

AT Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Online: Microsoft Teams

Present: Phil Seiler, Andrea Wasson, Joel Klug, Emma Cobb, Peter Johnke, Joy Redington (guest speaker)

Not Present: Ana Russo, Darren McIntyre, Bill Hudson, Heather Berg, Marge Wells

10:00-10:05 Attendee Tech Test and Verification time

10:05-10:15 Welcomes and Introductions

10:15-10:40 Money Follows the Person Grant and AT position overview, Joy Redington (They/Them)

Joy is our newest AT Specialist through a supplemental grant from [Money Follows the Person](#) (MFP), part of Adult Services Division at DAIL. The grant incorporates a few initiatives across DAIL including a demonstration grant, to gather data to demo the work that this entails is valuable, where folks can transition to less intensive care living situations. This grant lasts 3 years. Please contact us with any questions about this program. We will send the presentation out with these meeting minutes.

10:40-10:50 National Updates

When we last met December 2022, we talked about the AT Act waiting to be reauthorized by the federal government. It had not been reauthorized since 2004. It was reauthorized. Our core services are unchanged mostly. Small periphery changes. There are some new, mandated additional AT Council memberships, this information will come in summer. Council members are needed from Developmental Disability Division or Adult Services Division. Also required is collaboration with other organizations which we already have relationships with. Minor adjustments to funding formulas. The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services authored the new re-authorization. Large portions of the work were done by a legislative staffer from Sen. Patty Murray's (WA) team but this staffer will be staying with HHS and has become a member of Bernard Sander's staff.

We belong to Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs, (ATAP). The annual leadership symposium, this year will be virtual. ATP (Phil) and MFP(Lynne) will do an MFP presentation for all states. We also submitted a One Big Thing video. We featured an OT program setting up a Smart Apartment. Once uploaded to YouTube, we will share.

Recent, prolonged, staffing challenges for AT Program have come to an end. This allows us to meet the demand for services with a full staff.

Phil and Joy did an [hour long WDEV radio interview](#). It has been nice to get out and talk about our program publicly again.

10:50-11:00 Break

11:00-11:15 New AT Items to Showcase

We showcased the following new equipment:

Each link leads to our inventory website complete with picture, item description, request to borrow, price and link to purchase.

[Adaptive backpack](#)

[Measuring cups and spoons](#)

[Light sensitivity glasses](#)

[ChonkerKeys](#)

11:15-11:30 Members open time

Andrea teaches history and law of education, to get licensure as special educators. The class includes transition planning and self-advocacy for students. Andrea wonders if we can have someone come and talk with special educators so that these folks can become as independent as possible.

Joel announced a VABVI/DBVI tech fair April 14th at Capital Plaza in Montpelier. It will be paired with an event on getting back to work after the pandemic. [Here is a link](#) with information. [Registration link here.](#)

Peter requested to collaborate with Joy around MFP as well. VCIL has additional funding to provide for folks who need ramps, and other AT for use with the Sue Williams Freedom Fund and Home Access program.

11:30

Adjourn