# Minutes of KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting

March 23, 2018   
EnTECH   
Louisville, KY

## Welcome & Introductions

The council meeting was called to order at approximately 9:35 am by Lee Muncy, Co- Chair.

### Advisory Council Members

Rick Boggess, Camille Collins, Jennifer Hicks, Rowena Holloway, Patrick Murphy, Duke Petit, Andre Ryssemus, Todd Stephens, Carol Weber,

### KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC Staff

Jimmy Brown, Sheila Levy, Elizabeth Thompson; Christina Espinoza-Bard, Joe McCombs, Josh Skuller, Lisa Staub, Jana Billingsley

### Advisory Council Members not in attendance

Debra Bauder, Nate Bolton, Karen Coulter, Tina Jackson, Tishana Wokocha

### Others in attendance

Dr. Cindee Quake-Rapp, Leeanne Edelen (KY School for the Blind), Samanthia Farthing (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation), Jessica Endler-Smith (KY Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing)

## Approval of Minutes from past meeting (s)

Lee called the next order of business; approving the December 15, 2017 council minutes that were e-mailed to members.

Todd motioned to accept the minutes with corrections; second from Row; all in favor.

## KATS Coordinating Center Update:

### Project CARAT – Sheila

* Project CARAT continues to grow, with the Lexington site opening in February.
* Two sizable donations received from Gould’s Medical.
* CARAT is working with the Paralyzed Veterans of America; Kentucky-Indiana branch.
* Jimmy and Sheila met with the Christian Appalachian Project near Thelma, KY.
* Morehead State University’s Prestonsburg social work program has expressed an interest in students doing practicums with the Carl Perkins Center.

## Updates from ATRCs:

### Enabling Technologies (enTECH) – Josh Skuller and Joe McCombs; Cindee Quake-Rapp

* The occupational therapy and speech language pathology students continue to be supervised by Scott and Alison.
* We continue to offer education on assistive technology and AT devices within the Auerbach School of Occupational Therapy curriculum.
* Alison and Josh, along with some OT students, presented on assistive technology with the students at Ascension School here in Louisville.
* Open Lab continues on Wednesdays; TARC3 evaluations continue with Scott Yaden.
* In December, the renovation started on our Kosair Virtual Immersive playground. Dr. Quake-Rapp, Joe and Josh received training on this yesterday. In two weeks, KITE participants will be the first group of kids to participate with it.
* The CARAT program sees many ‘regulars’ who return use the site as a resource; including occupational therapy alumnus, social workers and nurses from the VA.
* On average, CARAT distributes between 75-100 items per month; with December being the lowest in number due to the holiday closure of the Spalding campus.
* The occupational therapy students are a tremendous resource as they sign up to work for three-hour shifts and also during open lab on Wednesdays
* Some collaboration with Heuser Hearing on a Vestibular balance program and the Booker Foundation.
* We’re seeking funding for a switch camp to have young people or young adults come in and learn how to use various switches with computers.

### HDI-CATS-Christina

* We took occupancy of our space in October, so much of the last quarter was spent obtaining equipment that was spread out across the state then cleaning and fixing things that were not working.
* We have a room full of CARAT equipment, with pickups increasing in volume.

### Redwood – Lisa

* In November, Peggy and I gave a training presentation to the Campbell County Schools assistive technology team concerning available resources.
* We had a demonstration of TouchChat (a communication app.), some adapted toy switches, and a voice output device.
* There will be another toy adaptation event with the University of Cincinnati’s engineering students.

### Western KY AT Center – Jana

* In October, we hosted an early intervention training, which was well-attended. An OT from Ottobock came to talk about positioning and locomotion.
* We collaborated with Henderson County Schools on head supports for a student.
* In November, Jana presented to a Dietary Managers Association, AT101.
* We hosted a lunch and learn event with a Kentucky Autism Training Center speaker.
* In December, we collaborated with Powell County Schools on student computer access options.
* There will be a Go Baby Go event coming up at the end of July. Cole Galloway, founder of GBG is coming himself to lead that. This program will come to teach us how to adapt cars for children with disabilities to where they can use a switch to drive a little car around.

### Carl D. Perkins Center – Racheal

* Our CARAT-Thelma success story appeared in the OVR Annual Report.
* Our ramps were delivered and engraved.
* Last quarter, I went with Project CASE to demonstrate at a job fair in Knott County.
* First Steps is still at a standstill due to the billing. Everything else is done except for that.
* We received two large donations, one from Thomson-Hood.

### Discussion Notes:

* Council members were invited to tour enTECH and the Kosair playground.

## Coordinating Center Updates –Jimmy

* KATS is coming to the end of our current two-year contracts with our AT centers. We are working to have new contracts in place come July 1st.
* OVR’s Central Office transitioning of their financial system should not affect our KATS contracts.
* Invoices from the centers for the month of May need to be in by June 19th.
* Concerning our three-year state plan, we are still waiting on the federal level for the new system to be put in place. Once that occurs, we will input our new plan.
* Jimmy will be attending a transition fair with JCPS later in April.
* Work continues with Brown-Forman website reviews.
* Jimmy and Carol continue work using the Zoom webinar platform to create a training webinar on creating accessible documents. This will be open to OVR, OFB and other state agencies.
* Jimmy shared AT centers may use the Zoom platform through the KATS subscription for trainings or meetings, rather than traveling.

### RampUP! KY

* Our final report for the Christopher Reeve grant that funds our portable ramp project is due on April 18th.

### SHARP

* We continue to help steer individuals towards audiologists that will work with HearNow.
* We collect and send in donated hearing aids to receive credit from Starkey.

### Discussion Notes:

* Several members discussed the difficulties with using CAPTCHAs.
* Carol mentioned that Kentucky is hosting the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness Conference in October of this year.
* Discussed the designated agency representatives are nearing the end of their terms, except for one.
* Rowena “Row” Holloway is retiring from state government.

## Guest speaker – Leanne Edelen from the Kentucky School for the Blind

* In 2016, the KSB received a complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights. The complaint stated, “"The complainant alleges that certain of the school's web pages are not accessible to students and adults with disabilities, including but not limited to, vision impairments."
* Leanne completed the first round of fixes and notified users to check accessibility before posting.
  + A library software vendor was removed as they were not interested in becoming accessible.
  + KIMRC (Kentucky Instructional Material Resource Center) is a custom database that is built for material resource centers for the blind. They made corrections and are now accessible.
* The second round of fixes began with KDE’s corrective action plan when they hired a company to scan KSB’s site. KSD and KDE were also having issues.
  + The corrective action plan found that a lot of the issues were visible, such as using the wrong shade of the color red.
  + There were no visible controls on the picture carousel.
  + The skip-to-main was not visible, although it was useable with a screen reader.
  + The structural issues were fixed by our website vendor, such as:
    - Tab order was off on a couple of pages.
    - Separation of links on the calendar that made them seem repetitive.
    - Expand it tab did not explain what you were reading more of in the article.
* Lessons learned from this experience, Leanne’s opinions:
  + “Best practices, not the actual laws, but the best practices are completely open to interpretation. The website vendor would scan and say zero errors. Then, KDE’s vendor would scan the same page and come up with three pages of errors”.
  + “You have to have users telling you this, not website scans”.
  + “I learned a lot about nonvisual-related accessibility tools, like visual focus. Living in an environment that I make accessible for nonvisual people, that wasn’t one of the first things that occurred to me”.
  + “This is going to be an ongoing process, always changing, dynamic, always things that we can do better”.
  + We added a banner to the page, “If you need another accommodation that we’re not offering, let us know. If this isn’t working for you, let us know.”

### Discussion Notes:

* Lee brought up the human component involved, specifically with teachers having sites within KSB’s domain.
* Leanne expressed an interest in the assigned accessibility expert at KDE possibly using the Zoom platform.
* SchoolPointe was shared as the name of the vendor that worked to make the web page accessible.
* Todd shared some of the differences he has noted with the VI programs.
* Jimmy inquired about any cheat sheets for the teachers that show the criteria for fonts and colors not to use. Leanne shared that Verdana is the best font to use. Although there are no existing sheets for use this year; maybe for next year.
* Carol brought up the issue of scanned copies being inaccessible. Lee shared, at the recent Kentucky Society for Technology in Education, KySTE conference it was mentioned that a few school districts want to do a statewide contract; a separate KATS contract for document centers.

## Program Updates:

### P & A – Camille

* P & A continues to do outreach, education and looks to assist people with obtaining assistive technology.
* Yesterday, we heard the Feds have passed a bill that will enable us to provide monitoring for rep payees and Social Security rep payees; details to follow.
* P & A would be happy to provide agency training on Kentucky STABLE accounts. Please contact Camille.
* May 24th is the annual cleanup at the former Frankfort State Hospital School cemetery, at the current CHR building.

### Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation – Unavailable

### Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Carol

* Our leadership is now saying there is a reorganization going on where we will merge with OFB, pending state hearings to get community input.
* We now have an accessible state time sheet. By the end of the year, they hope to have 50% of state employees entering their time directly through our KHRIS system.

### Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Jessica Smith

* Jessica works with the Telecommunications Access Program.
* New phones have been added to the cabinets; multiple features.
* KCDHH no longer has a service partnership with AT&T.
* Jessica plans to visit cabinets around the state to provide updates.

### Discussions

* Discussions ensued on accessibility and features of websites.
* Rick shared the most efficient way to navigate a calendar is with headings.
* Todd and Rick concurred that changing browsers sometimes improves accessibility.

## Open discussion from the Council:

* Lee shared the State Student Technology Leadership Program State Championships is on March 29th, 2018.
* Christina informed the council HDI-CATs has started a monthly ADA training series (open to all), on the fourth Thursday of every month.
* Lee encouraged the council to send items of interest to a wider audience to Jimmy to distribute.
* Todd shared information on NFB Newsline, which is an audio reading service for people who are print impaired.
* Jimmy shared that Congress is right now looking at adding an additional 2 million dollars to the Tech Act grants nationwide.
* Carol shared that RESNA is once again changing the way they do accreditation of programs. She and Jimmy have started discussing if the KATS Network could acquire the accreditation ability, then offer RESNA programs for people to maintain certifications.

## Tentative future council meeting date/s:

Location: McDowell Center

Date: June 1st, 2018

Time: 9:30 a.m.

## Tentative future council meeting:

Location: HDI-CATS

Date: September

Time:

## Adjournment:

Lee called for a motion to adjourn. Todd motioned with Jennifer seconding.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.