**Minutes of KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting**

**June 14, 2016**

**KSU Research Model Farm**

**Frankfort, KY**

**Welcome & Introductions**

 The meeting was called to order by Carol Weber, Chair.

**Advisory Council Members**

Rick Boggess, Andre Ryssemus, Lee Muncy, Joe Cowan, Nathan Bolton, Vivian Lasley, Matt Davis, Kat McGee, Todd Stephens, Carol Weber.

**KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC Staff**

Jimmy Brown, Jerry Wheatley, Dave Matheis, Sheila Levy, Elizabeth Thompson, Rachael Johnson, Wes Rose, Robin Rice, Linnie Lee, Peggy Farmer, Lisa Staub, Jana Billingsly

**Advisory Council Members not in attendance**

Steve Burchett, Sharon Fields, Patrick Murphy, Rowena Holloway

**Others in attendance**

Lori Stephens, Valerie Cowan, Malicia Hitch with Protection & Advocacy

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

Carol called the next order of business; approving the March 4, 2016 council minutes that were e-mailed to members. Jimmy explained 2 corrections: Rick was listed as Chair, but not as in attendance. The KATS Council meeting was listed as June 14th instead of the 15th. Voted on by the council, all were in favor.

**Updates from ATRCs**

**Bluegrass Technology Center – Linnie Lee**

* Services continue; individual trainings, loans and reuse.
* Evaluations provided to students with disabilities for local school systems.
* From January-March: 84 items given out; added 21 loan items to KATL data base

and 165 reused items.

**Enabling Technologies (enTECH) –Jimmy Brown**

* KITE (Kosair Integrated Technology Experience) is going on this week.

**Redwood –Peggy Farmer**

* Several reutilizations this quarter that included equipment for students attending Covington Public Schools and Hamilton County Developmental Disability Services.
* Collaborated with Sheila from the CARAT program for a Louisville area student.
* Training provided this quarter:
* Thomas Moore College-Special Education Class: an overview of the ATRC and hands-on activities to demonstrate how AT can be used so students with disabilities can participate with their peers.
* Saint Joseph School-“Everybody Counts”-training on Orthopedic impairments was presented to students. The activities helped students to experience some of the challenges others face each day.
* Individualized trainings and demonstrations of equipment continue.
* Annual Toy Adaptation event with the University of Cincinnati Engineering students.
	+ 11 toys were adapted with switches for use at the Redwood center.
	+ Engineers from General Electric will be volunteering to do more toys.
* Staff attended the ATIA conference.

**Western KY AT Center – Jana Billingsly**

* Collaborated with First Steps and Christian County Schools.
* A Ruby was purchased with KATS funds.
* Ursuline Sisters at Mt. St. Joseph donated several pieces of low vision equipment.
* Cindy attended the ATIA conference.
* Received a grant from the KY School for the Blind Charitable Foundation to purchase 2 Tactile Communication systems.
* On May 23rd, the center hosted a workshop, “Creating AT Solutions in Minutes: Make and Take” by Theresa Wikomm; attended by 45 Professionals from across the state.

**Carl D. Perkins Center –Racheal Johnson**

* Racheal introduced Wes Rose, who assists her at the CDPC.
* Working with CDPVTC’s Speech therapists to develop a list of items for purchase.
* CARAT- distributed over 17,000 pieces of equipment from January-March.
* Coordinating with local Wal-Mart to do a donation drive, possibly in July.
* Racheal is working with the local schools to get ideas of equipment needs.
* The Work Adjustment Program (Wes) involving the CARAT program is going well.

**Discussion Notes:**

Each ATRC shared a consumer success story.

**KATS Network Coordinating Center – Jimmy Brown**

* Some grant opportunities, working with The American Printing House for the Blind, have been submitted through the Good Samaritan Foundation and one through Kosair. The goal is to purchase equipment geared toward vision impairments for all ages. If approved; the equipment purchased would come from the compiled ATRCs wish lists.

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

* Funding to provide the Hear Now application assistance is down to $10,000.
* Assisted just under 300 individuals acquire 500 hearing aids.
* Refurbishing / Repair part of the program has been completely funded by the old, used hearing aids we have sent in for credit.
	+ Continuing to accept donated hearing aids.
	+ Currently, about $450 left in the refurbish / repair account
	+ Collected just over 500 used hearing aids since we started
	+ 30 individuals have been helped
* Continue to provide information and referral to Hear Now audiologists across the state.

**Project CARAT Update - Sheila**

* By the end of May had provided $419,444 worth of AT and DME, 1,121 pieces of equipment to 526 Kentuckians with disabilities.
* Paducah/Lourdes center has been gathering volunteers and will soon be open 5 days a week.
	+ CAL will be hiring an employee to work 20 hours a week to assist.
* Started talking with WellCare, as suggested by Lee Muncy, in efforts to acquire specific equipment such as bath benches. Several centers are regularly getting these requests.
* WDRB, a local TV station in Louisville recently did a story on CARAT, generated attention to the program.
* Collaborating with the KY Department of Public Health. The KDPH has requested assistance with their statewide *Functional Assets Needs Population*. This is their term for people in a disaster situation who need DME and addressing their disability in a disaster situation.

**Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation - Dave**

* Council members reviewed update on page 36 in the meeting book.
* The downturn in applications continues; possibly due to people finding other funding sources.
* 28 applications have been received so far this year; compared to 43 last year.
* 8 loans were made in April /May for $100,000
* Outstanding loan balances at the end of May were $834,000

**Discussion Notes:**

The possibility of raising loan limits to address the rising cost of vehicles and modifications.

Joe inquired about the monthly payment range for these increased loan limits. Todd asked about the percentage of ‘charge-offs’ and what type of loans are most frequently made.

**Office of ADA – Malicia**

* Testified at the Administrative Reg. Review Subcommittee concerning recently finalized waivers and changes; specifically the Medicaid changes that expand PT and Speech beyond the waiver population and the Homeland Community-Based Waiver.

**Office for the Blind – Andre**

* Working with the Pre-ETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services) allocation of funds

**Summer Assistive Technology Institute & KATS Network – Jimmy**

* Review of session topics.
* Telepresence robot and Equine Therapy Simulator information and usage shared.
* Agrability is covering the cost of the RESNA credits
* Three KATS council members termed out at the end of March (Matt, Joe and Sharon)
	+ Three primary and three backups have been submitted as replacements.
	+ No word has been received on new appointees.

**Discussion Notes:**

ADA Coordinator position recently vacated by Jennifer Hicks and recent changes to the position.

**Open Discussion from the Advisory Council:**

Todd asked the council members to send in community information to be shared via the audio reading service for the print-impaired. Malicia will communicate with Camille at P & A to help facilitate information to Todd.

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

**Location: WKATC; Wendell Foster Campus; 815 Triplett St., Owensboro, 42302**

**Date: September 23rd, 2016**

**Time: 9:00 am (Central Time)**

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

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

**Date: December 9th, 2016**

**Time: 9:00 am**

**Adjournment:**

Joe motioned to adjourn and Todd seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.