# Minutes of KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting

September 23, 2020   
Zoom   
Louisville, KY

## Welcome & Roll Call

The council meeting was called to order at 9:30 am Lisa McKeown, Co-Chair.

## Advisory Council Members

Melissa Aguilar, Rick Boggess, David Dennis, Jessica Endler, Samanthia Farthing, Gerry Gordon Brown, Lisa McKeown, Nicole Maher, Lee Muncy, Winter Renfrow, Andre Ryssemus, Bill Titus

KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC Staff

Jimmy Brown, Elizabeth Thompson, Michael Karman, Darrin Breeding, Joe McCombs, Christina Espinosa-Bard, Peggy Farmer, Lisa Staub, Keisha Hudson, Jana Billingsley, Cindy Huston

## Advisory Council Members not in attendance

Duke Pettit

## Others in attendance

Jennifer Withrow, Policy & Procedure Branch Manager (OVR), Skylar Millay (intern),

Patrick Kitzman (UK Project CARAT-Hazard)

## Approval of Minutes from past meeting (s)

Approval of meeting minutes from June 11, 2020- Rick motioned for approval; motion seconded

### Discussion Notes: None

Updates from ATRCs: 5 regional ATRC centers

### EnTECH by Joe McCombs

* Limited information to report.
* No Project CARAT, Open Lab or loans in April or May.
* On June 1st resumed with limited capacity AT loans
* Speech Therapist, Allison Amshoff completed an increased number of AAC evaluations.
* Business has picked up and is much better than it has been in quite some time.
* Just Serve volunteers assisted with pickup of a power wheel chair.

### HDI-CATS by Christina Espinoza-Bard

* Continued to do loans pickup and drop off curbside during April and May. In June, we started taking items back in.
* Items purchased for lending library.
* Monthly ADA Talk virtual trainings continued.
* Developed virtual presentation and training for OVR and another agency.
* Recently, our Hubscrub has not been functioning properly.
* Dave Fletcher has been doing work on power chairs. He is retiring at the end of the year.
* After 2 years, we are set up and will now be working with First Steps.

### Redwood by Peggy

* Similar experience as other centers with shut down.
* Curbside no contact equipment return process.
* Set up demonstration area outside of building and continued to do demonstrations using our outside patio area.
* Continuing to accept donations in good condition, with donations picking up.
* Sixty-eight loans to First Steps and Ramp Up had one loan during this period.
* Redwood is only allowing clients and staff in the building.

### WFTRC by Cindy Huston

* Wendell Foster has an Intermediate Care Center with over 60 residents, so we continued utilizing loans to those consumers.
* First Steps equipment has been slow due to equipment in homes.
* Purchased some equipment with remaining budgeted funds
* Recently moved into a new, larger space at Wendell Foster, the former PT area.
* We applied for an Impact 100 grant to purchase a Hubscrub. We were chosen as a finalist for that grant and will find out 10/2 if awarded.
* We have been purging and doing a virtual reuse, got rid of around 60 pieces of equipment.

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

* April and May were slow, was able to pick up some items and removed 17 items.
* In May or June, got contract signed for Perkins Center and OVR KATS, before there was no contract; plan to meet to decide how to spend funding.
* July and August is much better.
* Prior to the pandemic, we were getting started with First Steps

### Paducah –None available

Michael shared information on Paducah CARAT’s struggle to locate space for the program.

Hazard by Keisha Hudson

* Shut down in middle of March, through April and May.
* In June, we started curbside pick-up once a week
* Pikeville Medical Center donated several wheelchairs.
* We have only four wheelchair ramps in stock, doing okay with returns.
* Working with KY Home Place to build permanent ramps.
* We received a Sustainability grant through UK.
* Trainings in October with new students
* Plan to use some of grant funding to secure additional storage space to store items.

### Discussion Notes:

Darrin shared that Advance Auto stores has assisted his center with battery purchases at a discount.

## Coordinating Center updates

Jimmy provided the introduction and welcome to Michael Karman, our new Project CARAT Coordinator.

### Project CARAT – Michael

* In this period, and despite COVID 19 limitations, CARAT managed 245 items, redistributed to 98 recipients, valued at: $66,682.00
* During this period, the Program Coordinator position was vacant.
* August 1, 2020 start date for Program Coordinator.
* Pressing needs are property issues in Paducah and Lexington.
* Growing partnerships with United Way of KY and Statewide 211, Just Serve (international nonprofit), Supplies over Seas (SOS), and Just Serve KY
* Working to enhance collaboration across all CARAT sites utilizing IM platform, “Slack”.
* Looking towards creating an annual CARAT signature event to publicize our efforts.
* Exploring new funding opportunities, such as grants and Medicaid opportunities.

Creation of sub-committees- Jimmy

Nominating Committee- Members Nicole and Winter will be tasked with reviewing applications for new members and making suggestions to the council for new members.

AT Conference Planning Committee- Andre, Duke and Christina will be tasked with assisting in the planning of the AT conference, sharing connections, and to suggest trainings.

Strategic Planning/ State Plan for AT Committee- Lisa and Winter will be helping grow Project CARAT.

Program Marketing/Awareness Committee- Melissa and Sam to help with marketing Project CARAT.

For the next meeting in December, the committees will go into breakout sessions then provide a report back to the full KATS council.

Reeve Grant- “My New Kentucky Smart Home” update provided, including a review of the lending library of loaner items. All loans will originate from the KATS Coordinating Center. Grant period once the loans go active, is one year. Will have roughly 60 kits going out across the state, with the same basic items.

RampUP- Update provided. Elizabeth will assist with follow up on overdue loaner ramps.

SHARP Program- This program is currently on hold as our partner program, Starkey is not accepting applications. The last batch of donated hearing aids was sent in for credit to help on the repair part of the program. This part of the program will also cease during this time. KATS is still collecting donated hearing aids to send to Starkey once services reopen.

KATS Network Quarterly Data- Jimmy provided an overview of the information. For additional details, to see the report copy and paste the following link onto your browser: <https://www.katsnet.org/ffy2020_qtr_2/>.

AT Locator Website- Nebraska will be rolling out a new AT Locator website starting October 1 for Kentucky’s updated site. Jimmy demonstrated the screen and provided the link at4all new redesign at <https://www.at4all.com/>.

### Discussion:

Lisa inquired about receiving information on kits and application process for the Smart Home project.

Rick asked about the Reeve’s project website link. Jimmy provided additional information.

Rick inquired about the use of the 800 numbers for the centers and if it is still cost-effective with changes in phone services over the years. Jimmy will investigate this topic further.

## Program Updates:

### P&A- No update available

### KATLC- No update available

### OVR – Andre

Staff are still telecommuting. We are now starting to serve category 4 for services non-significant disability. There are 10 consumers on the Category 4 waiting list, will be served starting October 1.

### Rehab Tech Branch- Andre

Still taking referrals, with no person-to-person contact. Internet access is sometimes an issue.

All Assistive Technology staff still seeing people virtually, sending equipment out or calling to pick up.

### KCDHH- Jessica

We are closed to visitors working from home is very different. We are still accepting applications for the telecommunications program. A coordinator was recently hired (Jessica), started in this role on August 1. We recently finished a 6-month waiting list to give away equipment. We have also received a grant to provide clarity masks for interpreters, teachers of DHH, audiologists, etc. This is mainly focused on schoolchildren first then doctors and audiologists.

### CCDD – None available

CAL / IL – Lisa

Lots going on remotely! CAL created a meal service program with the Masonic Home to provide meals to seniors. CAL and DIAL are working to help people get to drive through COVID testing via Medicaid services or using local CARES funding. We had many activities for the celebration of ADA. Our YES Youth Program is going well w/16 schools participating via Zoom. Louisville has a new Administrative assistant, Erica Dejay.

Workforce Development –Melissa

Governor issued an Executive Order in July to create a new Educational Workforce Collaborative with 19 partners who will be working together on multiple initiatives. One of the biggest initiatives was an effort called Benefit Cliff Analysis as well as a Self-Sustainability Analysis both are now complete. Hope to demo them to everyone. These are a prototype through December, would like feedback. Resource Mapping Effort is looking at all federal and state dollars coming in to KY (done in November as a draft). Trying to rethink and reimagine how to provide services and giving services.

Melissa provided these links to attendees in the chat box of the meeting:

* From  MELISSA AGUILAR - KY : Collaborative Information: <http://web.sos.ky.gov/execjournalimages/2020-MISC-2020-0551-268390.pdf>
* From  MELISSA AGUILAR - KY : Family Resource Simulator: <http://frs.nccp.org/tools/frs/>
* From  MELISSA AGUILAR - KY : Self Sustainability and Basic Needs Calculator: <http://frs.nccp.org/tools/frs/budget.php>

Education- Lee

We are working with the 171 school districts to get students served virtually or in-person, including work with other state agencies to determine those without ‘last mile’ internet access. Working on RFPs to provide internet access for those students. Working with KSB (Kentucky School for the Blind) and KSD (Kentucky School for the Deaf) to refurbish and refresh AT, primarily laptops, iPads, Chromebooks.

ATRC Spotlight by Joe McCombs

Louisville’s own enTECH/Project CARAT provided a history of enTECH presentation, see link below: [https://youtu.be/FJSUy07gqGc](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__youtu.be_FJSUy07gqGc&d=DwMFAg&c=jvUANN7rYqzaQJvTqI-69lgi41yDEZ3CXTgIEaHlx7c&r=m0l-i7M6vuYM_i7P6AaYE9Qp80Y22FvfP8EKUQTWEBY&m=i9TOBoMcT-Le4YnS1OBB9DVHYx4vu5miM21sjCgs1js&s=9ZUUEvfypNI-7oRGC7vIKxpbZvI1hyQ-alfQaRY2NEg&e=).

WKATRC in Owensboro will provide the next virtual presentation at our December meeting.

## Open discussion from Advisory Council-

Lisa asked what a Hub Scrub is and how it works.

## Announcements/New Business—

Rick shared the Kentucky Talking Book library has recently piloted an E-reader and looking at distributing braille materials electronically. Rich has trialed one and thinks it looks promising.

Rick also shared a couple of resource options for people you can call for assistance. Aria is a subscription service that allows visually impaired people to use their smartphones to assist with completing visual tasks to simplify daily life. Anyone can call for first minutes a day free. All Walgreens, AT& T, Target, and Meijer stores are free through the end of 2020. The first 20 minutes at Walmart will be free. Andre provided this link to Aira, <https://aira.io/>. There is also the Be My Eyes Program staffed with people who are volunteers, be cautious with those.

## Next council meeting date:

### Tentative future council meeting date/s:

Location: Zoom (link to be sent)   
Date: December 15, 2020  
Time: 9:30 am-12:30 pm EST

## Adjournment

Rick moved to adjourn, with Jerry providing the second. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.