



# Advisory Council Meeting

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***Mission Statement:*** *The KATS Network's Mission is to make assistive technology (AT) information, devices, and services accessible to Kentuckians with disabilities.*

***Vision Statement:*** *All Kentuckians with disabilities have the assistive technology they need to maximize their dependence and reach their highest potential.*

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**December 10, 2025**

**The Center for Accessible Living  
501 East Broadway, Suite 310  
Louisville, KY 40202**

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# Agenda | KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting

## Meeting Information:

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**Date:** Wednesday, December 10, 2025

**Time:** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Place:** The Center for Accessible Living, 501 East Broadway, Suite 310, Louisville, KY 40202

## Agenda:

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- I. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions of Attendees
- II. Approval of the Minutes from September 10, 2025
- III. New Business:
  - a. Updates of KATS Network Activities:
    - i. Updates of KATS Coordinating Center
    - ii. Updates on Regional AT Resource Centers/Project CARAT Sites
      1. ACAT Hazard
      2. HDI-CATS
      3. Easterseals Redwood
      4. Wendell Foster
      5. CALTech
      6. Carl D Perkins-Project CARAT
  - b. Updates from Agency Representatives
    - i. OVR
    - ii. IL
    - iii. Education
    - iv. KWIB
    - v. KCDHH
    - vi. CCDD

- IV. Open discussion from Advisory Council
- V. Announcements
  - a. Tour of CAL following the meeting
- VI. Future meeting dates and Locations
  - a. Wednesday, March 11th, 2026, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET, Location **Easterseals Redwood**
  - b. Wednesday, June 10th, 2026, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET, Location TBD
  - c. Wednesday, September 9th, 2026, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET, Location TBD
  - d. Wednesday, December 9th, 2026, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET, Location **HDI-CATS**
  - e. Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET, Location **Wendell Foster**
- VII. Adjournment

# KATS Council Members:

## State Agency Representatives

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- KY OVR – Andre Ryssemus, [Andre.RYSSEMUS@ky.gov](mailto:Andre.RYSSEMUS@ky.gov);
- State Independent Living – David Allgood, [dallgood@calky.org](mailto:dallgood@calky.org);
- Workforce KWIB – Suhas Kulkarni, [suhas@suhaskulkarni.com](mailto:suhas@suhaskulkarni.com);
- Education Cabinet – Kevin McCormack, [kevin.mccormack@ksb.kyschools.us](mailto:kevin.mccormack@ksb.kyschools.us);
- KCDHH – Jessica Endler, [jessica.endler@ky.gov](mailto:jessica.endler@ky.gov);
- DD Council – Nicole Maher, [Nicole.Maher@ky.gov](mailto:Nicole.Maher@ky.gov)
- AATLF- Sarah Richardson, [sarahf.richardson@ky.gov](mailto:sarahf.richardson@ky.gov)

## Representatives of Individuals with Disabilities / AT users

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- Gerry Gordon Brown – [gordonbrowng@bellsouth.net](mailto:gordonbrowng@bellsouth.net);
- Nancy Perry – [njperry80@gmail.com](mailto:njperry80@gmail.com);
- Melanie Peskoe – [melanie.peskoe@ky.gov](mailto:melanie.peskoe@ky.gov)
- Joe Cowan – [nawoc2002@yahoo.com](mailto:nawoc2002@yahoo.com)
- Traci Burks – [tracilburks@gmail.com](mailto:tracilburks@gmail.com)
- Brett Bachmann- [bbachmann@thehearinginstitute.org](mailto:bbachmann@thehearinginstitute.org)

## Acronyms of State & Federal Agencies

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

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
<b>CMS</b>	Case Management System
<b>CCDD</b>	Council on Developmental Disabilities
<b>CPE</b>	Council on Postsecondary Education
<b>DME</b>	Durable Medical Equipment
<b>DoD</b>	Department of Defense
<b>DOL</b>	Department of Labor
<b>DWI</b>	Department for Workforce Investment
<b>EKOS</b>	Employ Kentucky Operating System
<b>ESPD</b>	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment
<b>HAVA</b>	Help America Vote Act
<b>HDI-CATS</b>	Human Development Institute-Center for AT services
<b>HHS</b>	U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
<b>HRSA</b>	Health Resources and Services Administration
<b>ICF/ID</b>	Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with Intellectual disability
<b>IEP</b>	Individualized Education Plan
<b>ILC</b>	Independent Living Centers
<b>KAMC</b>	Kentucky Accessible Materials Consortium
<b>KAMD</b>	KY Accessible Materials Database
<b>KATL</b>	The Kentucky Assistive Technology Locator
<b>KATLC</b>	The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation
<b>KATS</b>	The Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
<b>KCDHH</b>	Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
<b>KCHIP</b>	Kentucky Children's Insurance Program
<b>KDDC/ DD COUNCIL</b>	The Kentucky Developmental Disabilities Council
<b>KDE</b>	Kentucky Department of Education
<b>KIB</b>	Kentucky Industries for the Blind
<b>KMHA</b>	Kentucky Mental Health Association
<b>KSHA</b>	Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association
<b>KWIB</b>	Kentucky Workforce Investment Board
<b>MARC</b>	Microsoft Accessibility Resource Centers
<b>NCF</b>	National Cristina Foundation
<b>NCTI</b>	The National Center for Technology Innovation
<b>NISAT</b>	National Information System for Assistive Technology (ATAP)
<b>ODEP</b>	Office of Disability Employment Policy (U.S.)
<b>OET</b>	The Kentucky Office of Employment and Training
<b>OVR</b>	The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
<b>P &amp; A</b>	Protection and Advocacy
<b>PRE ETS</b>	Pre-Employment Transition Services
<b>RESNA</b>	Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America
<b>RSA</b>	The Rehabilitation Services Administration (U.S.)
<b>SGA</b>	Substantial Gainful Activity
<b>SILC</b>	Statewide Independent Living Council

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
<b>TARC</b>	Transit Authority of River City (Louisville/ Southern IN.)
<b>UK-IHDI</b>	The Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute
<b>WFTRC</b>	Wendell Foster Technology & Resource Center
<b>WIB</b>	Workforce Investment Board
<b>WIOA</b>	Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act

# KATS Network Advisory Council Minutes

**Date:** September 10, 2025

**Time:** 10 AM – 12 PM, Eastern Time

**Place:** Charles McDowell Center – Louisville, KY

## Welcome & Introductions

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Joe Cowan, the meeting Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that all attendees turn their cameras on. He asked all speakers to introduce themselves before speaking so the captioner could accurately record who was speaking.

## Advisory Council Members

Name	Attendance	Notes
Joe Cowan	Present	Chair - virtual
Jessica Endler Smith	Present	In person
Samanthia Farthing	Present	virtual
Nancy Perry	Present	In person
Traci Burks	Present	Virtual
Brett Bachmann	Present	First part of meeting - virtual
David Allgood	Present	In person
Nicole Maher	Present	Virtual
Sarah Richardson	Present	Virtual
Kevin McCormack	Present	In person
Andre Ryssemus	Present	In person - Arrived after roll call
Gerry Gordon Brown	Present	In Person Arrived later in the meeting (during Lisa Staub's update)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Melanie Peskoe</b>	Absent	In the same building; could be called for voting
<b>Suhas Kulkarni</b>	Absent	Traveling out of the country

### **KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC/CARAT Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Lisa Staub</b>	KATS Coordinating Center	Present	In person
<b>Carol Weber</b>	KATS Coordinating Center	Present	In person
<b>Brandi Roberts</b>	Easterseals Redwood	Present	Virtual
<b>Keisha Wells</b>	ACAT Hazard	Present (Initially)	Virtual Not present for full meeting
<b>Christina Espinosa</b>	HDI CATS	Present	virtual
<b>Chris Mattingly</b>	CALTech	Present	In person
<b>Darrin Breeding</b>	Carl Perkins	Present	virtual
<b>Betsy Eiserman</b>	Easterseals Redwood	Present	In person Arrived later due to traffic
<b>Pat Kitzman</b>	ACAT Hazard	Absent	N/A
<b>Crystal Hignite</b>	ACAT Hazard	Absent	N/A
<b>Cindy Huston</b>	Wendell Foster	Present	virtual Reported mic/camera issues
<b>Kassandra Hester</b>	Wendell Foster	Absent	N/A
<b>Sandy Hayden</b>	Wendell Foster	Present	virtual

Name	Organization	Attendance	Notes
Robb Caldwell	CALTech	Absent	N/A
Sierra Potter	CALTech	Absent	N/A

## Others in Attendance

Name	Role/Organization	Notes
Sam Hyman	Talking Keyboards	Presentation - virtual
Whitney Hayse	Protection & Advocacy	In person Staff Attorney (New Representative)
Tiffany Caristo	Visitor	In person

## Approval of Minutes from Past Meeting

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The minutes from the **June 11th** meeting were presented for approval.

- **Motion to Approve:** David Allgood made a motion to approve the minutes.
- **Second:** Jessica Endler Smith seconded the motion.
- **Status:** The motion was moved and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

## AT Presentation

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**Topic:** Talking Keyboards

**Presenter:** Sam Hyman, Talking Keyboards

- **Background:** Talking Keyboards has been around for about 15 years under the parent company TechSpeak (which does text-to-speech for mass transit/NASA). It was recently rebranded from the parent company about 1.5 years ago to focus on the AT device.
- **Functionality:** The device provides **real-time text-to-speech** as the user types. It features male and female voices (English/Spanish) and 30

programmable phrases/keys (F keys). It is effective for use with a cell phone or house phone by placing the speaker near the phone.

- **Models:**

- **Standard:** Wireless keyboard.
- **Large:** Wired keyboard with larger keys, strictly for low eyesight (bulky).
- **Dual:** Most popular model. Allows taking the speaker and a mini keyboard out for travel, restaurants, etc.
- **K-12 Model (New):** Developed after interest at ATIA; includes **word mode and letter mode** (Control + L toggles). It's designed as a **literacy learning tool** for nonverbal children, aiding literacy and skill development.

- **Pricing/Availability:** The standard model is **\$600** (much more affordable than alternatives like the \$6,000 Prentke Romich devices mentioned by the Montana AT program in a marketing video). Sold on Amazon Prime and Rehab Mart Direct.

- **Q&A Highlights:**

- **Muteness/Inability to Speak:** Users can type, and the device will speak their words.
- **Deaf-Blind:** The device is **keyboard agnostic**. Users can purchase a specialized keyboard (like a braille or left/right-hand keyboard) and pair it with the speaker unit; Talking Keyboards will provide pairing instructions.
- **Power:** It is **rechargeable (USB)** and lasts like an iPhone (all day). For 24/7 use cases (e.g., call centers), they can arrange for two speakers and one keyboard to be cycled out for charging. The keyboard itself rarely needs charging.
- **Comparison to Apps (iPhone/iPad):** The Talking Keyboard is a **hardware solution** for a large market of people, such as older postoperative patients (85-year-olds with laryngectomies), who do not want or know how to use an app. It is a "simple stupid device" without a screen, providing a tactile experience. It is a targeted niche solution, not intended to be as comprehensive as an app. It also

offers a lower-cost, quicker solution for patients (e.g., ALS) who may only need it for a short time.

- **Insurance:** The cost is **covered** by insurance, but the user must submit the receipt after the fact.
- **Discount:** Offers a **15% discount** to AT programs with code **1825**.

## New Business

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### Updates of KATS Network Activities

#### KATS Coordinating Center (Lisa Staub and Carol Weber)

##### Lisa Staub reported:

- **Fall Workshop:** Working with the Transition Services Branch on a fall workshop focused on **Assistive Technology (AT) and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre ETS)**, scheduled for October in Frankfort. It will target educators, para-educators, Pre ETS providers, school administrators, and Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab) staff.
- **ATRC Training:** Attended a Project CARAT training in Hazard and is coordinating to offer this training to all ATRC staff.
- **Council Membership:** Submitted re-approval applications for almost all current members to the Governor's office. Awaiting an application and résumé from Kelly Knopp as a potential new representative.
- **Ramp Building Program:** Restarting the program at **Holmes High School in Covington**. Provided the instructor with a list of 11 individuals in Northern Kentucky needing ramp solutions.
- **Western Kentucky Outreach:** Met with Robbie Proctor (who will be filling Andre Ryssemus's position) to discuss Paducah contacts. Will be reaching out to **Heart USA** and **Goodwill** in the Paducah area to address the loss of the Paducah reuse site.
- **Office Relocation:** KATS Coordinating Center has relocated to the **Covington office** following the closure of the Voc Rehab office in Florence.

##### Carol Weber reported:

- **Staffing:** Currently in the interviewing process to hire a replacement for Alex, with hopes of having a new person on board by the next meeting.
- **Training:** Providing training in **digital accessibility for libraries**, with another presentation scheduled for September 19th. Also scheduled to present to the Kentucky's Accessibility Employee Resource Group in November.

## Updates from ATRCs

### ACAT Hazard

- **Status:** Pat Kitzman and Crystal Hignite were unable to attend. Keisha Wells was initially present but had to drop off. No update provided.

### HDI CATS (Christina Espinosa)

- **Device Reuse/Loans (April–June):** Reutilized **308 items** to 150 unique individuals, valued at approximately **\$75,000**. Loaned **76 items** to 45 unique borrowers.
- **Volunteers:** Welcomed two new volunteers (one a former consumer, one a young adult seeking job experience) who are helping to clean, enter donations, and manage tasks.
- **Awareness:** Continues to host pediatric and PM&R residents. Has several classes lined up for AT presentations. Grateful for the regularly updated KATS Network funding guide.
- **Biggest Need:** Continual need for **ramps** (aluminum ramps aren't viable solution). Working with the city on plain language guidance and overcoming bureaucratic hurdles that prohibit local resources from helping with funding and building ramps in homes.

### Easterseals Redwood (Betsy Eiserman)

- **Staffing & Impact:** Hired an **AT Assistant (Brandie)**, leading to a significant increase in requests, reutilization, public awareness, and training.
- **ATRC Renovation:** Completed a full renovation, making the center more accessible and allowing for better display of equipment, including a small smart kitchen with adaptive cooking tools.

- **Wheelchair Repair Clinic:** Continued the monthly clinic with **Numotion (Lexington)**. Performed **86 safety checks**; one significant repair prevented injury to a participant whose wheelchair back was severely damaged.
- **Reutilization Highlight:** Adapted a donated stroller for a pediatric client, ensuring safe seating and mobility within their building.

### Wendell Foster (Cindy Huston)

- **Public Awareness:** Published a local newspaper article, "Establishing Independence," which was distributed to every home in the city and county. National speech language hearing month: Highlighted an individual with muscular dystrophy who received a **speech-generating device** to assist with operating his wheelchair, accessing his TV/computer, and communicating when fatigued (a team effort by PT, OT, and Speech therapists).
- **Device Loans:** Provided **135 device loans**. Highlighted work with the state's early intervention program (KEIS), where a child benefited from multiple loans (play pack, communication devices, adapted toys/switches) which led to KEIS purchasing several items for them.
- **Reuse Items:** Had **7 reuse items**.
- **device demonstrations:** Had 2 device demonstrations.
- **Trainings:** Held three trainings, including a virtual training on **pediatric DME** presented by the PT and OT director. It contained detailed information on gait trainer, standers, adaptive seating, and adaptive strollers.
- **IMA's:** Had **55 Information and Management Activities (IMAs)**.

### CALTech (Chris Mattingly)

- **Operations:** Continued day-to-day operations, gifting out about **36 items**. Currently experiencing a shortage of **shower chairs** and other mobility equipment; actively seeking donations.
- **Outreach:** Hired a marketing coordinator to help increase awareness. Scheduled a virtual presentation with JCPS. Outreach is growing.
- **Podcast:** Continued several episodes on accessible technology.

- **Loan Fund:** The Appalachia Loan Fund monthly meetings are concluding this month.
- **Partnerships:** Secured a contract with **Spalding University** for a student to come in (starting in January) to help with demos and educational aspects. **Robert Meehan** from National Seating & Mobility provided guidance and reviewed wheelchairs.
- **Carl D. Perkins (Darrin Breeding)**
  - **Reuse Inventory: Hospital beds** remain the most requested item; several were sent out, and a couple were received, cleaned, and stored. Continues to receive calls for walkers, canes, bedside commodes, and shower chairs, which are distributed almost as quickly as they are received.
  - **Project CARAT:** Students continue to participate, helping to clean, test, and assist with local pickups and deliveries.

## State Agency Representatives

### Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) (ANDRE RYSSEMUS)

- Mentioned AT Workshop taking place October 21-23.
- OVR is still taking referrals and applications, but they are currently in order of selection and have no priority categories open, so new applicants are going on a wait list.
- They are still purchasing and providing services to individuals who already have plans in place.
- Leadership will be meeting with LRC because they must have an update to the regulations to define priority categories correctly.
- No prediction at this time for when categories will be opened.

### Independent Living (David Allgood)

- **Accessible Events:** Partnered with organizers of **Bourbon & Beyond** and **Louder Than Life** to improve accessibility, which includes hiring an impressive inclusivity company for sensory deprivation rooms and support for veterans. Ongoing work is focused on providing more shade for individuals sensitive to heat.

- **Housing:** Continued efforts statewide on accessible and affordable housing. **Lexington's housing grant was renewed.** Louisville's HUD and Section 8 voucher process is on hold. Participated in an interim housing task force and the Kentucky Affordable Housing Coalition to stress the need for accessible affordable housing.
- **Partnership & Advocacy:** Working with the SILC, CILs, HDI, Protection & Advocacy, and the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities to demonstrate the relevance of their services and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities to the **Administration on Community Living (ACL).**
- **Printing House for the Blind:** Consulting on their new museum design to ensure accessibility for all disabilities (sensory and physical), with the goal of being the "most accessible museum in the world."
- **ADA:** Celebrated the **30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act** with open houses and panel discussions.
- **Training & Expansion:** Continuing disability sensitivity awareness training for paratransit and fixed-route drivers in Louisville. The **Center for Accessible Living (CAL)** will expand its services to an additional **49 counties.**
- **Murray, KY:** Assisted an individual in getting a secure wheelchair after losing their prosthetic in flooding. Built **five ramps** in three months. Collaborating on street crossing accessibility to ensure proper timing for mobility impairments.
- **Disability Summit:** A statewide Disability Summit will be held in Louisville on **October 16th and 17th.** Information is available at CALKY.org.

### *Education (Kevin McCormack)*

- Kevin works at the **School for the Blind.** He is disconnected from the broader Department of Education details but noted concern over the stripped-down U.S. Department of Education's effect on Kentucky.
- **COVID Funding:** Some schools were promised COVID money for facilities and have received it; others have not.
- **Current Status:** Schools are back in session, and things are overall pretty much on par with what would be expected.

### KWIB (Suhas Kulkarni)

- **Status: Suhas Kulkarni was absent. No update provided.**

### Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) (Jessica Endler Smith)

- **Equipment Distribution (TAP Program) (April–June):** Distributed 70 pieces in April, 89 in May, and zero in June. Noted an uptick in the need for **iPhones and tablets** over landlines. Waiting on commissioner approval to reorder and distribute backlogged devices.
- **Training:** Still waiting for approval from Frankfort to move forward with phone demonstrations.
- **Emergency Services:** Partnering with Emergency Management Services for radio alerts (currently on the 2nd and 3rd round of distribution); still accepting applications via their website.
- **Office Renovation:** Renovating the office's second floor and basement to establish a "deaf space" design consistent with the first floor (like Gallaudet University).

### BD Council (Nicole Maher)

- **Five-Year Plan:** Still collecting data for the public survey for their five-year plan. The link was shared in the meeting chat.
- **Disability Summit:** Will host a session at the upcoming Disability Summit in Louisville to present collected survey data and gather further input. The Council will also pay registration fees for **self-advocates** to attend the summit.
- **August Quarterly Meeting:** New Committee members and Work Leaders were selected.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** The Government Office of Accountability reached out to the Executive Director to gather feedback on how Kentucky handled natural disaster responses for people with disabilities, including public health representatives in the discussion.
- **Partners in Policymaking:** Enrollment is low for the class starting this week; attendees are encouraged to send referrals.

- **Exceptional Family Magazine:** The next copy is expected at the end of the week or the beginning of next week for distribution.

### [KATS Loan Program \(KATLC and AATLF\) \(Sarah Richardson\)](#)

- **Appalachia Assistive Technology Loan Fund (AATLF):** Hearing aids remain the number one requested item (April–June). A request for funds for loan capital is under consideration.
- **Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Fund (KATLC):** A bank is highly interested in partnering; additional documents have been submitted and are under review.

## KATS Network Advisory Council Co-Chair Voting

Lisa Staub reviewed the bylaws for the co-chair roles (one consumer/family member, one agency representative; one-year term coinciding with the fiscal year, starting October 1st).

### **Individual Representative (Consumer/Family Member)**

- **Nominee:** Joe Cowan (Nominated by David Allgood).
- **Accepted:** Yes.
- **Result:** **Joe Cowan** was approved by acclamation (All in favor said aye) to continue serving as the Individual Representative Co-chair.

### **Agency Representative**

- **Nominees:**
  1. Robbie Proctor (Nominated by Andre Ryssemus as his anticipated replacement).
  2. Jessica Endler Smith (Willing to continue serving).
- **Vote Tally** (Show of Hands):
  - Robbie Proctor: 6 votes
  - Jessica Endler Smith: 5 votes

- **Result:** Robbie Proctor was elected as the Agency Representative Co-chair. Jessica Endler Smith was thanked for her service.

## Announcements & Open Discussion

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- **New Representative:** Lisa Staub announced that **Whitney Hayse** is now representing **Protection & Advocacy**, replacing Camille Collins.

## Future Meeting Dates and Locations

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The following meeting dates (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) were confirmed:

Date	Time	Location	Notes
<b>Wednesday, December 10th (2025)</b>	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Center for Accessible Living (CAL)	501 East Broadway, Suite 310, Louisville, KY
<b>Wednesday, March 11th, 2026</b>	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<b>Easterseals Redwood</b> , Fort Mitchell	Confirmed
<b>Wednesday, June 10th, 2026</b>	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Location to be announced	N/A
<b>Wednesday, September 9th, 2026</b>	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<b>HDI-CATS</b> , Lexington	Confirmed
<b>Wednesday, December 9th, 2026</b>	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<b>Wendell Foster</b>	Tentative (pending verification)

## Contact Information Corrections

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- **Nancy Perry:** The listed MSN email address is incorrect; the correct email is a Gmail account.
- **Melanie Peskoe:** Contact information is incorrect.
- **Joe Cowan:** Contact information is incorrect.

*Action:* Lisa Staub will fix the contact information for all three individuals before the next meeting.

## Adjournment

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- Motion to Adjourn: David Allgood
- Second: Kevin McCormack
- Status: Approved by vote.

Time: 11:35 a.m.

# Assistive Technology Branch Quarterly Report

July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025

## KATS Network

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On September 10th, the KATS Network held their Advisory Council meeting at the Charles McDowell Center in Louisville, KY. In addition to the regular meeting business, Sam Hyman, with Talking Keyboards, presented information their product and offered a 15% discount to AT programs.

## State Level Activities

### Loan

298 items were loaned to 178 individuals statewide through our participating programs. An item is counted as a loan upon return of the item to the lending program site.

- 59 loans were made to assist individuals in decision-making about the purchase of AT.
- 6 loans were made to allow for training, self-education, or professional development activities.
- 108 loans were made for short-term accommodations.
- 5 loans were made to provide AT while an individual waiting for the purchase or repair of their current AT.
- Loans were made for community living, employment and education purposes.
- Types of devices loaned by federal category: Recreation, Sports, and Leisure (102), mobility, seating, positioning (83), speech/communication (21), daily living (33), computers and related (23), learning, cognition and developmental (21), Vision (10), and Environmental Adaptations (5).

HDI-CATS in Lexington loaned out the Obi Assistive Feeding Device to a young lady who lives in a group home and is studying graphic design and communications at Indiana University Southeast. She has cerebral palsy and is unable to feed herself, due to limited use of her arms and hands. She wanted to

trial the Obi before looking into purchasing one. She was able to use the Obi but struggled due to the lack of space at the table for the device. She wants to trial it again when her accommodations are better.

### Demonstration

7 Device demonstrations were reported during this quarter. During the quarter, demonstrations were made for community living and educational purposes. Participants included individuals with disabilities; family members; representatives of health, allied health, and rehab; representatives of community living; and representatives of technology. Device demonstrations were provided in the areas of speech communication; learning, cognition, and developmental; and mobility, seating and positioning.

Easterseals Redwood in Fort Mitchell works with families in the First Steps Early Intervention program. A family was in search of an activity chair to help the child focus. As the various chairs were trialed, the child grew fussy from feeling stuck in the chairs. The provider and AT assistant set up a chair and free-standing wooden therapy desk together so that the child was able to focus. When seated at the desk, the child focused on the toys and items placed in front of them. The parents and the provider said they had never seen anything like this before from the child.

### Reuse: Statewide Project CARAT Program Update

In this period across all sites, Project CARAT managed 444 reuse items valued at \$112,059.19. Devices were given out through reuse to 261 individuals. The largest category of items provided through reuse were daily living items (208); followed by mobility, seating, and positioning items (207). Seventeen items categorized as environmental adaptations were reutilized. Six items categorized as computers and related were reutilized, along with two items which fell under the recreation sports and leisure items category, two vision items, one hearing item and one learning, cognition and developmental item.

Ten items were recorded under open-ended loans in the areas of environmental adaptations; computers and related; and mobility, seating and positioning. These ten items were valued at a total estimated current purchase price of \$3,228.51.

The Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology (ACAT) reutilized an elevated toilet seat to a consumer who was returning home from a hospital stay so they could use the bathroom independently. Wendell Foster in Owensboro facilitated

the exchange of a sleep safe bed from a consumer in Owensboro to a consumer in Lexington.

### Financing Activities:

- Information on AATLF was provided in July 2025 to 24 individuals. 8 were individuals with a disability, 6 were representatives of allied health, 7 were family members, one was a rep of community living and 2 were listed as other. Thirteen of these were in response to assistance with ramps, two involved requests for hearing aid assistance, two were looking for a scooter, and two were looking for accessible vehicles. Other requests included AAC Device, windows for home, portable oxygen concentrator, and wheelchair repairs. Individuals reported their counties as: Jefferson (5); Fayette (2); Estill (1); Owen (1); Boone (1); Hardin (2); Warren (2); Christian (1); Carter (1); Johnson (1); Meade (1); Bourbon (1); Jessamine (1); Laurel (1); not reported (3).
- Information on the AATLF was provided in August 2025 to 31 individuals. 21 were individuals with a disability, 9 were family members, and one was a representative of allied health. Nineteen of these were in response to assistance with ramps/ramp repairs, while two involved requests for hearing aid assistance. Other requests included: all terrain wheelchair, computer and monitor, knee scooter, power assisted lay flat recliner, wheelchair, carrier rack for car (2), porch repairs, shower chair, mobility scooter, laptop, portable oxygen tank, replacement battery and controller for Invacare lift. Individuals reported their counties as: Jefferson (3); Kenton (1); Clark (1); Harrison (1); Jessamine (1); Warren (3); Greenup (1); Montgomery (1); Lincoln (1); Madison (2); Wayne (1); Trigg (1); Graves (1); Fayette (1); Johnson (1); Carroll (1); Christian (1); Hardin (1); Hart (1); Taylor (1); Daviess (1); Fleming (1); Bourbon (1); Hardin (1); Jackson (1); Lewis (1); Breathitt (1); Trimble (1); not reported (2).
- Information on the AATLF was provided in September 2025 to 32 individuals. 16 were individuals with a disability, 12 were family members, and 4 were reps of allied health. Twenty of these involved assistance with ramps, while three involved requests for hearing aid assistance. Other requests included: a communication device, scooter (2), power wheelchair (2); handicap van, lift chair, iPad, laptop, and generator. Individuals

reported their counties as: Jefferson (5); Fayette (1); Kenton (1); Pike (1); Madison (1); Christian (1); Hardin (1); Bourbon (1); Calloway (1); Todd (1); Hopkins (1); Knott (1); Adair (1); Franklin (1); Henderson (1); Laurel (1); Perry (1); Pendleton (1); Harlan (1); Mason (1); Pulaski (1); Franklin (1); Jessamine (1); Clark (1); Menifee (1); Metcalfe (1); Larue (1); Whitley (1).

- Easterseals Redwood was assisting a child in their therapy department. Two of the therapists and the family reached out for help to get the AAC device that had been denied through insurance. After talking with them, it was decided that an alternative funding source would be needed and ATRC staff provided information on the AATLF.

## **State Leadership Activities**

### *Public Awareness Activities*

KATS public awareness activities during the quarter reached approximately 22,348 individuals through printed materials, social media, tours, and presentations.

Staff at ACAT continued to meet with administrators and employees at St Clare UK along with community members to discuss what an expansion there would entail. They also exhibited at multiple local events and provided tours and presentations to the Kentucky School for the Deaf and Blind, along with representatives from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the University of Louisville.

HDI-CATS continues to increase their social media presence with regular posts. During July they made a post about their lending library of adaptive equipment, highlighting an adaptive tryke, gait trainer, one handed keyboard, and an Airboc adaptive mouse. This post had a reach of 15, 267.

Wendell Foster in Owensboro exhibited at 3 local events - Health & Wellness Fair, Senior Day Out, and Veterans Fair, engaging community members with hands-on demonstrations of assistive technology.

### *Information & Assistance*

- The Coordinating Center provided I&A to 356 individuals in 80 counties across the state.

- The Coordinating Center provided I&A to 107 individuals wishing to donate items. 8 individuals contacted the KATS Network regarding hearing aid donations, 14 individuals had hospital beds available for donation, and 30 calls or e-mails involved wheelchairs/transport chair/scooter donations. We continue to receive a significant number of calls and e-mails from individuals in the counties of Fayette (28) and Jefferson (31).
- Coordinating Center provided information and assistance regarding 220 individual's requests. 37 of the requests involved the need for a wheelchair or scooter or track chair. We continue to receive a significant number of calls and e-mails from residents of Fayette (28) and Jefferson (32) counties.
- Funding resources for hearing aids were provided to 7 individuals.
- Ramp access to residences continues to be a significant need. The Coordinating Center provided resource information regarding 70 ramp-related requests. Most requests involve the need for a ramp to be built, as the temporary portable ramps available through the RampUp program are not appropriate for their specific needs, and even when they are, many people require more long-term solutions. Information on loans available through AATLF and other potential resources and funding opportunities are provided to these individuals.
- The KATS Network continues to coordinate with Holmes High School in Covington. They are hoping to complete 3-4 ramp builds during their fall semester.
- A woman with Muscular Dystrophy, reached out to HDI-CATS for assistance with home modifications. She has had a significant decline in her health and is in need of a walk-in shower and wider doorways. Her home is older and is not very accessible, but she is unable to move anytime soon. They were able to provide her with resource information on the waivers that provide funding for home modifications, the AATLF loan, as well as the names of local contractors who are certified in "aging in place."
- A parent called in looking for a rental of an AAC device that Easterseals Redwood ATRC does not loan out. After talking with the parent about alternatives and possible options, it was clear the parent was feeling defeated. The parent gave the school's information during the initial conversation about what happened to the current AAC device. ATRC staff reached out to the school's resource center to see if they could help the

child out since the parent was only worried about how to handle communicating at school. The school quickly jumped in to help. The child was able to get the help they needed while their device was being repaired.

### Technical Assistance

- Jimmy Brown provided technical assistance to representatives from KY Education & Labor Cabinet regarding creation of accessible documents in preparation of the upcoming changes to Title II of the ADA
- Jimmy Brown provided technical assistance to representatives from KY Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) regarding creation of accessible documents in preparation of the upcoming changes to Title II of the ADA
- Jimmy Brown provided technical assistance to representatives from KY Worker Claims regarding creation of accessible documents in preparation of the upcoming changes to Title II of the ADA

### Training

Wendell Foster provided a virtual training for early intervention providers on AT for children ages birth - 3 years old and how to access AT resources in the state.

# ACAT

## FFY 2025 Quarterly Narrative Report

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**Reporting period:** July 2025 to September 2025

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

The ACAT team was involved in a lot of community outreach and networking, as well as expansion. We have continued to complete monthly activities with the LKLP Adult Day Program participants. ACAT hosted parents from the Kentucky School for the Deaf and Blind. During their visit, they received a tour of the center and learned about the various programs we offer. We met with employees at UK St. Claire and community members, to present on ACAT and what an expansion there would entail. We met with therapists from St. Claire and surrounding organizations in the area, to discuss expansion of ACAT to the Morehead area. ACAT hosted Compassionate Hearts Adult Day to lead an engaging activity. Each participant made a build kit that will be used by our high school Pre-ETS students in the Fall semester. Each participant also made their own activity craft. Gave a presentation on ACAT and all of our programs and provided a tour of ACAT to Sean Coady, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Program Officer Dr. Stephanie Boone, from UofL, PI on the Heart and Lung study. We participated in back to school resource fairs. We are continuing to have meetings in Morehead for the ACAT expansion and have toured potential spaces. The ACAT team had the pleasure of welcoming staff from the Kentucky School for the Blind to our center today. During their visit, they learned about our services and explored some of the assistive technologies we offer through hands-on activities. The group asked thoughtful questions and shared valuable insights throughout the visit. We presented a quick elevator speech on ACAT and had printed materials at the exhibitor table at the Kentucky Rural Telehealth Summit. Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers conference. ACAT materials provided to participants, via sponsorship table provided by CERH.

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

### Device Reutilization

**Anecdotal Story:** A consumer reached out after a hospital stay for an elevated toilet seat so they could use the bathroom independently.

### Device Loan

**Anecdotal Story:** A consumer wanted to try out the guided hands for his wife. She is currently using it and thriving.

### Device Demonstration

**Anecdotal Story:** Demonstrated the communication apps on one of our iPads to a parent, that was then able to obtain for the child to help communicate more effectively.

### Alternative Financing

**Anecdotal Story:** None provided.

### Training

**Anecdotal Story:** None provided.

### Technical Assistance

**Anecdotal Story:** None provided.

### Public Awareness

**Anecdotal Story:** The ACAT team was honored to assist local LKLP adult daycare staff and participants to be able to enjoy the local Black Gold festival. Fun was had by all!

### Information and Assistance

**Anecdotal Story:** Continue to get calls from all over the state and connect the consumer with the ATRC that is closest to them.

### Additional Information or Activities

- Continuing to work on and getting closer to an expansion site at UK St. Claire.
- We have kicked off our HRSA planning grant by hosting our first CAB meeting.
- Toured potential spaces for ACAT in Morehead.

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

- a) Reutilization: **21** items distributed to **17** individuals; valued at: **\$3,360.00**
- b) Device Loans: **12** items loaned to **7** borrowers.
- c) Device Demos: **1** demonstration provided to **2** participants.
- d) Training Participants: **0** participants across **0** event(s)
- e) Information & Assistance: **90** individuals reached.
- f) Public Awareness: estimated **1,745** individuals reached.

### **Barriers/Obstacles during the reporting period, if any:**

Low stock on certain DME.

# CALTech

## FFY 2025 Quarterly Narrative Report

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**Reporting period:** July 1 to September 30, 2025

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

Received 18 donated items with a total value of \$13908.30. Loaned out 12 items with a total value of \$11838.05. Gifted 36 items.

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

#### *Device Reutilization*

**Anecdotal Story:** A family member was providing a place for convalescence for a sibling after a hospitalization. We were able to provide several useful items including a bedrail during this transitional period and beyond.

#### *Device Loan*

**Anecdotal Story:** We were able to provide a gentleman of modest means and unable to afford mobility items for his home a ramp, standard wheelchair, and rollator until he could arrange to get his own.

#### *Device Demonstration*

**Anecdotal Story:** None provided.

#### *Alternative Financing*

**Anecdotal Story:** None provided

#### *Training*

**Anecdotal Story:** None provided

### Technical Assistance

**Anecdotal Story:** The Portland Museum and the University of Louisville were conducting a series of workshops on woodcarving in advance of their CeLOUbrate Print event on April 19th. Staff at CAL scheduled a workshop at the Center specifically for individuals with disabilities, a group they had not worked with before. We were able to provide technical assistance on how to make their workshop accessible to the disabled population. We also submitted a letter of support for their grant to Arts for All Kentucky for funds to purchase accessible woodworking tools. Their grant was funded and they now can make the workshops accessible in the future.

### Public Awareness

**Anecdotal Story:** None provided.

### Information and Assistance

**Anecdotal Story:** None provided

### Additional Information or Activities

- None provided

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

- a) Reutilization: **22** items distributed to **9** individuals; valued at: **\$1,472.46**
- b) Device Loans: **3** items loaned to **2** borrowers
- c) Device Demos: **0** demonstrations provided to **0** participants
- d) Training Participants: **0** participants across **0** events
- e) Information & Assistance: **0** individuals reached
- f) Public Awareness: estimated **0** individuals reached

### **Barriers/Obstacles during the reporting period, if any:**

None to report.

# Easterseals Redwood ATRC

## FFY 2025 Quarterly Narrative Report

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**Reporting period:** July, 2025 to September, 2025

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

This quarter, the Easterseals Redwood ATRC was renovated. The space now includes a pediatric corner for providers to bring children to demonstrate and see what would be helpful in their progress. This space has been used by several providers and has given the families and providers a comfortable place to test out devices.

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

#### *Device Reutilization*

**Anecdotal Story:** A parent reached out via the AT4all website to acquire a specific piece of equipment. When Easterseals Redwood reached out to set up the pick-up of the device, the parent asked about donating a piece of equipment that the child had outgrown. The morning that the family was to pick up the device, the child was excited and asked their parents if it was the day to get the device. They were very excited to get the device and were even more excited when they saw it was their favorite color: green.

#### *Device Loan*

**Anecdotal Story:** During the renovations, items were checked to see if they were working properly. One of the devices was a switch adapted remote spider. While testing it, a provider came by with a client. The client loved the device and how it scared others, so they loaned out the device for a couple of weeks. It was good motivation to get the client to participate in what the provider wanted them to achieve.

### *Device Demonstration*

**Anecdotal Story:** In August, there was a KEIS family that came in looking for an activity chair to help the child focus. As the various chairs were trialed, the child grew fussy from feeling stuck in the chairs. Easterseals Redwood had just gone through the inventory and found some Therapy desks. The provider and AT assistant were able to work together to modify a chair and desk to work together so that the child was able to focus. When the child sat at the desk, they focused on the toys and items placed in front of them. The parents and the provider said they had never seen anything like this before from the child.

### *Alternative Financing*

**Anecdotal Story:** Easterseals Redwood was assisting a child in our therapy department. Two of the therapists and the family reached out to see if we could help them get the AAC device that their insurance company had denied them. After talking with them, it was decided that an alternative funding source would be needed. The family was given options and they said they would look them over and decide how best they wanted to move forward. In the meantime, we have been able to provide the therapists with the AAC to use during their sessions with the child and they have found alternative ways to assist the child at home. Still waiting to hear how the alternative funding worked out for the family.

### *Training*

**Anecdotal Story:** The Easterseals Redwood ATRC did not provide any trainings this quarter.

### *Technical Assistance*

**Anecdotal Story:** The ATRC was not asked to provide technical assistance during this quarter.

### *Public Awareness*

**Anecdotal Story:** The Easterseals Redwood ATRC hosted a breakfast for some members of the community. At the breakfast, the community members were able to see all the services offered to those in the community and through the KATS Network. Some of the devices were demonstrated and shown that each device can be helpful for all ability levels.

### Information and Assistance

**Anecdotal Story:** A parent called in looking for a rental of an AAC device that Easterseals Redwood ATRC does not loan out. After talking with the parent about alternatives and possible options, we could tell the parent was feeling defeated. The parent gave the school's information during the initial conversation about what happened to the current AAC device so we reached out to the school's resource center to see if they could help the child out since the parent was only worried about how to handle communicating at school. The school quickly jumped in to help. The child was able to get the help they needed while their device was being repaired.

### Additional Information or Activities

During this quarter, Easterseals Redwood held three Nuts and Bolts (wheelchair clinics). During these clinics there were over fifty repairs or safety checks done on wheelchairs. During these safety checks, there were a few repairs that were deemed of extreme importance and were able to be handled on the spot. These potentially saved the individuals from getting injured or unable to participate in activities in the community. Also, Easterseals Redwood's marketing team has increased the online presence and has been posting about some of the ATRC's services.

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

- a) Reutilization: **11** items distributed to **7** individuals; valued at: **\$7,984.00**
- b) Device Loans: **65** items loaned to **30** borrowers
- c) Device Demos: **59** demonstrations provided to **11** participants
- d) Training Participants: **0** participants across **0** events
- e) Information & Assistance: **125** individuals reached
- f) Public Awareness: estimated **245** individuals reached

### **Barriers/Obstacles during the reporting period, if any:**

During this quarter, Easterseals Redwood ATRC was being remodeled and the inventory checked. In this process, some devices were more difficult to be found for lending out.

# HDI CATS LEXINGTON KY

## FFY 2025 Quarterly Narrative Report

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**Reporting period:** July 1, 2025 thru September 30, 2025

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

During the reporting period, we have continued to stay extremely busy with accepting donations, loaning out equipment, and giving away CARAT items. We are still actively involved in loaning out items to First Steps families. Services were provided by Christina Espinosa, Joan Hager, and Nancy Savage. Our consumer volunteer is still, thankfully, with us and continues to be a huge asset to our team.

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

#### *Device Reutilization*

In September we were able to assist an individual with a manual wheelchair. This gentleman has been on our waitlist for a lightweight “sporty” wheelchair for over a year. He is a paraplegic and has a regular manual wheelchair but was wanting one that the wheels came off easily and that was light enough that he could put it in the back seat of his truck. We finally received the donation of a custom chair that fit this request. The gentleman came to pick it up and I was able to watch him ride it out, hop in his vehicle and put the chair in the extended cab of his truck.

#### *Device Loan*

During the reporting period we loaned out the Obi Assistive Feeding Device to a young lady who lives in a group home and is studying graphic design and communications at Indiana University Southeast. She has cerebral palsy and is unable to feed herself, due to limited use of her arms and hands. She wanted to trial the Obi before looking into purchasing one. She was able to use the Obi, but struggled due to the lack of space at the table for the device. She wants to trial it again when her accommodations are better.

### Device Demonstration

We did not have any device demonstrations during this reporting period.

### Training

In September we had two Pediatric Medicine residents from the University of Kentucky come to our center for a tour and overview of our resources. We were able to explain how our program and the assistive technology and durable medical equipment we have available, can benefit their patients.

### Public Awareness

We continue trying to increase our social media presence with regular posts. During July we made a post about our lending library of adaptive equipment. We highlighted an adaptive tryke, gait trainer, one handed keyboard, and an Airboc adaptive mouse. This post had a reach of 15,267!

### Information and Assistance

We continue trying to increase our social media presence with regular posts. During July we made a post about our lending library of adaptive equipment. We highlighted an adaptive tryke, gait trainer, one handed keyboard, and an Airboc adaptive mouse. This post had a reach of 15, 267!

## **AT Services related to Selection/Acquisition of Equipment during the Second Quarter Reporting Period:**

- a) Reutilization **337** items distributed to **130** individuals; valued at **\$95,963**
- b) Device Loans: **105** items loaned to **47** borrowers
- c) Device Demos: **0** demonstrations provided to **0** participants
- d) Training Participants: **0** participants across **0** events
- e) Information & Assistance: **132** individuals reached
- f) Public Awareness: **8** events estimated **17,658** individuals reached

## **Barriers/Obstacles during the reporting period, if any:**

We still have an overabundance of pediatric equipment and continue to get offers of more on a regular basis. If you have any particular needs in this area, please reach out to us! One of the barriers our consumers face is the lack of resources for permanent ramp solutions. This is especially true for individuals who rent and

have more steps and a higher rise than what would be accommodated with our loaner ramps.

# Wendell Foster

## FFY 2025 Quarterly Narrative Report

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**Reporting period:** July 2025 to September 2025

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

- Provided Information & Assistance to consumers, addressing inquiries, offering resource guidance, and facilitating access to assistive technology solutions.
- Provided support to consumers in accessing and utilizing assistive technology through equipment loans and reuse programs. Assisted individuals in identifying suitable devices, completing necessary documentation, and coordinating the loan process.
- Managed Kentucky Early Intervention Services-related communications, including handling emails from service coordinators & providers, processing billing, coordinating equipment loans, and overseeing returns to ensure efficient program support.
- Coordinated registration and travel for professional development (ATIA) and exhibiting at the Council For Exceptional Children's State Conference, to increase visibility of AT Services in Kentucky.
- Exhibited at 3 local events - Health & Wellness Fair, Senior Day Out, and Veterans Fair, engaging community members with hands-on demonstrations of adaptive switches and tools and networked with other agencies in attendance.
- Processed donated equipment by evaluating functionality, performing cleaning and maintenance, and accurately logging items into the inventory management system.
- Conducted maintenance on returned assistive technology devices to ensure optimal functionality and safety. This involved thorough cleaning, battery inspections, and minor repairs.
- Provided a virtual training for early intervention providers on types of AT for children ages birth - 3 years old and how to access state AT resources.

- Update loaner iPads, installing apps to support users with Aphasia, and troubleshoot with Tobii Dynavox on the TD Snap communication app.
- Purchased, assembled, and inventoried new equipment for loans/demonstrations.
- Worked on creating a Low Vision Corner to showcase newly acquired devices. Viewed training videos, designed accessible display signs and cheat sheets to demonstrate their functionalities.

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

### Device Reutilization

**Anecdotal Story:** Reused a manual wheelchair to a 90-year old consumer who needed it to visit the casino.

### Device Loan

**Anecdotal Story:** The Disability Coordinator at Kentucky Wesleyan College contacted us regarding a student who was in urgent need of mobility assistance to ensure equitable access to campus life. The student was previously denied insurance coverage for a mobility scooter and, during the appeal process, had to switch providers, which delayed the process. She was using a manual wheelchair, but due to the long distances between campus buildings and her limited upper body strength, it was not a viable solution. As a result, she was struggling to attend classes and campus events, which significantly impacted her academic experience and inclusion in college life. We were able to loan her a Gladiator Mobility Scooter that had been donated a few months earlier.

### Device Demonstration

**Anecdotal Story:** SLP/ATP completed AAC eval for a 21-year old consumer with Autism from Muhlenburg County. Parents want him to have a way to communicate with a more robust vocabulary as his receptive language is good. Tried Navio Mini, I-110, NovaChat 10, PriO, ProSlate 10. Decided on a trail with NovaChat 8.

### Alternative Financing

**Anecdotal Story:** N/A

### Training

**Anecdotal Story:** N/A

### Technical Assistance

**Anecdotal Story:** Provided a virtual training for early intervention providers on AT for children ages birth - 3 years old and how to access AT resources in the state.

### Public Awareness

**Anecdotal Story:** Exhibited at 3 local events - Health & Wellness Fair, Senior Day Out, and Veterans Fair, engaging community members with hands-on demonstrations of assistive technology.

### Information and Assistance

**Anecdotal Story:** Facilitated reuse of sleep safe bed from consumer in Owensboro to a consumer in Lexington

### Additional Information or Activities

NA

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

- a) Reutilization: **10** items distributed to **10** individuals; valued at: **\$2,715.00**
- b) Device Loans: **154** items loaned to **39** borrowers
- c) Device Demos: **2** demonstrations provided to **4** participants
- d) Training Participants: **20** participants across **1** events
- e) Information & Assistance: **84** individuals reached
- f) Public Awareness: estimated **2,950** individuals reached

## **Barriers/Obstacles during the reporting period, if any:**

N/A

## KATS Network Advisory Council Proxy Designation Form

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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:

*Note: If you sign the form electronically, you must include the /s/ prefix (for example: /s/ John Doe).*

*Please send completed form to:*

Lisa Staub  
KATS Network  
[lisa.staub@ky.gov](mailto:lisa.staub@ky.gov)

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# KATS Network Locations

## KATS Network Coordinating Center

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1324 Madison Ave.  
Covington, KY 41011  
(800) 327-5287

## Regional AT Resource Centers

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### **ACAT – Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology Services - Hazard**

UK Center of Excellence in Rural  
Health  
750 Morton Rd.  
Hazard, KY 41701  
(606) 439-3557

### **CALTech**

501 E. Broadway  
Suite 310  
Louisville, KY 40202  
(502) 589-6620

### **HDI-CATS – Center for Assistive Technology Services**

2358 Nicholasville Rd.  
Lexington, KY 40503  
(859) 218-7979

### **Easterseals Redwood**

71 Orphanage Rd.  
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017  
(800) 728-9807

### **Wendell Foster Regional AT Center**

815 Triplett St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303  
(800) 209-6202

## Project CARAT Sites

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### **Carl D. Perkins Training Vocational Center**

5659 Main St.  
Thelma, KY 41260  
(606) 788-7080

# By-Laws of the Kentucky Assistive Technology Service Network

Amended 06/26/2024

## ARTICLE I: NAME

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The name of this organization shall be the Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network Advisory Council.

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

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The purpose of the KATS Network Advisory Council shall be to provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for, planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the State grant for assistive technology pursuant to the Assistive Technology Act, including setting measurable goals for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to education, employment, telecommunication and information technology, and community living.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

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### Section 1: Composition

The KATS Network Advisory Council will be composed of:

- Representatives of individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology or their family members or guardians of the individuals.
- A representative of the state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agency and a representative of the blind VR agency, if such agency is separate from general VR.
- A representative of the state education agency
- A representative of the state workforce development board
- A representative of a center for independent living in the state
- A representative of the alternative financing program, if there is such program, it is separate from the State AT Program, and it is operated by a non-profit entity.
- One required agency representative picked from following options:

- Medicaid state agency
- State agency administering Developmental Disabilities Act
- State agency administering or organizations funded under Older Americans Act
- Organization representing veterans.
- University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
- State Protection and Advocacy System
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Representatives of other State agencies, public agencies, or private organizations, as determined by the State.

Membership shall be geographically representative of the State and reflect the diversity of the State with respect to race, ethnicity, types of disabilities across age groups, and users of types of services that an individual with a disability may receive.

A majority, not less than 51 percent, of the members of the KATS Network Advisory Council shall be individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology or the family members or guardians of the individuals. Agency members cannot count as consumers even if they have a disability.

## **Section 2: Appointment and Terms**

All members of the KATS Network Advisory Council are appointed by the Governor to a term of three (3) years with the exception of any shorter initial appointments to establish staggered terms. KATS Network Advisory Council members may serve three consecutive three-year terms and are eligible for re-appointment after a reasonable interval.

Appointed members shall serve until a replacement appointment is made by the Governor's office.

## **Section 3: Nominations**

The Nominating Committee will recommend names of candidates for appointment to fill KATS Network Advisory Council vacancies. Those candidates will be considered by the KATS Network Advisory Council for approval. The KATS Director will submit, through the lead agency, names of approved candidates to the Governor's Office for appointment.

The Nominating Committee may choose to waive the consecutive-term rule in special circumstances where it is deemed to be in the best interest of the KATS Network, the KATS Network Advisory Council, and the consumers to be served. This waiver, as with all nominations, is subject to the approval of the full KATS Network Advisory Council.

#### **Section 4: Proxy voting**

A member may designate in writing a proxy authorizing the proxy to vote on matters announced prior to the meeting and/or included on the agenda for any meeting the member cannot attend. The member may revoke the proxy at any time in writing submitted to the KATS Network Director. Any member who has advanced knowledge that they will be unable to attend a KATS Network Advisory Council meeting should make every attempt to designate a proxy to attend the meeting. A KATS Proxy Designation Form is attached to and made part of these Bylaws.

#### **Section 5: Attendance**

A member or his or her proxy who is absent from two (2) consecutive KATS Network Advisory Council meetings without providing prior notice and a reasonable explanation to the KATS Network Director will be contacted by the Director to ascertain the member's continuing interest in serving on the KATS Network Advisory Council. The Director will advise the KATS Network Advisory Council at its next regular meeting of the member's stated interest, if any, in continuing membership. The KATS Network Advisory Council will consider requesting a resignation from or a replacement for that member.

### **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

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#### **Section 1: Meeting Dates and Location**

The KATS Network Advisory Council will meet quarterly (4 times per year). Meeting dates and locations will be scheduled in consultation with the KATS Network Advisory Council Members. The KATS Network Coordinating Center staff will be responsible for notifying members, distributing any needed materials in advance, publishing the required notice to comply with the Kentucky Open Meetings law, and making all other necessary arrangements. The Director, in consultation with the KATS Network Advisory Council Co-Chairs, may call special meetings in conformity with the notice requirements of the Kentucky Open Meetings Law.

## **Section 2: Agenda**

All members of the KATS Network Advisory Council will receive an agenda prior to each regularly scheduled meeting. The agenda will be prepared by the KATS Network Director in consultation with the KATS Network Advisory Council Co-Chairs.

## **Section 3: Quorum**

A majority (no less than 51%) of KATS Network Advisory Council members or their designated proxies is required for attendance at any regularly scheduled or special-called meeting to constitute a quorum. A quorum is required to take final action on all matters properly before the Advisory Council.

## **Section 4: Accessibility and Accommodations**

All meetings will be held in accessible locations and reasonable accommodations will be provided if requested in advance. The meeting locations will be designated by the KATS Network Director in consultation with the KATS Network Advisory Council Co-Chairs.

## **Section 5: Minutes**

The KATS Network staff will be responsible for the KATS Network Advisory Council meeting minutes.

# **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS**

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## **Section 1: Officers.**

- There will be Co-Chairs of the KATS Network Advisory Council.
- One Co-Chair will be a consumer or family member of a consumer, and one Co-Chair will be an agency representative.

## **Section 2: Duties of the Co-Chairs.**

- Preside at all KATS Network Advisory Council meetings. If both Co-Chairs are unable to attend a KATS Network Advisory Council meeting, a member of The KATS Network staff will preside.
- Collaborate with the KATS Network Director to establish the agenda for meetings of the KATS Network Advisory Council.
- Serve on at least one subcommittee and/or task force of the KATS Network Advisory Council.

- Act in the place of the absent Co-Chair.
- Assist the Co-Chair as requested.

### **Section 3: Terms of the officers.**

- Co-chairs will serve a one-year term that coincides with the fiscal year of the KATS Network, except as may be extended from time to time by a simple majority vote of the KATS Network Advisory Council for the convenience of the KATS Network.
- Co-Chairs may serve consecutive terms.

### **Section 4: Eligibility, nomination, and election of Co-Chairs.**

- Any KATS Network Advisory Council member shall be eligible to be elected a Co-Chair.
- Prior to elections, the KATS Network Director will solicit names of members of the KATS Network Advisory Council who would be willing to serve as a Co-Chair and submit the name(s) to the KATS Network Advisory Council for nomination.
- Nominations will be taken and seconded from the floor during a regular KATS Network Advisory Council meeting to stand for election as Co-Chair.

## **ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**

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### **Section 1: Committees and Task Forces.**

- Committees and task forces may be formed as needed by the Co-Chairs with approval of the KATS Network Advisory Council as to the mission, assignment or business with which such bodies are charged.
- Appointments to committees and/or nominations or requests for membership on any task force may be made to The KATS Network staff and are subject to their approval.

### **Section 2: General Rules for Committees and Task Forces**

- Committees and task forces shall make reports to the full KATS Network Advisory Council.
- Appointments to committees or task forces are not limited to KATS Network Advisory Council members. The KATS Network staff may appoint individuals with specialized expertise and/or resources.

## **ARTICLE VII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

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All meetings of the KATS Network Advisory Council will be conducted using parliamentary procedure. Co-Chairs will be provided with information on conducting meetings utilizing parliamentary procedure.

## **ARTICLE VIII: CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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### **Section 1: Financial Conflict**

No KATS Network Advisory Council member shall knowingly vote on any matters that may result directly or indirectly in financial advancement for herself/himself or for any family member, including in-laws.

### **Section 2: Vested Interest**

A member shall disclose his personal interest in or membership in any agency or group with a vested interest in matters presented to the KATS Network Advisory Council prior to his or her participation in any discussion on the matter. The member shall abstain from voting on any action taken by the KATS Network Advisory Council on that matter.

## **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS**

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These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the KATS Network Advisory Council members or their designated proxies present. Proposed changes must be transmitted to each member at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which the amendment is voted upon.