

AT Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022

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

In Person: Waterbury State Office Complex

Online: Teams

In attendance: Phil Seiler, Heather Berg, Andrea Wasson, Marjorie Wells, Bill Hudson, Joel Krug, Peter Jonke, Allie Kelly

VATP Partnership with UVM OT program and AT demo with VATP Consultant, Quinby McLellan

The VT AT program is partnering with UVM. UVM received a 5.75 million dollar grant to transform the Living and Learning building into labs for Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT) and Speech Language Pathology, (SLP) students. The projects include a Smart Home apartment, an outdoor adaptive garden and playground, as well as a pediatric play area with climbing wall and ball pit. Currently they have 20 students in the OT program, and they hope to have 40. AT Specialists will visit classes to give assistive technology overviews. These classes will also visit the Waterbury tryout center to see demonstrations and get more AT hands on experience.

Quinby presented a power point and described some of the technology that can be used in these projects. The Smart Home completion is slated for fall of 2023 and can be demonstrated to AT Program clients and the general public. Some of the items Quinby presented on were AT

for kitchen; Smart fridge, and the Spill Knot carrier, for hot and cold drinks. For the bath; Tornado dryer and several accessible bathroom vanities. The PowerPoint will be shared with these meeting minutes so you can follow links shared and learn more details.

The AT Act was last reauthorized in 2004, we have been pushing for a reauthorization. It has now passed the House as part of the National Defense bill, and it is waiting in the Senate. We are hopeful it will pass this week. The budget numbers look good and show our value as a program. We are part of a national organization called ATAP who handle the outreach to national legislatures.

Phil wants to get some year-ends thank you cards for Leahy, Welch and Sanders to thank them for their efforts around our work. What does the council think of this if we sign them from the AT Program and the council? The council is in favor. We will also reach out to Becca Balint's office in March during our annual outreach.

General Program Updates

We are putting together our year-end data report. We saw an increase in demos, loans, and funding as well as the AT Exchange. We were not fully staffed this year, but it has been busy and rewarding.

We are actively recruiting for AT positions. One is for an AT Specialist for the Money Follows the Person grant. The main objective is to establish relationships with Area Agency on Aging and direct service providers to support this population. They will demo AT that supports people who are moving from rehab into more independent living situations.

The second position is an AT Access Specialist for the VT Career Advancement project. This program is looking to help HireAbility consumers into Career Pathways to meet credentialing or higher ed. Offers will be made in the next few days hope to have staff on board in January.

Phil shared success stories around [BooxMira Screen](#) link and the [Olide Smart door opener](#).

Please share our [AT Council application](#) with anyone you know who uses assistive technology and would like to serve on our council.

We will also be sending the 2023 AT Council quarterly meeting dates soon. They are as follows:

March 15, 2023

June 14, 2023

September 13, 2023

December 13, 2023

Adjourned