**Minutes of KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting**

**March 3, 2017**

**Redwood AT Center**

**Redwood, KY**

**Welcome & Introductions**

John Francis, Executive Director and CEO of Redwood welcomed the council meeting attendees.

After a tour of the facility, the council meeting was called to order by Rick Boggess, Chair.

**Advisory Council Members**

Rick Boggess, Matt Davis, Lee Muncy, Joe Cowan, Rowena Holloway, Vivian Lasley, Kat McGee, Patrick Murphy, Andre Ryssemus, Todd Stephens, Carol Weber

**KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC Staff**

Jimmy Brown, Jerry Wheatley, Sheila Levy, Elizabeth Thompson, Peggy Farmer, Lisa Staub,

Jana Billingsly, Sandy Hayden, Cindy Huston, Scott Yaden

**Advisory Council Members not in attendance**

Nate Bolton, Sharon Fields, Rachael Johnson, Josh Skuller

**Others in attendance**

Camille Collins, Valerie Cowan, Nancy Estes

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

Rick called the next order of business; approving the December 9, 2017 council minutes that were e-mailed to members. Todd motioned to accept the minutes, with a second from Joe; all in favor.

**KATS Network Coordinating Center – Jimmy Brown**

**Updates on Council Member Appointments**

* Appointments from last year have not been approved.
* We have about 4 more coming open this year.
* There will be about 16 individuals submitted, including the backups

**Second Annual Reeve Foundation High Impact Grant**

* $71,000 Grant for the ramp program has been approved.
* 8-10 ramps will be provided for each AT center, the Center for Accessible Living (throughout KY), Paducah-CARAT and the Center for Excellence in Rural Health in Hazard, KY for a total of 10 sites throughout Kentucky.

**Bluegrass Technology Center**

* Closed permanently as of December 15, 2016.
* Looking for a replacement for BTC.
* Working with landlord to recover of some items in the building.
* The work group put together at the last council meeting, included Todd and Vivian; along with Jean Isaac and Deb Bauder (early employees of BTC) met via phone call to

discuss the direction of a new center.

**SHARP (Statewide Hearing Aid Assistance and Reuse Program) – Jimmy and Jerry**

* Payment codes are no longer being given directly to individuals, only professionals.
* Still collecting used hearing aids, contact us for a postage-paid mailer.
* $400-$500 left in the account to pay for repairs.

**Project CARAT –Sheila**

* Since December, distributed 735 items with a value of $170,708 to 163 individuals
* Distributed equipment valued at about $600,000 since the beginning of the program
* Collaboration continues with Supplies Overseas (SOS)
* EnTech received the WellCare grant of $2,000 to purchase shower benches and chairs.
* Work with the FAN program through the Department of Public Health continues.
* Sheila presented to *Moving Forward Limb Loss* support group at Baptist East Hospital
* Pick up of donations continue to be the largest need for the program. Employees have been using their personal vehicles.

**Discussion Notes:**

Carol shared Erica from OVR’s Driver Rehab program may be able to assist with items to pick up, if it coincides with a scheduled trip to Louisville.

Matt mentioned some possible donations of manual and adaptive wheelchair parts.

**Updates from ATRCs:**

**Enabling Technologies (enTECH) –Scott Yaden**

* Created fliers to send out, advertising some items available
* Sarah Story, professor for OT program is helping to update the evaluations for TARC to include more information for mental health referrals.
* Scott and Allison are sharing their input with First Build, a Division of GE, located on the U of L campus. First Build is doing a visually-impaired cooking ‘hackathon’-type event. This led to the OT students designing equipment for individuals with their 3D printers.
* New after school program for kids to allow them be part of a new virtual immersive play environment. This will be located in the upstairs of the new building.

**Redwood –Peggy Farmer**

* Reutilizations benefitted Redwood Nursing Home, CDPTVC and local individuals.
* Received equipment through a grant from the United Way for children with visual impairments.
* Collaboration with a program from Cincinnati called *May We Help.* They are a group of volunteers who help solve problems presented to them. The group recently made a sensory chair to help a child shut out sensory input.
* New collaboration with the University of Cincinnati, Engineers Without Borders group to do a toy adaptation event.
* The Andy and Jordan Dalton Foundation donated a ‘hub’, which is a large metal cabinet filled with assistive technology items for the people to check out. Staff picked out items to be included in the cabinet.

**Western KY AT Center – Cindy Huston**

* Continuing to provide technical assistance to First Steps providers statewide.
* Jana recently attended a training to become a provider for First Steps.
* The center has seen an increase in equipment loans since BTC closed.
* Several in-services have been from the community college.
* Continue to collaborate with the Wendell foster Speech Department.
* Upcoming events:
	+ April 11th—Low Vision vendor day
	+ April 25th—Home Modifications workshop
	+ September 11th & 12th—Two-day professional training with Talk Tools. The topic will be sensory approach to feeding.

**Carl D. Perkins Center – Carol Weber**

* The site has received a lot of First Steps equipment from the closing of BTC.
* Rachel is working with the director of Carl Perkins Center to get billing set up properly so they can be First Steps providers.

**Discussion Notes:**

Jimmy stated there are no plans for an AT conference this year. Carol shared they are hoping to identify some online training opportunities

**P & A - Camille**

* The Annual report will be posted on the website after a few corrections. A link will be sent to all the council members for viewing on line.
* P & A services include handling Medicaid appeals.
* May 26th is the Annual Frankfort State Hospital Cemetery Cleanup in Frankfort. This is done to honor those people who lived at the Frankfort School facility and to ensure that we do not forget the individuals who lived there.
* Starts around 1 or 2 o’clock.
* There are approximately 400 graves, majority unknown.
* Collaborating with KCDHH to better assist individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.
* The office is working to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities to contact and communicate with P & A

**Discussion Notes:**

Waivers were discussed.

Lee suggested contacting the local scout groups to help with the cemetery cleanup.

**KATLC - Jimmy**

* Has made 36 loans from July 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017 totaling $246,000.
* Interest rates for loans are now 5%, as the prime rate increased in January.

**Discussion Notes:**

Jimmy referenced two areas in the meeting book, relating to the STABLE accounts and the SGA project’s success.

**OVR-Rehab Tech Branch - Carol**

* Fully-staffed
* Small decrease in referrals, believed to be a reflection of referrals throughout the state.

**KCDHH - Row**

* Providing additional training on TAP cabinets.
* Regional outreaches, forums and meeting consumers in their areas.
* Senate Bill 189 sponsored for the updates to driver’s license with a code and on the registration for their vehicle to let officers know there could be a communication issue.
* The number of deaf and hard of hearing is expected to go up about 32 percent by 2020.

**Discussion Notes:**

Recent legislation

Statistics were provided on the number of Kentuckians who are deaf/hard of hearing.

**Demonstration of Accessible Electronic Documents – Jimmy**

* Accessible versus inaccessible
* Use of keyboard without using mouse
* Color and contrast
* Labeling images with descriptions versus only a file name
* PDFs- editable or image
* Caption videos- YouTube will auto-caption a video within 20-30 minutes of upload Professionals should review content to verify text
* Hyperlinks should make sense out of context
* Wave.webaim.org can be downloaded as a plug-in for Chrome and Firefox. Will show up as a box that you can click if you wish to test a website
* Someone with a disability may not be charged for the upgrade from Windows 8 to Windows 10.
* The Worldwide Web Consortium developed the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Those guidelines are available online.

 \* Reference additional information in the meeting book.

**Announcements / New Business:**

Dave Matheis will be retiring on June 1st, 2017. We want to extend our congratulations and appreciation to Dave for all the work he has done for the KATS Network. He was present from the beginning and was the first employee hired in 1989. Our best wishes, Dave!

Jerry Wheatley will be retiring at the end of March 2017. His wife, Lee who works for the Office for the Blind is also retiring. They will be moving to Bardstown. We will miss you both!

Allison Flanagan, with the Office for the Blind is also retiring April 30, 2017. Best wishes to her!

**Open Discussion from the Council:**

Lee shared information on the Student Technology Leadership Program’s State Championship. It will be held at Rupp Arena on 4/12/17, from 9:30 am to 7:30 pm. Last year, they had about 15,000 attendees.

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

**Location: McDowell Center; 8412 Westport Rd., Louisville, 40242**

**Date: June 9, 2017**

**Time: 9:30 am**

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

**Location: TBD (Possibly CDPTVC in Thelma, KY)**

**Date: September -TBD**

**Time: TBD**

**Adjournment:**

Todd motioned to adjourn and Patrick seconded. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 PM.