



Advisory Council Meeting

September 7, 2022

David R Benson Research and Demonstration Farm,
Kentucky State University

1525 Mills Lane

Frankfort, KY

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KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Information:

Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Eastern Time

Place: David R Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, Kentucky State University, 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort KY

Agenda:

- I. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions of Attendees (Mindy McGirt)
- II. Approval of the Minutes from June 9, 2022 (Motion to approve, Mindy McGirt)
- III. Old Business:
 - a. Project CARAT Paducah closure – Lisa Staub
- IV. New Business:
 - a. Updates of KATS Network Activities:
 - i. Updates of KATS Coordinating Center –
 1. Review of state plan – Carol Weber
 2. Opening of new ATRC in Hazard – Carol Weber
 3. New roles in coordinating center – Carol Weber
 4. Program updates – Lisa Staub, Jimmy Brown
 5. Social media – Alex Ingram
 6. Invoicing portal for ATRCs – Ryan Creech
 - ii. Updates on Regional AT Resource Centers/Project CARAT Sites
 1. enTECH (Alison Amshoff), HDI-CATS (Christina Bard), Redwood (Betsy Eiserman), Wendell-Foster (Jana Billingsley), Carl D Perkins (Darrin Breeding), Hazard (Pat Kitzman), CARAT Bowling Green (CAL – BG) (Lisa Staub)
 - b. Updates on ACL Public Health Grant – Lisa Staub

- c. KATS Advisory Board Committees
 - i. Strategic Planning/State Plan for Assistive Technology – Suhas Kulkarni, Alison Amshoff, Carol Weber, Lisa Staub
 - ii. Assistive Technology Conference Planning – Lisa Staub, Mindy McGirt, Jessica Endler Smith, Lisa McKeown, Andre Ryssemus, Jana Billingsley, Carol Weber, Jimmy Brown, Christina Espinosa-Bard
 - iii. Nominating Committee – Samantha Farthing, Lisa McKeown, Kevin McCormack, Nicole Maher, Bill Titus
 - iv. Program Marketing/Awareness – Mindy McGirt
 - v. Socialization Committee – Kevin McCormack
- d. Updates from Agency Representatives (OVR, IL, Education, KWIB, KCDHH, CCDD)
- v. Open discussion from Advisory Council (Mindy McGirt)
- vi. Announcements (Mindy McGirt)
- vii. Future meeting dates and locations
 - a. Thursday, December 8, 2022 - enTECH
 - b. March 2023
 - c. June 2023
 - d. September 2023
- viii. Adjournment (Mindy McGirt calls for motion to close, once motion made, call is made to second and meeting adjourned)

KATS Council Members:

State Agency Representatives

- KY OVR – Andre Ryssemus, Andre.RYSSEMUS@ky.gov;
- State Independent Living – Lisa McKeown, lmckeown@calky.org;
- Workforce KWIB – Suhas Kulkarni, suhas@suhaskulkarni.com;
- Education Cabinet – Kevin McCormack, kevin.mccormack@ksb.kyschools.us;
- KCDHH – Jessica Endler, jessica.endler@ky.gov;
- DD Council – Nicole Maher, Nicole.Maher@ky.gov

Representatives of Individuals with Disabilities / AT users

- Bill Titus – billtitus1@gmail.com;
- Samantha Farthing, samanthia.farthing@ky.gov;
- Gerry Gordon Brown – gordonbrowng@bellsouth.net;
- Mindy McGirt – mcgirts@gmail.com;
- Nancy Perry – njperry80@msn.com;
- Joe Cowan – joe.cowan@kctcs.edu
- Melanie Peskoe – mpeskoe@afb.org

Acronyms of State & Federal Agencies

- ACL - Administration for Community Living
- ADA - American with Disabilities Act
- AFP - Alternative Financing Program
- AIT - Kentucky Accessible Information Technology Act
- AT - Assistive Technology
- AT3 - Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance & Training Center
- AT4ALL - Assistive Technology for All on line Inventory System
- AT ACT - Assistive Technology Act of 1998
- ATAP - Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
- ATIA - Assistive Technology Industry Association
- ATP - Assistive Technology Practitioner
- ATRC - Assistive Technology Resource Centers
- CARAT - Coordinating and Assisting the Re-use of Assistive Technology
- CC - Coordinating Center - KATS Network
- COT - Commonwealth Office for Technology
- CDD - The Council on Developmental Disabilities
- CDPVTC - Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

- CMS - Case Management System
- CCDD - Council on Developmental Disabilities
- CPE - Council on Postsecondary Education
- DME - Durable Medical Equipment
- DoD - Department of Defense
- DOL - Department of Labor
- DWI – Department for Workforce Investment
- enTECH - Enabling Technologies of Kentuckiana
- EKOS - Employ Kentucky Operating System
- ESPDT - Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment
- HAVA - Help America Vote Act
- HDI-CATS –Human Development Institute-Center for AT services
- HHS – U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
- HRSA – Health Resources and Services Administration
- ICFMR - Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded
- IEP - Individualized Education Plan
- ILC - Independent Living Centers

KATS Network Advisory Council Minutes

Date: June 9, 2022

Time: 9:37 AM, Eastern Time

Place: McDowell Center Auditorium and Zoom

Welcome & Introductions – Kevin McCormick

Advisory Council Members

In person: Kevin McCormack, Mindy McGirt, Nancy Perry, Bill Titus, Jessica Endler Smith, Suhas Kulkarni, Lisa McKeown, Andre Ryssemus

Virtual: Samantha Farthing

KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC/CARAT Staff

In person: Joe McCombs, Alison Amshoff (enTECH), Peggy Farmer, Betsy Eiserman, Julie Roell (Redwood), Cindy Huston, Jana Billingsley, Sandy Hayden (Wendell Foster), Carol Weber, Lisa Staub, Jimmy Brown, Alyssa Whitis (KATS)

Virtual: Christina Espinosa-Bard (HDI-CATS); Pat Kitzman (Hazard)

Absent: Darrin Breeding (Carl Perkins),

Others in Attendance

In person: Tracy Lundergan (Captioning and CARAT Services), Chelsea Naugle, Tara Eversole (ASL Interpreters)

Approval of Minutes from Past Meeting(s)

Suhas Kulkarni motioned for approval of the March 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Lisa McKeown provided a second. Motion carried.

Old Business:

ACL Public Health Grant – Lisa Staub

Met with representatives at Northern Kentucky Health Department to pursue working on accessible documents, websites, and videos. They expressed interest but didn't have manpower to provide staff to work with accessibility expert so they would be able to carry it over. They get a lot of the information on their website from the state, and these tables were not accessible. We created a recording as an example of how an individual who is blind would get this information from the website and contacted Dr. Stack with the Kentucky Department for Public Health. He was very interested and put us in contact with representatives from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Secretary Friedlander, who is over this cabinet is committed to making the information put out by that cabinet accessible. First meeting was on May 31st. Waiting to hear back from them as to how we can move forward.

New Business:

KATS Advisory Board Committee Reports

- Strategic Planning/State Plan for Assistive Technology – Suhas Kulkarni
 - Suhas encouraged others to join this committee. First step will be to clarify the mission for KATS. Need to identify our customers and suppliers, inputs, outputs, and operationally what we need to be doing. If we create a document that mirrors the state plan as a strategic document plan it will make for better alignment.
- Assistive Technology Conference Planning – Lisa Staub
 - The conference will be September 7th, 8th, and 9th in Frankfort. The Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30, and then the conference will follow that afternoon and continue all day Thursday and Friday morning. Lisa will send out the registration form when it is available, and it will be on the website.
- Nominating Committee – Samantha Farthing

- All members whose terms were expiring have submitted documentation to serve another term, along with new applications to serve as representatives of individuals with a disability who use AT and we are waiting on approval. Discussed other agencies involvement including the Bluegrass Council for the Blind, an agency that represented people who are amputees, representation from people who have psychological disabilities and more diversity in general. We want to be sure that our members who represent individuals who have disabilities who use AT represent different demographics beyond our own state agencies. A questionnaire is now available to send out to KATS members to gain more information on their involvement and expertise areas.
- Program Marketing/Awareness – Mindy McGirt
 - This group has not met, but Mindy will help to set up a meeting. Current members are Mindy, Peggy Farmer and Joe McCombs

Updates of KATS Network Activities

Updates from ATRCs:

enTECH – Alison Amshoff

- Continues to work with Jefferson County Public Schools. enTECH participates in a transition program for individuals between 18 and 21 years of age to be able to work with assistive technology. Identified individuals to take part in a pilot study along with occupational therapy and doctoral students. Worked with a third grader from a local school that needed access to curriculum, utilizing a Chromebook and a head mouse to allow him to be more independent with less help from his assistant and his nurse. Able to get this mounted so he can travel around the school and be independent with his schoolwork. Introduced an app so the classroom teacher can quickly take a picture of the worksheet that they're doing in the classroom, and he can write on that worksheet in his Chromebook and submit it with the other

students. Worked with a child aging out of First Steps to provide an Eye Gaze to communicate with his family.

HDI-CATS – Christina Espinosa-Bard

- Trying to catch up on drop off DME, defining which products and equipment to accept, entering all items and looking at ways to redistribute some of the equipment that has been there for a while. Wanted to brainstorm ideas for re-disseminating or re-distributing any of the equipment, especially the pediatric equipment, that we've accumulated. HDI-CATS is hoping to coordinate some sort of community use of their HubScrub, as they realize that a lot of people need things to be sanitized and pressure cleaned. May try to have a day during the summer that people can drop things off to be cleaned.

Redwood – Peggy Farmer, Betsy Eiserman and Julie Roell

- Peggy shared one reutilization was a collaboration with the KATS Coordinating Center. A 65-year-old man had trouble with mobility and contacted CARAT through the website. At the same time a family in Northern Kentucky wanted to donate a scooter which needed a new battery. They purchased the battery for the scooter and delivered it to Redwood. Coordinating Center staff delivered it to him in Louisville. He was able to use his scooter to take the bus to get to the grocery, get his medications, and go to the clinic. He said, "I just want you to know what a life-changing experience it was for me. I can once again go when and where I want. I can't thank you enough, God bless."
- Redwood demonstrated two items:
Betsy reports that Redwood had a trial of the Obi Robotic Feeder and is trying it with a lot of clients. One client has submitted for one through her insurance and plans to start using it at Redwood and then transport it back and forth. The feeder has several compartments and allows the individual to independently select which item they would like to eat. They use one switch

to move through the choices to select and one to scoops and delivers to the height that was adjusted for their mouth.

Julie demonstrated Envision Glasses which hook up like a pair of glasses with a speaker. They have a screen so if you are visually impaired instead of blind, you can still see the screen. It interfaces with your phone to allow you to call people. The glasses can tell you what is in front of you and around you, scan money, so you can get the correct bill to the correct people. They memorize people so you can use them to identify people. They can attach through Bluetooth to a speaker so you can hear what the person wearing them is hearing, which is very helpful if you are training somebody to use them.

Wendell Foster – Cindy Huston

- Shared a success story: A 59-year-old leg amputee from Hardin County fell and injured his residual limb and needed a way to access areas with steps in his home while he healed from reconstructive surgery. He borrowed an eight-foot ramp which allowed him to access the dining room to participate in meals and family gatherings and gave him the opportunity to prepare his own meals. Once he was healed, he was able to use a walker with a prosthesis again to gain access to these areas.
- Glenmore Distillery in Owensboro donated a communication board for use in Wendell Foster's Sensory Park. The board is about 50 inches wide and 13 inches high. It is mounted at playgrounds, double sided, and has playground vocabulary using symbols and words, so all of the people that they serve will be able to utilize it.
- Using remaining KATS funds, were able to replace quite a few pieces of equipment, update the new and improved version of some of the communication devices, the TrackerPro head mouse. Purchased a new laptop for demo with the head mouse and the Eye Gaze. Purchased a KidWalk gait trainer to replace one that was not returned. Very grateful to the KATS Network for the funding to purchase new equipment.

Carl D Perkins – Lisa Staub

- Darrin reported that they have been busy picking up and delivering DME. Dalton, who works with him there, is now just working 20 hours a week and he's been doing the updates on their AT page and posting to Facebook. Darrin notes that reuse continues to be their driving force.

Updates of KATS Coordinating Center – Lisa Staub and Carol Weber

- Carol reported that the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation is still not able to provide funding. Looking at how we can still make assistive technology affordable and available to people in Kentucky. Talking with the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation, the alternative financing corporation for Pennsylvania. They are submitting a grant for funding to provide interest free micro loans, \$7,000 and under, to individuals with disabilities in the whole Appalachian region. In Pennsylvania they serve as their own bank. In Kentucky we partner with a bank, but do not have a bank partner, despite multiple RFPs to find a bank partner. Kentucky continues to pursue this, and there will continue to be a great need as the Pennsylvania fund is only \$7,000 and under. Another state financing activity that we are going to be supporting is a maker space that will allow us to make assistive technology.

Pat Kitzman reported on the maker space that they are establishing in Hazard. Over the course of the last six months they have also received various foundation fundings for 3D laser printing. Working with KATS on providing services for anyone across Kentucky to adapt whatever you need and collaborating with Toyota on a maker space concept that can be used directly to adapt and create assistive technology.

Lisa reported on public awareness that was shared through a video for AT Awareness Day. At the same time all the state AT Act programs were asked to contact federal representatives and discuss the AT Act. This video was shared in an e-mail that was sent out to the legislative directors for our representatives and it really captured the attention of many. Carol and Lisa had a Zoom meeting with Sarah Coffman, the legislative director for

Congressman Comer. Also met with Seana Cranston, the legislative director for Congressman Massie, who was also able to participate in the call. Heard back from the legislative director for Congressman Brett Guthrie, who is in Wendell Foster's area and hopefully they can make a visit there. All were invited to visit our ATRCs. Jimmy met with Congressman Yarmuth in Jefferson County years ago. Congressman Yarmuth demonstrated support through signing on to the letter supporting the AT Act.

Jimmy reported on the technical assistance that has been provided over the last several months. Much of this revolves around accessibility issues with websites and documents, including work with KYStats. This has a web portal that they are setting up that secondary ed students who are getting ready to graduate and move on to postsecondary can use to find statistics on different majors, colleges that provide those majors, salary ranges, and qualifications. Testing was done with different screen readers, and they were provided with feedback on that system to improve the accessibility, so everybody has equal access. Worked on accessibility testing of Citizen Connect, Business Connect and Staff Connect online portals that are being set up with the Department of Workforce Investment. Able to provide a lot of feedback on color graphics, color charts and pie charts, along with information on improving the accessibility of the visuals so that individuals with color contrast deficiencies were able to better get that information. Reached out to the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet and the U.S. Department of Labor on forms specific to FMLA that our Personnel Cabinet provides for state employees that weren't accessible to those individuals, and they were very receptive, and made changes. Worked with the Education Cabinet and the Governor's office on accessible scholarship. Will continue to work with Vocational Rehabilitation and the KATS Network to ensure accessibility of documentation and forms.

Project CARAT sites

CARAT Paducah, Hazard – Lisa Staub, Patrick Kitman

- Lisa shared story from Ashley with the Center for Accessible Living (CAL) in Bowling Green on a ten-foot suitcase ramp loaned to a consumer in Henderson, Kentucky. The family had been having a hard time finding a ramp

available in their area and drove to Bowling Green to pick up the ramp. The ramp was used to allow a man recently diagnosed with ALS to enjoy the rest of his life, in the words of his brother. He is now able to enter and leave his home without more than one individual assisting him, and to go outside with his family, enjoy his time outdoors and socialize with his neighbors.

- Pat reports that they have outgrown their space at the Center of Excellence in Rural Health in Hazard and are moving into an even larger space at the center to allow growth. Contacted in April by Spectrum News after a national news story had broken about the supply chain problems and the ability to get DME to people and the absolute importance of refurbishing program. They went to Hazard and met with one of the physical therapy student coordinators. Keisha shared the link for that video. It continues to be an exceptional need. They have an amazing community advisory committee that includes the Chamber of Commerce, the fiscal court, and the area development district, who have been helping get the word out to promote the program and find more efficient ways to get equipment in and equipment out the door.

State Agency Representatives

- Kentucky OVR, Andre Ryssemus – in the process of the official merger with Department of Labor. Carol Weber added there is a new entry level assistive technology specialist position open in the Paducah area.
- State Independent Living, Lisa McKeown - Agency has reorganized over the last couple of years. Melanie Piazza is their Executive Director. They are revamping a lot of their programs and working on outreach. Created a partnership in the Bowling Green office with the CARAT site. Each of the offices will have an ADA celebration in July. In the Louisville office it will be July 28th from 11:00 to 2:00. The mayor will read a proclamation and they will serve snacks
- Workforce KWIB, Suhas Kulkarni - From the workforce perspective, apart from equal opportunity, there is an economic imperative that we need to

have as many folks as possible, not just achieving their full potential, there is a lot of the support from the workforce side to enable accommodation and technologies because there is the need for qualified workforce. He suggests a linkage between open jobs or what employers feel they need and what we as a network start to cater to induce employers to create more assistive or accommodative technologies, which then we can fulfill. His objective is to aim for this alignment.

- Education Cabinet, Kevin McKormack - students are out for the summer, while a lot of teachers will be working. Starting the AT Lending Library at the School for the Blind to allow teachers throughout the state to borrow technology for students who are blind or visually impaired to see if it will work for them. Many of the items were donated by the KSB Charitable Foundation.
- KCDHH, Jessica Endler - working on changing all their phone equipment across the state of Kentucky and hiring a new person, O.J. Disney. He is a Telecommunications Program Specialist who will take over for the phone equipment so Jessica can focus on the telecommunications program. Another focus is the Emerging Leaders Program with educators and the workforce cabinet which has been an incredible experience for people who haven't gotten into the college experience and involves networking with a lot of different people throughout the state. Working with voc rehab to create a guide for employers so they would be more apt to hire deaf and hard of hearing individuals within their companies. Plan to market via a job fair and at the Deaf Festival in Danville. Hope that Tara will be a point of contact to handle this. Hope to share through the Commission's website. Going to partner with someone in the Cabinet for Economic Development and pull in a lot of different companies
- DD Council, Nicole Maher - Looking for a new Executive Director for the council. The job posting has not gone out but asked members to send qualified, interested candidates. Also looking for someone for their council who has a developmental disability, and/or a parent of someone who has a

disability. Targeted disparity for the next five-year plan is rural, they have changed the system in which they are doing grants and are doing requests for proposals. Just closed out some and will be doing those throughout the year as money comes available or when different needs come up. Opportunity to partner with some AT centers especially those that are serving rural areas to do different things.

Open Discussion from Advisory Council

- Nicole Maher described a program called Partners in Policymaking, an internationally recognized program. It is an eight-month program that started with the council in Minnesota and meets once a month for a weekend or for two days. They liken it to getting your master's degree in disabilities. Covers everything from education, history, work settings, how to engage in meetings. Have speakers from both national and state perspectives. They are opening applications for the program starting in September. This is for people who have a developmental disability and/or are a parent. Brings the graduates back together for a mini conference each year to build a network of empowered advocates to make change in Kentucky.
- Lisa McKeown reported that all the Independent Living Centers are working on different reopening protocols through COVID. Doing combination hybrid and in-person services. Focus on social media and TikTok videos to poke a little fun at disability etiquette.
- Nancy Perry asked if there were any videos in production for hospital or medical settings with high turnover to help staff who need to assist deaf individuals.
- Lisa Staub responded that KATS is pursuing ways to help to make health information accessible on websites, videos and documents, but was not aware of any videos being created at this time
- Nancy Perry asked for information on an accessible place where people of any age to get together to see and learn about different technology.

- Carol Weber discussed the AT grant Act grant agency in Indiana. Their AT workshop focused on end users and covered things like what Nancy mentioned including different types of technologies and funding for them. Not something that was done in Kentucky before, but we do have groups that have come together like the Stroke Survivors Camp through KARRN.
- Pat Kitzman helped run this and reported to be in the process of figuring out next steps of how to reengage everybody after COVID. Planned to hold at Elkhorn State Park to totally reengage the eastern Kentucky Stroke Warriors Group.
- Lisa McKeown suggested demonstrations at the Center for Independent Living or holding a training course related to the consumers.
- Nancy Perry described experience from Michigan working with children with a large variety of disabilities that came to a three-day retreat. There were presentations, demonstrations, and children playing with the technology. The camp was for deaf and hard of hearing and hearing blind individuals and low vision who all share their equipment. They brought equipment for low vision and other technology. Noted the individuals were really uplifted, and they know what's out there, know what's available. Nancy would like to see that in Kentucky.
- Nicole Maher asked how that would be different than the AT Conference that is held. What is the vision, the difference between a retreat or a conference?
- Jessica Endler Smith described a conference as more to educate, but for an end user it could be more of utilizing the equipment, testing it out, and it's a more relaxed environment. With deaf and hard of hearing children, at the Deaf Olympics, Special Olympics, they have different sports and people get together and a feel of comradery to all be there together that's better than a conference. The Kentucky Lions Camp, and various camps for people that bring technology to those camps, so they can play with it and then they can maybe go home and tell their parents about it, would be a really good resource for them.

- Jimmy Brown added that it would be more like a hands-on experience with the actual technology. Reflecting on the Indiana AT Act program, he described one of the things that they did in the past was like an AT road show. Maybe once a quarter they would have different partners that they work with like Independent Living Centers and other community rehab providers. They would travel the state and set up items for people to look at and they would have a different topic each quarter. One quarter may be specific to visually impaired equipment, one might be towards deaf and hard of hearing equipment, one might be towards mobility type equipment, and they would just bring a multitude of devices and show like the feeder feeding arm and the glasses and the different things like that where people could get hands on what all different types of technology is out there. This might be something that KATS could investigate. We have the centers that provide the demonstrations where people can always go and see the equipment, but I think if we go to the people more and go outside of that, as Nancy is saying, people will travel to go to places. She's been to other states to see these things, why can't we do these things in Kentucky where people within our own state are able to see that equipment? They can also kind of steer what equipment we're showing because they can provide feedback as to what they are learning new things, but they also know things that maybe we're not as aware of and they can share those for KATS to look at expanding out as well.
- Suhas Kulkarni agreed and suggested a lot of the assistive technology being discussed is also needed by the elderly. He mentioned a possible collaboration with the Thrive Center in Louisville and offered to try and make a connection with them. Also suggests we try to collaborate with research areas of UK and U of L as well as the local hospitals like Norton's University and Baptist and would like to try to collaborate. Feels an awareness campaign to get more and more people involved should be undertaken.
- Lisa McKeown suggests collaboration is the key. Talked about the initial diagnosis of a disability, the coping process and the importance of a peer

support network or collaboration group, Helpful to communicate with somebody that's going through what you're going through whether it be young person or elderly person. Important for us to look at ways to increase public awareness, as there are lots of resources available for the disability community, but you either have to know somebody or know somebody with a disability or have a disability to be aware of it.

- Jessica Endler Smith mentioned the Kentucky Hands and Voices organization for the parents of children of deaf and hard of hearing kids which has a program called Deaf and Hard of Hearing Superheroes. The program has an adult who has already experienced deafness and technology and they mentor that child, and so it's kind of like the Big Brothers, Big Sisters concept. It would be interesting if we could set up something similar with other disabilities.
- Nancy Perry suggested a local place with different activities like hiking, that can provide food, as sometimes if someone has disability they might stay home and not actually be physically active. Could encourage them to come and teach them the technology to have them actively involved, which can be uplifting, and can keep them more social.
- Alison Amshoff suggested talking to places like Fahrenheit Camp Courageous Kids, that already have a structure in place and focus on different needs each weekend, and then have KATS or technology centers be a part of this to exhibit different pieces of technology while the families are there. The families like to get together, talk through experiences, learn from each other, but then also you could have the assistive technology there to highlight and have things to try while people are outdoors.
- Kevin McCormack suggested these ideas could possibly go under a socialization type committee made a motion to create a socialization committee and requested a second
- Nicole Maher seconded the motion
- Kevin McCormack reported that we now have a socialization committee. Anyone interested can email Kevin or Lisa Staub to get it started.

- Suhas Kulkarni asked whether there is representation for learning disabilities. Noted there are a lot of people who have varying degrees of learning disabilities. Discussed research on overwhelming number of people who were incarcerated could not read and could not go to school. They were socially ostracized and consequently they followed the path, which they naturally do, which got them into jail. A significant number of people that fall into this category. Our education is not very adept at addressing these problems, and he wondered whether there is need or whether anyone here is already catering to learning disabilities as a way of fulfilling one's potential as well as leading a meaningful life and to serve the workforce.
- Andre Ryssemus suggested therapeutic recreation departments summer programs and camps for people with disabilities which ranges from young to adults might be the angle to investigate as well.
- Nancy Perry noted that many of the camps are very full in the summer and that Michigan purposefully pushes programs out into the fall or early spring to make more spots available for people with other disabilities to attend, enjoy, learn and be educated and be able to touch equipment and interact with each other and use the equipment.

Announcements

- Kevin McCormack offered devices called book ports. These were made 10, 15 years ago and older than that as well, and given to the Lending Library at the School for the Blind but nobody requested them because they have a lot of new technology, that is more in demand. The book ports are still usable, and basically like iPods or the MP3 players but with no screen. Will play music and books on it. Relatively easy to load and use
- Lisa Staub also offered equipment from McDowell for anyone to look at after the meeting
- Peggy Farmer offered non-latex, powder free gloves that Redwood received from a large Amazon donation
- Next council meeting dates:

- Wednesday September 7, 2022
 - Time: 9:30 am-11:30 pm, Eastern Standard Time
 - Location: Kentucky State University Farm in Frankfort. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the AT Conference.
- Thursday December 8, 2022 - enTECH
- March 2023

Adjournment: 11:25 PM

Motion called by Kevin and Mindy provided the second for the motion.

KATS Coordinating Center Update

Statewide Programs Updates

April 1 – June 30, 2022

- Continuing development of AT Demo/Loan lab at the McDowell Center.
 - It will be a couple of years before renovations can be completed in the demo apartment, so we are developing a list of equipment that can be purchased and installed for loan and demo in the current space.
- KATS Network Committees began meeting
 - Strategic Planning Committee
 - Nominating Committee
- Reviewed and submitted new applications for new KATS Network Board Members
- Completed and submitted state plan
 - Includes identifying and addressing financial errors from 2018

Reuse - Project CARAT Program Update

- In this period across all sites, CARAT managed 639 items valued at: \$311,972 were given out through reuse.
- In addition to regular reuse activities, coordinated the donation of PPE from Amazon when they closed their testing facilities.
- Received calls, emails, and website messages from 173 people regarding Project CARAT during this time.
- Lisa also received calls from 66 people regarding donations to the CARAT program.

State Financing Activities:

- Provided PAT(F) with a letter of support.
- Developed contract with UK ATAC to provide support to Makerspace.
- Received 47 phone and email messages regarding donations to our SHARP Program or need for assistance with hearing aids. Provide assistance with hearing aid repair.

ACL Grant

- Met with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to discuss options for ACL grant

ATRC Contracts

- Completed contracts for 5 ATRC's:
 - Redwood
 - Wendell Foster
 - enTech
 - UK CATS – Lexington
 - UK ATAC - Hazard

Public Awareness Activities

- ATRCs provided 33 public awareness activities during the quarter, reaching approximately 18,001 individuals.
 - 2 internet events
 - 23 social media/blog events
 - 8 presentation/conference events.
- Coordinated with ATRCs, AT Branch, and KATS Network board members to produce an AT Awareness Day video on assistive technology.
- Coordinated an interview between a council member and OVR staff member for later publication.
- Met with federal government representatives to discuss AT and the KATS Network.
 - Sarah Coffman (rep for James Comer)
 - Seana Cranston and Congressman Massie
- Jimmy Brown sent daily email to OVR staff in celebration of GAAD during the week of May 16-20

Technical Assistance

- Provide ongoing weekly 508 testing and follow-up meetings with Kentucky Department of Workforce Investment and developers from Deloitte

Consulting regarding web portal being developed for jobseekers, employers, and DWI front-end staff (Career Connect, Business Connect, Staff Connect).

- Participated in a planning meeting with Toyota employees and other interested parties to discuss new GoBabyGo initiative for KY.
- The Redwood ATRC provided technical assistance regarding ADA design requirements for a commercial space.

Training

- Work continued on the planning for the AT Workshop.
 - Transition training: working to provide trainings for professionals on transition topics at the AT Workshop.
- (Transition) Met with Megan Brown (job coach with Options Unlimited) and her consumer (soon to be high school graduate) to provide information on how AT, and the KATS Network, can assist as the student transitions from high school.
- (Transition) Carol presented for group of students with the Options Unlimited Summer Program on the KATS Network.
- ATRCs offered four training events during the time period, reaching staff from First Steps, Middle School, Physical Therapists, and Speech and Language Pathologists.

Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

FFY 2022 Quarterly Narrative Report

Reporting period: April 2022 to June 2022

Summary of Assistive Technology Services provided during the Quarter Reporting Period:

During this quarter, assistive technology services provided include: consultations, reutilization, information and assistance, short term loans of equipment and delivery/ pickup of devices. Services were provided by Site Coordinator, Darrin Breeding and Dalton West, Adecco staff assistant.

Summary of State Level and Leadership Activities provided during the Reporting Period:

Device Reutilization

Anecdotal Story: Device Reutilization remains our most used service. We have accepted, cleaned, refurbished and returned numerous pieces of medical equipment to individuals in need.

Device Loan

Anecdotal Story: Our ramp program is very successful. Individuals in need are using this program and our ramps are usually always out on loan.

Device Demonstration

Anecdotal Story: Reuse items are demonstrated as necessary to individuals who need refurbished DME. We currently have very few Assistive Technology Devices available for loan and do not receive requests for these items.

Training

Anecdotal Story: No trainings requested or offered this quarter.

Public Awareness

Anecdotal Story: We continue to place information on Facebook. Dalton fields several calls weekly based upon these posts.

Information and Assistance

Anecdotal Story: We continue to deliver and pick up items as possible. Due to Dalton becoming part-time and only working 20 hours per week we have focused on local delivery and pick up.

Additional Information or Activities

No additional information available at this time.

AT Services related to Selection/Acquisition of Equipment during the First Quarter Reporting Period:

- a) Reutilization: 14 items distributed to **14** individuals; valued at; \$3080.00
- b) Device Loans: **8** items loaned to **8** borrowers
- c) Device Demos: **15** demonstrations provided to **15** participants
- d) Training Participants: **0** participants across **0** events
- e) Information & Assistance: **25** individuals reached
- f) Public Awareness: estimated **1000** individuals reached

Barriers/Obstacles during the reporting period, if any:

COVID 19 continues to be a barrier. In my opinion, people are hesitant to donate items because of fear they may need devices in the future, or are afraid of being exposed to COVID. Dalton West has elected to move to a part time position, which limits travel of long distances.

Enabling Technologies (enTECH)

KATS Network Assistive Technology Resource Center

3rd Quarterly FFY 2022 Narrative Report

Reporting period: April 2022 to June 2022

1. Summary of Assistive Technology Services provided during the Quarter Reporting Period:

During the quarter enTECH conducted Assistive Technology assessments/evaluations, consultations, and demonstrations for individuals from 18 months to 70 years of age. enTECH provided assessments and AT services to individuals ages 1-21 in various settings including natural settings in school districts across the state of Kentucky. enTECH continues to educate students in the OTD program at Spalding University on AT-related across the lifespan. Many serve as community living support for all ages. Below is a summary of State Leadership Activities provided during the reporting period.

April 2022

- SLP completed (16) speech-generating device therapy sessions in April
- enTECH returned 8 (AT) items with MSRPs valued at over \$6967.00.00 including a Rifton Activity Cahir and Mini-pacer
- Presented 28 AT demos of switches adaptive toys. Learning, Cognition, Development
- enTECH continues to work with Anchorage Schools and conducted (3) vision training sessions in April, and (3) VIPS sessions.
- Project CARAT donated 32 items in April valued at \$2555.00

May 2022

- SLP completed (4) AAC evaluations in May.
- Alison Amshoff & Lauren Brown, SLP hosted students from the University of Louisville (Spring Semester)
- enTECH completed (5) vision training sessions and (2) VIPS sessions at Anchorage Schools in the month of May

- Presented 16 AT demos of switches adaptive toys. Learning, Cognition, Development
- Project CARAT donated 67 items valued at \$9410.00 (primarily ADL items) including a Quantum Powerchair

June 2022

- enTECH consistently has 30 AT items on loan to Anchorage Schools and 60 to 65 loaned to families with children participating in First Steps programming.
- Presented 21 AT demos of switches adaptive toys. Learning, Cognition, Development
- enTECH returned (31) AT loans valued at \$4333.00.00 in June, primarily switches and adaptive toys, as well as communication, cognition, and development.
- Alison Amshoff & Lauren Brown, SLP hosted students from the University of Louisville (Spring Semester)
- Project CARAT donated 88 items valued at \$4422.00 several items were briefs and most ADL items.

2. AT Services related to Selection/Acquisition of Equipment during the Third

Quarter Reporting Period:

- a. Device Demonstrations – 67
- b. Device Loans – 39
- c. Reuse – 1,188
- d. Public Awareness Est. reached – 18, 409
- e. Information and Assistance – 3,204
- f. Training – Participants, 0

3. Barriers/Obstacles during the reporting period, if any:

enTECH is actively seeking additional resources to acquire ramps, as they remain to be a frequently requested item by consumers.

4. Additional Information, if any:

Following internal Covid-19 protocol of reduced capacity, ASOT student volunteer hours to Project CARAT and our open to the community lab on Wednesdays continue to be suspended until further notice.

HDI CATS

FFY 2022 Quarterly Narrative Report

Reporting period: 04/01/22-06/30/22

Summary of Assistive Technology Services provided during the Reporting Period:

During this period, HDI CATS was open to consumers for dropping off CARAT items, picking up loan and CARAT items, and returning loan items. We also provided in house training, assistance, and information. We loaned several pieces of pediatric equipment to First Steps. Services to children and adults were provided by Christina Espinosa Bard, David Flechler, and Joan Hager.

Highlight of Activities provided during the Reporting Period:

April 2022

- Loaned 18 items through the lending library to 11 consumers
- Distributed 78 CARAT items to 25 consumers with a total MSRP of \$15,308.60
- Provided information and assistance to 82 consumers
 - Assisted parent and child with adaptive toys and AT for CVI
 - Dave replaced casters on wheelchair for a consumer
 - Dave replaced batteries provided by consumer in powerchair
- Hosted the 4th Thursday ADA Talk
- Live training and tour to Pediatric Residents
- Tour to University of Kentucky College of Education Students
- Referred consumer to Ryan Guyder with IPKY and Let's Roll KY
- Referred 1 consumer to other ATRC

May 2022

- Loaned 37 items through the lending library to 23 consumers
- Distributed 55 CARAT items to 31 consumers with a total MSRP of \$52,976.57
- Provided information and assistance to 50 consumers
- Hosted 4th Thursday ADA Talk

June 2022

- Loaned 20 items through lending library to 14 consumers
- Distributed 90 CARAT items to 36 consumers with a total MSRP of \$23,646.62
- Provided information and assistance to 129 consumers
 - Dave adjusted a pediatric wheelchair for a consumer
- Hosted 4th Thursday ADA Talk
- Live training and tour to Pediatric Residents

Direct AT Services provided during Reporting Period:

- a. Device Demonstrations – 1 Participants; 1 Demonstrations
- b. Device Loans – 75 Items loaned to 48 Individuals
- c. Reuse – 223 Items distributed to 92 individuals, valued at \$91,931.79
- d. Information and Assistance – Estimated number reached: 261
- e. Training – Participants, 7 Events

Barriers/Obstacles during reporting period, if any:

Still limited on space, especially for larger items (hospital beds, stair lifts)

Additional Information, if any:

Donated several pediatric wheelchairs to Herbert Henry of Live by the Edge By Example of Louisville. This is an organization that sponsors and supports adaptive sports.

Delivered walkers and disposable items to Rose Terrace Nursing Home in Nicholasville Kentucky.

Redwood ATRC

FFY 2022 Quarterly Narrative Report

Reporting period: April, 2022 to June, 2022

Summary of Assistive Technology Services provided during the Quarter Reporting Period:

During the third quarter, Redwood ATRC continued to see steady donations of equipment, which were quickly connected to individuals for reutilization. One individual sent a note that stated "This will make such a difference in my life. God bless you and the program that makes it possible to improve lives of Kentuckians." To continue being innovative and updated, the ATRC purchased several new items for the library, including a We Walk Smart Cane, a Quha Zono 2 wireless head mouse, an iPad mini and case, Apple Pencil, and Grid 3. These pieces of equipment will allow our ATRC to introduce individuals to new technologies that are available.

Summary of State Level and Leadership Activities provided during the Reporting Period:

Device Reutilization

On June 20, the ATRC was contacted by a woman who has Multiple Sclerosis and was having difficulty walking. She was afraid that she was going to fall if she continued to walk without some support. The ATRC was able to provide a cane from our reutilization program. The lady sent a note that said, "I can't thank you enough!! This will make such a difference in my life. God bless you and the program that makes it possible to improve lives of Kentuckians."

Device Loan

On May 31, an SLP on our AT Team facilitated a family in getting a rental communication device for a 4-year old client with Down Syndrome. He will trial a NovaChat8 with WordPower42 for several weeks before requesting funding from his insurance to provide him with a communication device of his own. The SLP

customized the rental device to have vocabulary relevant to the client for home, Redwood, and the community. The SLP met with the client's mother and nanny to demonstrate how to operate the device and provide strategies for carry over across environments. After a few weeks of using the rental device, his mother recently reported that he is using the NovaChat8 frequently at home and has started putting together multiple word phrases/sentences using his communication device.

Device Demonstration

A client at Redwood has a communication device which was being abandoned by him and his family. The client is not able to communicate verbally, but indicates his answers to yes/no questions using his eye movement. The ATRC reached out to the representative from the company to work with the staff and the client to determine the reasons for his resistance to using the device. During the representative's visit, the client was shown a variety of functions of the communication device that were not related to communication. For example, the device could be used to control smart devices in his home, to access the internet, music, and songs, and to play games. The client enjoyed being able to use the device to access Alexa on an Echo Show to find out the weather and to hear jokes. He was interested in being able to select preferred music while in his program room. By learning how to use the device for recreation and leisure, it is hoped that he will find value in building his skills and speed and decrease the likelihood of device abandonment.

Training

On June 14, a panel from Redwood went to University of Cincinnati to present to a group of forty-three Master's degree students in the Speech Language Pathology program. The panel included the ATRC librarian, the ATRC Innovation Coordinator, two Redwood speech language pathologists, an occupational therapist, and the therapy director. The topic of the training was Team Collaboration from Assessment Through Implementation of AAC. The panel covered assessment of various ages in multiple locations and how a team would feature match following the assessment to ensure the appropriate device was implemented. The students were engaged during the presentation and asked a number of questions. Some of the students remained after the presentation to ask more questions and to try some of the AAC devices with different input methods.

Public Awareness

On June 23, members of the Redwood ATRC team met with Rob Seideman and Brianne Wilkerson from May We Help to discuss both of our programs. May We Help a non-profit located in Cincinnati which provides custom solutions for individuals with disabilities. They have an equipment reutilization program for wheelchairs, seating systems, and adapted equipment, in addition to a team of volunteers who create adapted solutions for identified areas of need. Rob and Bri were given a tour of the ATRC and Redwood so that they could better understand our program. We discussed the ways in which we can work collaboratively to provide reuse equipment to families and individuals. The ATRC will refer individuals to May We Help if they need equipment that is unavailable through KATS. May We Help will refer individuals to the ATRC as well.

Information and Assistance

The Redwood ATRC was able to provide information and assistance to 1,983 individuals during the third quarter. One of the communications stands out because it involved providing information to multiple individuals who work with one of our clients. The adult client has been observed to chew on his hand several times daily. Prompting the client to refrain from chewing did not deter him from continuing the action. Unfortunately, the chewing has led to injury to his hand. By researching several different options that would not restrain movement in his hand, while still protecting the surface from his chewing, it was possible for the ATRC to inform his program staff and parent of the options so that they were able to determine which solution would be best for the client.

Additional Information or Activities

The Redwood ATRC was the fortunate beneficiary of a large donation of gloves and masks from Amazon. The donation included a total of 14 pallets of items which were able to be used in all of the Redwood program areas, including the ATRC. Due to the size of the donation, the ATRC was able to share a large number of items with community agencies and other non-profit organizations. Not only did this donation save Redwood approximately \$80,000 in cost for necessary materials, it allowed Redwood to build new relationships in the community and deepen its connections with other agencies.

AT Services related to Selection/Acquisition of Equipment during the First Quarter Reporting Period:

- a) Reutilization: **80** items distributed to **36** individuals; valued at; \$130,235.30
- b) Device Loans: **97** items loaned to **51** borrowers
- c) Device Demos: **10** demonstrations provided to **33** participants
- d) Training Participants: **44** participants across **1** events
- e) Information & Assistance: **1983** individuals reached
- f) Public Awareness: estimated **52** individuals reached

Barriers/Obstacles during the reporting period, if any:

NA

Wendell Foster Technology & Resource Center

FFY 2022 Quarterly Narrative Report

Reporting period: April 2022 to June 2022

Summary of Assistive Technology Services provided during the Quarter Reporting Period:

Services provided during this period include information & assistance, short-term loans, device demonstrations, reuse, training & public awareness.

Summary of State Level and Leadership Activities provided during the Reporting Period:

Device Reutilization

Anecdotal Story: A 54-year old consumer from Daviess County who had suffered a stroke needed a replacement power chair when his suddenly stopped working. We reused a Quantum 6 Edge power chair that was similar to what he had. He was thankful to have an immediate solution that allowed him to continue being independent.

Device Loan

Anecdotal Story: Head Start program in Daviess County needed a temporary seating solution for an 11-month old child in a body cast. The school was able to borrow a Jenx Atom hi/low chair while the child healed from her injuries.

Device Demonstration

Anecdotal Story: An 88-year old consumer from Daviess County who has macular degeneration needed a magnifier to make print easier to read at home and while shopping. AT staff demoed the Ruby handheld magnifier, Pebble handheld magnifier, Enhanced Vision Acrobat desktop magnifier, and Enhanced Vision desktop magnifier. The consumer reported a significant difference in reading print with all devices but preferred the screen size on the Ruby and the swivel arm on the

Acrobat. She is trialing these two items at home before making a decision on purchase.

Training

Anecdotal Story: Collaborated with Target Medical representative to provide training on Ormesa equipment and Easy Stand Bantam for our Physical Therapy department.

Public Awareness

Anecdotal Story: Recognized AT Awareness Day by sharing a video about our center on Wendell Foster's social media accounts. We also highlighted the five ATP's employed by Wendell Foster, which includes two Speech Language Pathologists, two Occupational Therapists, one Physical Therapist, and one ATRC staff.

Information and Assistance

Anecdotal Story: Created and printed a 3D picture symbol for a Speech Language Pathologist to use with an individual who has a vision impairment.

Additional Information or Activities

- Community Involvement:

AT Director organizes monthly Aktion Club meeting and project. Aktion Club is a service leadership club for adults with developmental disabilities sponsored by Kiwanis of Owensboro.

AT Director participates in the local Penguin Project, a theater program for youth with developmental disabilities.

AT Director plans outreach activities for families who have a child with a developmental disability.

All of these activities provide opportunities to share about AT and general resources to support those with disabilities in our community.

KATS Network Advisory Council Proxy Designation Form

By means of this form, I authorize the person named below to vote on my behalf at the next scheduled Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network Advisory Council meeting and on matters announced before those meetings and/or included on the agendas for those meetings. This proxy designation is only valid for the next scheduled meeting (as determined by the date signed below). This proxy designation will expire at the conclusion of that meeting.

Council Member Name:

Entity Represented (if any):

Proxy Name:

Proxy Email Address:

Council Member Signature:

Date:

Please send completed form to:

Lisa Staub
Program Coordinator
KATS Network
lisa.staub@ky.gov

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8020 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite 100, Florence, KY 41042

ACAT Hazard

UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health

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Carl D. Perkins Training Vocational Center

(606) 788-7080

5659 Main St., Thelma, KY 41260

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812 S. Second St. Louisville, KY 40203

HDI-CATS

(859) 218-7979

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Redwood

(800) 728-9807

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Wendell Foster Regional AT Center

(800) 209-6202

815 Triplett St. Owensboro, KY 42303

Notes

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