**Minutes of KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting**

**December 9, 2016**

**McDowell Center**

**Louisville, KY**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Carol Weber, Chair.

**Advisory Council Members**

Rick Boggess, Lee Muncy, Joe Cowan, Vivian Lasley, Sharon Fields, Kat McGee, Rowena Holloway, Todd Stephens, Carol Weber

**KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC Staff**

Jimmy Brown, Jerry Wheatley, Dave Matheis, Sheila Levy, Elizabeth Thompson, Rachael Johnson, Peggy Farmer, Lisa Staub, Jana Billingsly, Josh Skuller, Sandy Hayden, Cindy Huston,

**Advisory Council Members not in attendance**

Andre Ryssemus, Steve Burchett, Nathan Bolton, Matt Davis, Patrick Murphy

**Others in attendance**

Camille Collins, Steve Noble, Valerie Cowan, Nancy Estes

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

Carol called the next order of business; approving the September 23, 2016 council minutes that were e-mailed to members. Rick motioned to accept the minutes, with a second from Todd; all in favor.

**Advisory council appointments and memberships- Jimmy**

* Names of replacements for Joe Cowan and Matt Davis were submitted about a year ago
* No information has been received on replacements, will be resubmitted.
* Sharon, Joe and Matt will continue on the advisory board until word is received on her/his replacement.
* Other appointments will be up at the end of March, names will be submitted for those.
* Steve Burchett has submitted his resignation from the council.
* Any interested party should contact Jimmy Brown for instructions.

**Nominations for Co-chairs (1 yr term) – Jimmy**

* Discussion opened for volunteers or suggestions to serve. None received.
* Current chairs Carol Weber (agency side) and Rick Boggess (individual side).
* Row nominated Carol for reappointment. Seconded by Joe.
* Rick agreed to accept a third term on the council if reappointed.
* Todd nominated Rick for reappointment. Seconded by Row.
* Vote taken. All in favor. Both current co-chairs accept the reappointment.

**KATS Network Coordinating Center – Jimmy Brown**

**Project CARAT - Sheila**

* To date, CARAT has given out 1936 pieces of free medical equipment to 850 individuals.
* Value of equipment is $540,268.
* Ample inventory, except a shortage of manual wheelchairs.
* Working with Supplies Over Seas (SOS)- This Louisville operation accepts donations and sends equipment to third world countries on medical missions. The mutual benefit to SOS and CARAT is a trade of equipment each program can use.
* CARAT-Paducah
  + Established a working relationship with the Western KY Easter Seals. The Lourdes site will be used as a supported employment training venue for them.
  + Terri Ross and Jessica Lambert conducted a training session for the Easter Seals Supported Employment Coaches.
  + The Eckstein Grant was awarded through CAL to fund a part time employee in the amount of $5,000, not the $18,000 requested. This will be only enough to fund the part-time employee for about three months.
  + Terri is working with a law firm providing services (pro bono) to form a 501C3 for that site. She is working to build partnerships to supplement funding there to sustain for the long-term.
* Gould’s Discount Medical donated three pallets of brand new therapeutic cushions, pillows, canes and various braces.
* With Patrick’s assistance on developing a contact within Wellcare; CARAT’s community partner, Spalding University applied for and received a $2000 grant for CARAT. This will be used to purchase more bath benches and bath chairs.

**State Building Codes and Universal Design/Accessible Housing – Jerry**

* Jimmy, Jerry and David Allgood (Center for Independent Living) are still working on updates to the State Residential Building Code; making a new construction homes more accessible.
* The 3 changes being requested are: hall width; interior door width; and blocking in the bathrooms.
* Jerry and Jimmy have been invited to the February meeting to discuss these changes.
* The main meeting for the housing board will be in May 2017.

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

* Nationally, Kentucky is expected to be the #1 most-active state with the Hear Now Program.
* Continue to provide information and referral to Hear Now providers across the state.

**Reminder:**

Starkey Foundation still accepts third part donations for Kentucky applicants to the Hear Now Program. In the memo line of the check, it should say “KY HearNow applicants”

**Accessibility of websites- Jimmy**

* Jimmy shared handouts from US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
* Complaints recently filed on several KY school’s websites, both public and internal.
* In November, Jimmy met with 25-30 chief information officers and IT staff from Region 2 to provide information on accessibility standards and barriers typically found on websites.
* Jerry and Jimmy have been asked by Donna Shelton, our new state ADA coordinator, to be on the agenda for the February meeting of all of the EEOC/ADA coordinators.

**Discussion Notes:**

Accessibility compliance issues and standards.

**Status Update**

**Bluegrass Technology Center – Jimmy Brown**

* About a month ago KATS received word that BTC had lost the contract with First Steps.
* All of the AT resource centers have contracts with First Steps to provide equipment rentals of assistive technology through the lending library programs.
* In looking at BTC’s internal issues; the loss of the First Steps contract, sustainability, loss of several staff members, problems keeping the phone bills paid to keep phone lines active, the decision was made to end *our* contract with BTC.
* A notice to end the contract will be mailed out to BTC; expect immediate termination with cause.

**Discussion Notes:**

Jimmy asked for input from the council on continuing with the KATS Network mission to provide statewide coverage. In response to Sharon’s inquiry, Jimmy shared that callers in BTC’s area will be referred to other centers. Josh shared that his site has already been doing school-based assessments in the area belonging to BTC and Western KY.

Discussion continued on to the need for a center to be located somewhere in the same area but not necessarily Lexington. Rick motioned that KAT’s staff proceed with trying to establish a center to serve the needs of the people in central Kentucky. Vivian seconded that motion. Members voted. All approved.

**KATS Budget- Jimmy**

* Jimmy directed the council members to page 36 in the council meeting books; reviewed line items.

**Discussion Notes:**

Sharon made a motion for any additional funds available after funding all necessary centers, at the discretion of staff, be put to the Near Now / Starkey fund. Rick seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor.

**Reeve Grant update- Dave**

* Most of the $75,000 requested would be used to purchase portable ramps, along with a small amount of operating costs.
* We will know in February if funding is granted.

**Updates from ATRCs**

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

* Joy (Vessels) is retiring. The position will not be filled.
* Graduate Assistants (GAs) will be doing the work.
* Will be hiring some PRN therapists, to allow Scott and Allison to work behind the scenes.
* Demos have been done with the fundamental OT students to provide information about what AT is; what high tech, low tech and assistive devices are to get them ready.
* In February, Josh will be working with the mental health class on assistive technology for people with SPMI (Serious Persistent Mental Illness)
* New this year the elder mentor program, along with their faculty, have been working with First Build. All have received intensive training on 3D printing. They will be working on making devices for the elderly. First Build allows them to do this for free.

**Redwood –Peggy Farmer**

* In September, Peggy and Lisa presented to First Steps providers, service coordinators and public school help. The presentation focused on transition from early intervention into the schools; making sure AT needs are met for all of the children.
* 25 Governor Scholars from NKU visited Redwood for Lisa to provide hands-on demonstration and to observe clients using AT.
* Lisa provided consultation to Redwood staff on the use of the Clicker Books app with iPads. These were purchased through a grant for school-aged students, so they can take pictures on outings in the community. These pictures will be made into books to document experiences to share with their families or others.
* As mentioned at the last meeting, Engineer volunteers from Ethicon completed projects for the center. Lisa and Peggy worked to make sure there were interactive games were ready for each classroom.
* Donation of equipment has resulted in ten or eleven items being given to Racheal at CDPTVC to be repaired.

**Western KY AT Center – Cindy Huston**

* Last July, exhibited at the Ready Kids conference in Louisville and at the regional resource fair in Owensboro. Both of these were sponsored by the ARC of Kentucky’s Family Support Coalition.
* In August, we collaborated with Wendell Foster’s marketing department on a newspaper and newsletter article. Also, collaborated with WF to create a family support group called Family Sees, to provide a network of support and resources for families with a child or adult with disability.
* In September, we exhibited at the Senior Day Out event; an annual event hosted by Green River Area Development District.

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

* Purchasing has started from the budget set aside for the Thelma center.
* Received a faxed list from First Steps of some items they are interested in.
* Attended a couple of community development meetings, along with doing a couple of CARAT presentations for home health in the area and for the Pikeville Medical Center.
* Shortage of hospital beds and shower chairs.
* Transportation is still an issue.
* A volunteer, Bob Patterson comes about once a month to work on scooters and other items.

**Discussion Notes:**

Cindy inquired about the process relating to BTC’s equipment in the homes, as there is nowhere to return it. Jimmy stated the equipment could be brought back to other centers to be inventoried in or it could be kept in use by the family until they hear otherwise. Storage at other centers was discussed. Rachael offered to store the equipment at CDPTVC until decisions are made. KATS will pay for the shipping cost.

Jimmy shared that the volunteer for CDPTVC, Bob Patterson also travels down near EnTech and may be able to look at any power chairs needing repairs at that center. Jimmy will get contact information for Bob.

Dave referenced pg 17 of the meeting book, specifically how the training statistics are tabulated by metro versus non metro areas and what those numbers actually represent.

Rick asked for an update on the APH grant that was being submitted for the centers to receive some equipment. Jimmy stated 3 grant proposals were submitted. The grants did not get funded.

**KATLC- Dave**

* Rate change approved by LRC, but not in effect yet.
* Vehicle or vehicle modification loan amounts were increased from $25,000 to $50,000.

**Discussion Notes:**

Jerry inquired about the rates. Dave explained current interest rate is 4.75, but that rate will adjust according to prime rate. In response to Todd’s question; Dave shared that charge-offs and recalls are not as big of an issue as they have been in the past due to not making as many loans.

**Protection & Advocacy - Camille**

* Currently reviewing the Michelle P. Waiver application for CMS.
* Kentucky is launching its ABLE Act on 12/13/16. The ABLE Act is a savings account for persons with disabilities. This allows them to save up to $14,000 for disability-related expenses, without affecting Medicaid or SSI benefits.
* P & A started their 2017 priorities. These can be seen at [www.KYPA.net](http://www.KYPA.net).
* Gearing up for the 2017 General Assembly session; following bills that impact individuals with disabilities in KY. Information will be on the P&A website. Camille is trying to put them on Facebook, also.

**Discussion Notes:**

In response to Rick’s inquiry, Camille shared information on how KY’s accounts will go through the brokerage accounts that OH is using.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Carol**

* Rehab Tech branch is fully staffed still.
* Spending is a little down from this time last year.

**KY Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Row**

* TAP program has slowed down as far as people applying for equipment.
* Anyone who needs an amplified phone, CapTel phones, iPhones, or iPads, please let KCDHH know.
* Serving more speech-impaired people, doing outreach.
* Have some low vision apps.
* We have placed videophones in some prisons.
* Working to develop training for law enforcement and others to deal with deaf and hard of hearing in either driving pullover situations or on the street.
* Applications are down.

**Open Discussion from the Advisory Council:**

* Digital media accessibility within Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, statewide.
* Carol will be looking at the rest of the Cabinets, as part of her duties as ADA Coordinator.
* In response to Kat’s concerns on understanding what is or is not accessible; Carol suggested a short demonstration at the next meeting.
* Several council members shared their experiences with different programs.
* Dave announced 874K is February 22, 2017 at the capital. The rally is from

1:00 pm-2:00 pm.

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

**Location: Redwood, 71 Orphanage Rd., Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017**

**Date: March 3, 2017**

**Time: 9:00 am**

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

**Location:**

**Date:**

**Time:**

**Adjournment:**

Carol motioned to adjourn and Rick seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.