## Minutes of KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting

June 11, 2020 9:30a - 12:30p Zoom

##### Welcome & Roll Call

The council meeting was called to order at by Jimmy Brown, serving as Chair.

##### Advisory Council Members

Melissa Aguilar, Rick Boggess, , Jessica Endler, Samanthia Farthing, Lisa McKeown, Nicole Maher, Lee Muncy, Duke Pettit Andre Ryssemus, Winter Renfrow, and Bill Titus.

##### KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC Staff

Jimmy Brown, Elizabeth Thompson, Darrin Breeding, Joe McCombs, Christina Espinosa-Bard, Peggy Farmer, Lisa Staub, Jana Billingsley, and Cindy Huston.

##### Others in attendance

Jennifer Withrow, Program Policy & Support Branch Manager (OVR);

Kari Shipp, Resource Management Analyst (OVR); Emmaleigh Barnes, Grants Specialist (OVR)

and Camille Collins-Dean, Federal Program Specialist (P&A).

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

Approval of meeting minutes from March 14, 2019 and March 24, 2020 meeting were approved.

##### Discussion Notes:

The KATS Coordinator shared information on council participation for the benefit of all members, including duties for the recently expired terms of the co-chairs. Jimmy called for co-chair nominations. Lisa McKeown was nominated, seconded and approved to represent Statewide Agencies. Bill Titus was nominated, seconded and approved to represent Individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology. Welcome to the new co-chairs.

Several subcommittees were created, with the council members below agreeing to serve:

Nominating Committee members are Nicole and Winter.

AT Conference Planning Committee consists of Christina, Andre, and Duke.

Strategic Planning/ State Plan for AT Committee members are Lisa and Winter.

Program Marketing/Awareness Committee volunteers are Melissa and Samanthia.

##### Updates from ATRCs:

 Representatives for each center reviewed the site’s individual report submitted for last quarter.

##### enTECH- Joe McCombs

The AT lab has new AT workstations that provide better accessibility. Students from U of L continue to work with Alison Amshoff. The Metro Disabilities Group has monthly meetings at enTECH. Our KITE program has extended services to older children who are graduates of the program.

Project CARAT services have not reopened yet. Spalding is moving towards how to bring folks back to campus.

##### Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center - Darrin Breeding

Everyone at the center went out in March, due to the Corona virus. We lost our assistant to another department. Darrin will start recruiting for the position soon when work picks back up. We have provided some curbside deliveries during the pandemic. Project CARAT stock is low at this time, making contacts for pickups.

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##### HDI-CATS –Christina Espinoza-Bard

Reutilization has slowed down and our site is open to meet with CARAT consumers by appointment only. Joan Hagar and Dave Fletcher are both working at center. We are not receiving DME items yet, although we are working to get back to that. The 4th Thursday program continues to be provided. Staff has kept busy making tip sheets and doing small organization.

##### Redwood – Peggy Farmer

We received PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and staffed once again at the end of April. Our loans for First Steps have continued. We are hoping some therapists may be able to come in to get equipment. Lisa demoed some communication devices and helped to make device loans. A loan to Owen County School District (gait trainer) was the first to them in over a year. Lisa provided training on a communication app to his community-directed options person. We increased reutilizations of DME. The center applied for grant through Paycor and received $2300 for adult day equipment. We are looking to do an AT onboarding program and are expanding around Northern Kentucky. Redwood just had its 67th birthday!

##### WKATC – Cindy Huston

We have continued to provide services, now open by appointment only. Practicing healthy at work guidelines

##### KATS Coordinating Center updates - Jimmy

Jimmy provided a review of the 2020 Statewide AT Conference held on June 2-4. This was held as a virtual event due to COVID-19. There were 205 individuals registered over five sessions. Eighty attendants received CRC credits with ten other attendees receiving RESNA credits. The sessions are archived and available for viewing by anyone who would like to watch them. Ryan Creech, one of OVR’s Assistive Technologists put together the online portal. One success mentioned is a tab used at the top of each page for each person to customize his or her individual accessibility features. We learned what worked and what did not work in this virtual realm. This will help us plan future events. Several regional sites have asked if they could have an online session with Ryan to start online trainings and other offerings.

Our new KATS contracts start July 1, without many changes.

At March meeting, Jimmy announced Sheila Levy, the Program Coordinator for Project CARAT has moved to Georgia. The hiring process is underway, with the position moving from contract to a state position.

For the Program Quarterly Data, please refer to kats.net.org site for all data and financial review.

Jimmy gave an update on the Reeve Grant, known as My New KY Smart Home. KATS has submitted a request for a 3-month extension in light of the Corona virus interrupting planned services. The 6-month update for the project went to the foundation at the end of May. We are hoping to purchase more equipment in the next month. Work is in progress for the website to provide information on the equipment loaner program to provide instruction, training, and problem solving.

##### FFY 2019 Data Review – Jimmy

Please see: <https://www.katsnet.org/ffy2019/>

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##### Program Updates:

##### P&A- Camille

Camille reviewed the document ‘Know Your Rights in a Hospital Setting’, a video on absentee voting, and a video on supported decision-making.

P&A is conducting virtual monitoring of two hundred sites across the state.

##### OVR & Rehab Tech Branch- Andre

Our programs are mostly status quo at this time. The latest information is only vendors can do services with healthy at work practices. The ATs are not allowed to conducted services face to face. Therefore, we are utilizing virtual realm to assess/training and can even remote in to work with a consumer’s computer.

##### KCDHH- Jessica

Our office is still closed and we are not allowing walk-ins at this time. The numbers are down due to doctor office closures. We have about two thousand people on the KCDHH FB page.

##### CCDD – Nicole

The council is facing a financial conundrum due to the impacts of Corona. This year we will concentrate on graduates to give them a leadership role and graduate projects. We are accepting applications for fall of 2021. Currently, we are working with HDI on transportation project and will provide information as it becomes available, link follows: <https://transportation.hdiuky.org>.

##### Education- Lee

A brief update on the status of services was provided.

##### CAL / IL - Lisa

The centers have received funds. Currently, no ramps are being built although we are still taking applications. With Jan Day’s recent retirement, Susan Tharp has been hired as our new director. We also had an office person retire.

##### Workforce Development -Melissa

We have lots of information on county unemployment data. Please see the website that follows: <https://kystats.ky.gov/>

##### Open discussion from Advisory Council-

Nicole Maher- mentioned being on so many national calls and brings forward the AT needs for rural areas and what we can do. Working with KATS will be important to help meet that need.

Council is writing new 5-year plan, hoping to get AT into the hands of self-advocates. Winter shared the difficulty of internet connections in rural areas.

Lisa McKeown mentioned CAL using funds for COVID-19 to support people.

##### Announcements/New Business—None reported

##### Future council meeting request and date/s:

Jimmy asked for each AT center to prepare a spotlight video, Powerpoint, or some sort of a virtual brochure to share in future meetings. EnTECH volunteered to be ready for the month of September. Cindy volunteered WKATC for the month of December.

##### Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Date: September 23, 2020

Time: 9:30 am-12:30 pm EST

##### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:38 am, with Rick motioning and Lisa providing second.