



# **KATS Network Advisory Council Minutes**

Date: June 10, 2021

Time: 9:38 AM, Eastern Time

Place: Zoom

## **Welcome & Introductions—Co-chair, Bill Titus**

### **Advisory Council Members-in attendance**

Andre Rysemus, Lisa McKeown, Lee Muncy, Jessica Endler, Nicole Maher, Bill Titus, Samantha Farthing, Duke Pettit, Rick Boggess, Gerry Gordon-Brown

### **Advisory Council Members- not in attendance**

David Dennis, Winter Renfrow, Melissa Aguilar

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

Jimmy Brown, Mike Karman, Elizabeth Thompson, Christina Espinosa-Bard, Darrin Breeding, Joe McCombs, Jana Billingsley, Peggy Farmer, Lisa Staub, Joan Hagar, Jennifer Withrow

### **Others in attendance –**

Casey Philpot (P&A)

Interpretation services provided by Tara Eversole and Lisa Amstutz

CART services provided by Tracy Lundergan

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

Bill motioned for approval of the March 10, 2021 meeting minutes.

Rick moved to approve. Lee provided a second.

## **Updates from ATRCs:**

### **enTECH- Joe McCombs**

January- First Steps Service Coordinators are working from home and our AT loans have dropped. A total of 7 items were donated valued at \$368.00

February- The CARAT program picked up with 16 items at nearly \$4500. EnTECH generated 6 or 7 AT loans, primarily to First Steps Children. Our enTECH therapists completed 5 AAC evaluations.

March- enTECH generated 11 assistive technology device loans and therapists completed 3 AAC evaluations.

Laura Starck with Client Services recently retired. Many thanks for the kind emails.

OT program students may return to providing volunteer service hours in the fall.

### **HDI-CATS- Christina Espinosa-Bard**

January through March- We made our first loans to First Steps during this quarter. We hosted our 4th Thursday ADA talk, with online participation growing from 64 in January, 74 in February to 110 in March.

January- Project CARAT distributed 33 items with a total MSRP of almost \$30,000, although only 16 items loaned through the lending library. We also provided information and resources to 110 clients. We have conducted multiple tours and received positive feedback.

February- Loaned 12 items through the lending library. Reutilization distributed 8 items with a total MSRP of \$1,712.96. We provided information and assistance to 57 clients.

March- Reutilization distributed 44 items for just over \$12,500, 20 items through the lending library, provided information and assistance to 116 clients. Collaboration between Driver Rehab Programs, HDI and OVR.

### **Redwood- Peggy Farmer**

January through March involved 63 reutilizations distributed to 12 individuals, valued at \$29,324.60. Redwood ATRC staff provided trainings for adult program staff in the use of the Touch Accessible Platform for Interactive Technology

(TAPit) and interactive activities for use with clients. First Steps services provided.

January- Redwood's new Chief Executive Officer, Sharon Fusco, received training on ATRC programs and services at Redwood and information on the KATS Network.

February-Redwood ATRC staff and Speech-Language Pathologists coordinated a training of Boardmaker Online from Tobii-Dynavox to learn more about the tools that they have with Wordmaker and how they can be used for Teletherapy. Nine iPads were donated and repaired with donated funds.

March- Redwood hosted a Toyota GoBabyGo event to showcase 4 adapted vehicles that are now available for use with our childcare and pediatric therapy clients. Redwood staff met with a former volunteer and engineer, who had enlisted the help of a work colleague and was interested in adapting and repairing items again for the ATRC. Items and materials were provided for the volunteers to work on from home.

## **WKATC- Jana Billingsley**

January through March- AAC assessments were conducted with a child in Caldwell County and two children from Daviess County. Wendell Foster is contracted with First Steps to provide technical assistance statewide to early intervention providers about how to access assistive technology resources, chair the state's AT Review Panel, and maintain a social media page.

### **January 2021**

Loans of equipment included ramps for children on vacation, toys and switches, with 50 items returned during this month. Another consumer with low vision borrowed the Optelec Traveler for use in her job, which allowed her to continue working without having to retire early. Jana participated in virtual ATIA Conference.

February- A speech therapist was looking for a musical toy for a child with hearing impairment. AT staff demonstrated the Drumbourine, Lighted Musical Tambourine, and switch adapted drum. An individual with Multiple Sclerosis successfully trialed a power wheelchair to see if he could manage with fewer accidents.

March- A Consumer having foot surgery chose a power chair to navigate her work environment. A Kaye vertical stander was reutilized to an 11-year old boy which allowed him to begin a home program immediately. We facilitated a sleep safe bed exchange with a Madisonville family to an Amish family in the area. Tours were conducted for students from the University of Southern Indiana and Brescia. Jana provided training for (16) First Steps service coordinators and providers across the state. We received a donation of 5 adapted Toyota Tundras from a statewide Go Baby Go build sponsored by Toyota that will be used in our outpatient facility.

## **Carl Perkins- Darrin Breeding**

As of Monday, the 14th, we will be back in the office full-time and be able to start back up working on the First Steps application that we had tried to start earlier last year.

We've had several loans on ramps, done some loans on a wheelchairs.

We have a new director, Alan Gullett, who is replacing Barb Pugh, who retired.

Patrick Kitzman is working on a grant through the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities, to partner with the Hazard site

## **Project CARAT sites**

### **Project CARAT Paducah Update-Mike**

The site has moved to the new downtown Paducah location and downsized, new address is: 220 N. 8th St., Unit 2 Paducah, KY 42001

### **Project CARAT Hazard Update-Mike**

Hazard has partnered with Kentucky Home Place and have added two satellite sites for CARAT work, located in Morehead, and Harlan, Kentucky. We received a 2-year grant from the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities to expand our work with Project CARAT. This grant will also include the development of a toy lending library

### **Project CARAT- enTECH**

Our RampUp program continues to be a success. I think we've only got one set of ramps that's available in the inventory now.

## **Project CARAT- HDI-CATS**

Dave has been working 10-20 hours a week to refurbish and fix up equipment.

We had 86 items that we redistributed for over \$42,000. We've been able to utilize Michael and his volunteers too to be able to help with transportation.

With our purchase money, we bought more ramps for our lending library. Our RampUp ramps are consistently all checked out. We would like to collaborate on any additional funding opportunities for more ramps.

## **Project CARAT- Paintsville**

We have moved several hospital beds here recently, with 5 or 6 still in storage.

We were able to work with Michael earlier in the summer and the spring. He was able to get some volunteers to take down probably 100 foot long sections of an aluminum ramp. We picked it up and I've already had 2 people interested in using parts of that ramp system. We delivered a 30-foot section of it last week to a gentleman in Pikeville whose wife was having a significant issues.

## **Statewide Project CARAT Program Update**

### **January 1 – March 31, 2021**

In this period across all sites, CARAT managed 367 items valued at: \$121,514.82.

Part-time staff through ADECCO has increased our pick up and deliveries.

We lost storage space in Frankfort and are actively looking for centralized spot for storage and distribution. Preferably free with 24-hour access.

Budding partnership with Supplies Over Seas (SOS).

Potential partnerships with HELP out of Carter County, non-profit doing about the same work as Project CARAT.

A Place to Sleep –out of Shelbyville is serving in a host of ways and hoping to filter some of the items through us.

Team meeting is on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## **Coordinating Center Updates- KATS – Jimmy**

Annual Summer AT Conference Dates: June 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2021.

YesLMS Learning Management System for OVR/KATS to utilize for developing, managing, and hosting trainings is being purchased by OVR-RT Branch.

Update provided on accessible documents work and new position postings related to Accessible Communications.

Budget update provided.

## **ATRC Spotlight – Carl D. Perkins Center by Darrin Breeding**

**Open Discussion** –P&A is back out in the field. This last quarter 340+ individuals were served. Currently, we are writing new priorities for 2022 and will reach out to council for input.

Jessica- KCDHH will be opening back in Frankfort on 14<sup>th</sup>. In contact with phone segments to make sure we have everything updated. Email coming soon.

Lisa-CAL is still remote, will reopen Bowling Green on 14<sup>th</sup>. Louisville on July 1<sup>st</sup> by appointment.

## **Announcements / New Business**

Applications and resumes have been submitted to the Governor's office to fill or to reappoint those who are eligible for reappointment.

Committee meetings will resume, primarily thorough email and Zoom, between meetings with a report given at the next Advisory Council meeting.

Reeve Foundation Grant-MNKSH project extension received through June 2021, Will shift the equipment to Regional ATRC sites to distribute to paralyzed individuals via the lending library.

## **Next council meeting date:**

Council has proposed meeting dates for the remainder of FFY 2021. Meetings will remain virtual until further notice.

- September 9, 2021 – HDI-CATS Center Spotlight
- December 9, 2021 – Redwood Center Spotlight

**Location:** Zoom Link will be provided

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

September 9, 2021 and December 9, 2021 are the next tentative dates.  
Thursdays seem to be best with the present council.

**Adjournment:**

Motion called by Bill, Gerry moved and Rick provided the second for the motion.

Adjourned: 11:38 AM