, Lee), Starkey and Hearing Solutions have teamed up to provide a program like Hear Now, without the fees. The foundation will work with approximately 120 individuals, of any age. When all consumers have been through the process, there will be a meeting of individuals and providers at Rupp Arena for the fitting. This will be a publicity event. Transportation will be provided to the fitting, if needed. Individuals can submit consumers for consideration. Jerry and Jimmy will forward information to council members on the program.

**Discussion Notes:**

Instrument Specialists are now located at a Louisville and Lexington Costco. They are providing hearing aids with a warranty, at a cost near the VR rate.

**Project CARAT Update - Sheila**

* Current value of DME distributed is $408,000, which includes an All-Terrain Power Wheelchair given to a farmer.
* At the Paducah Project CARAT site, we contacted with CAL-Murray to hire someone to assist one day per week to help build up the volunteer base at that site.
* Gould’s Medical has continued to give inventory to the project. This includes 15-20 Power chairs that will be going to the CDPTVC site, where Rachael has a supply of batteries.
* A Project CARAT press release was issued by Governor Bevin’s office in early January.
* Work continues on locating funding sources for Project CARAT. This includes work on a model to bring in private monies where Project CARAT could be sustained by the larger entities, such as insurance companies.
* CARAT is part of the VOAD (Volunteer Organization Active in Disaster) program with the Kentucky Department of Public Health; Emergency Preparedness division.
* Donation - Activity postings will be on CARAT’s FB page.

**Discussion Notes:**

Josh suggested Laura Unger with the Courier Journal as a news outlet to share a human interest story involving CARAT.

Lee suggested contact with the Medical Reserve Corp, under the Kentucky Homeland Security division of FEMA and the Crusade for Children.

Nathan suggested the use of Twitter and Josh suggested the use of Instagram as avenues to share CARAT information.

**Kentucky Board of Elections- Jimmy**

* KATS continues working with the Board on the Online Voter Registration System to make sure it is accessible.

**American Printing House for the Blind- Jimmy**

* Collaborating with KATS network on grant opportunities for lending library programs to expand access to AT equipment.
* Grant would increase KATS inventory at no cost to the KATS network.

**Office of ADA – Malicia**

* The office has moved to Mill Creek Rd., in the old AOC building.
* Staff will present two sessions at the AT conference in June.

**Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation - Dave**

* Has loaned over 9 ½ million dollars since its inception in 2000.
* Hearing Aids continue to be about 60 % of loans.
* Application numbers are still down.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation-Dave**

Substantial Gainful Activity Project (SGA)

* We should meet the target of 500 people at the end of May.
* The participants will be followed for a specified period of time then the results of the study will be written up.

Budget Update

* The Governor’s budget proposes cuts of about 4 to 4 ½ % this year and 9% the following year.
* Each dollar lost in state monies results in a loss of 3.7 federal dollars.
* There are between 5 and 6 million dollars in D.C. that we are eligible for but we cannot draw down because we do not have sufficient state-match dollars.

**Discussion Notes:**

Discussion on how OVR and OFB may be impacted by changes in funding, including the PreETS funding change to requiring a 15% allocation of the agency budget.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation-Rehab Tech Branch-Carol**

* Rachael Johnson started in November at the Thelma location.
* Seth Basham started in October in Bowling Green and serves part of Western KY.
* Sara May started in January. She covers Bowling Green and Elizabethtown
* Will be hiring an assistant in Lexington, due to an upcoming vacancy.
* PreETS will use about $500,000 of the annual RT budget.
* Most of the RT budget, over 1 million dollars is spent on Vehicle Modifications of $10,000+.

**KCDHH update –Rowena**

* Rowena is continuing work with P & A to interpret a federal court case that she has been told will require insurance companies to pay for hearing aids for customers of any age.
* There is no longer a waiting list for iPads, as funding was received to address the need.
* Collaborating with KATLC on a mailer detailing both programs to Audiologists and Instrument Specialists.

**Summer Assistive Technology Institute & KATS council- Jimmy**

* The 2016 SATI conference will be June 14 for ½ day and a full day on June 15 at the Kentucky State University Research Farm.
* The KATS Network Council meeting will be on the morning of the 15th.
* Registration is free this year. Please visit KATSNET.ORG/ATCONFERENCE to register.
* Session topics lined up for this year
* 3D Printing and Implications for Assistive Technology- by Dr. Gina Bertocci, U of L Bio Engineering Dept.
* General Lighting Use and Lighting for Individuals with Cortical Vision Impairments- by Elaine Kitchel, American Printing House for the Blind
* Emerging Technologies and New Upcoming Assistive Technology
* Pre-ETS
* Driver Rehabilitation
* AgrAbility
* Mock Medicaid Hearing- P & A
* Medicaid Waivers and DAIL updates- P & A

**Open Discussion from the Advisory Council:**

Jerry shared ramp information and discussion on types ensued. Jerry presented an aluminum ramp bracket kit engineered to connect a wood-based ramp to the deck or home. Jerry asked for council member’s suggestions to build and fund the ramps; to get a system going.

**Announcements / New Business**

Lee shared, the Annual State Student Technology Leadership Program State Championship Competition will be held on April 22nd at Rupp Arena. Last year 5,700 students and 1,200 adults registered. It is free to attend.

Best wishes to our departing KATS Network council members:

Sharon Fields, Joe Cowan and Matt Davis

**Date and Location for next meeting:**

**Location: Kentucky State Research Farm**

**Date: June 14, 2016**

**Time: 8:00 am**

**Tentative future council meeting date/s:**

**Location: WKATC in Owensboro**

**Date: September 23rd, 2016**

**Time: 9:00 am (Central Time)**

**Adjournment:**

Joe motioned to adjourn and was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:09 P.M.