**Minutes of KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting**

**September 23, 2016**

**WKATC-Wendell Foster’s Campus**

**Owensboro, KY**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Rick Boggess, Chair.

**Advisory Council Members**

Rick Boggess, Lee Muncy, Joe Cowan, Vivian Lasley, Sharon Fields, Patrick Murphy, Merle Williams (proxy-Kat McGee), Dave Matheis (proxy-Rowena Holloway), Seth Basham (proxy- Carol Weber)

**KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC Staff**

Jimmy Brown, Jerry Wheatley, Elizabeth Thompson, Rachael Johnson, Peggy Farmer, Lisa Staub, Jana Billingsly, Josh Skuller, Sandy Hayden, Cindy Huston, Robert Steele, Odetta Carlisle

**Advisory Council Members not in attendance**

Carol Weber, Andre Ryssemus, Kat McGee, Rowena Holloway, Steve Burchett, Nathan Bolton, Matt Davis

**Others in attendance**

Valerie Cowan, Nancy Estes

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

Rick called the next order of business; approving the June 14, 2016 council minutes that were e-mailed to members. Joe motioned to accept the minutes, with a second from Lee; all in favor.

**Updates from ATRCs**

**Bluegrass Technology Center – Robert Steele**

* Looking to hire for the full-time position most recently filled by Linnie Lee.
* Robin Rice is acting director for the center.
* Interested in distribution of excess items.
* Work continues with Kentucky Work, KCIP, VR, and others.

**Enabling Technologies (enTECH) –Josh Skuller**

* Laura Strickland stepped down from her role with the Occupational Therapy (OT) Department.
* Cindy Quake-Rapp is the new Dept. Chair for the OT Program and EnTECH.
* Project CARAT will now be run by the Graduate Assistants**.**
* KITE (Kosair Integrated Technology Experience) work continues.

**Redwood –Peggy Farmer**

* Engineers from General Electric adapted some new classroom toys and repaired some others.
* In June, KCDHH’s Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) placed a TAP cabinet at the Redwood site. This will allow individuals to test a variety of devices.
* Engineers from Ethicon, through United Way volunteers completed over 37 projects for Redwood, including:
* A sensory room
* Two different models of switch holders
* Activity centers (a bead holder, Itsy Bitsy Spider center and a Barrel Roll center)
* Adaptive book holders.
* Adapted shelving units to allow for the children to pull up to stand at the shelf, so they can safely reach the activity centers

**Western KY AT Center – Cindy Huston**

* Jana Billingsly attended the AT Summer Institute.
* In May, the center hosted a workshop; “Creating AT Solutions in Minutes: Make and Take” by Theresa Willkom; attended by about 50 Professionals from across the state.

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

* Still have a large supply of donated hearing aid batteries; offered to council.
* CARAT- distributed 75 pieces of equipment from April-June, valued at over $26,000.
* The recent change limiting services to category 1 consumers has a result of fewer students being able to assist with the equipment for CARAT, thus creating a slowdown.

**Discussion Notes:**

Dave brought on a general discussion of each center’s statistics and how activities are recorded.

Ideas were shared for distribution of CARAT items long-held at the centers.

**KATS Network Coordinating Center – Jimmy Brown**

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

* Funding to provide the Hear Now application assistance is coming to an end.
* We have not been able to locate another program to take on this project.
* Set up a mechanism with the Starkey Foundation to directly accept donations for Kentucky applicants to the Hear Now Program.
* 327 individuals have been helped with Hear Now.
* 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.
  + 32 individuals have been helped with repairs.
* Continue to provide information and referral to Hear Now providers across the state.
* Since the inception of SHARP, Kentucky is nationally the second most active state with the Hear Now Program.

**Second Annual Reeve Foundation High Impact Grant– Jerry & Jimmy**

* Second round of the grant is currently on hold
* To award up to 7 grants of up to $75,000.
* New submission will be working with the ramp program; providing temporary and portable ramps for individuals while they are waiting for a permanent ramp to be put in.

**Discussion Notes:**

Dave asked for the council’s endorsement of this idea. Sharon moved that the grant be submitted or the council support. Joe agreed. Vivian seconded. Lee suggested the council approve the authority of Jimmy and staff to proceed with pursuing the grant. Vote taken; all agreed.

**State Building Codes and Universal Design/Accessible Housing – Jerry**

* Working with the Independent Living Center to request changes to the State Residential Building Code; making a new construction homes more accessible.
* The SRBC is the code all builders must follow when building a new home.
* Jimmy, Jerry and David Allgood (Center for Independent Living) met with Bob Wise; head of the Kentucky Home Builders Association to request support for these changes.
* Working with David on putting together a 6-hour class on Universal code and Accessibility to offer as a Continuing Education class for inspectors and builders.

**Discussion Notes:**

Dave requested the council’s approval to move forward with this project. Sharon moved that the KATS board endorse the activities toward making sure the building code is accessible. Sharon also volunteered her assistance in working with the State Building Code personnel. Rick asked for a second. Patrick seconded. Voted taken; all in favor.

**Project CARAT - Jimmy**

* To date, CARAT has given out 1,390 pieces of free medical equipment to 714 individuals.
* Value of equipment is $489,000.
* In July, CARAT-Paducah located inside Lourdes Hospital had its grand opening.
* Lourdes Hospital and Lourdes Foundation has now picked up the costs for that site’s liability insurance, a cost of about $5,000 a year.
* EnTECH and Spalding University is working with Bellarmine University’s Physical Therapy program to provide some of the overflow equipment, such as canes, braces, walkers, etc. to Bellarmine’s physical therapy clinics around Louisville.
* Collaboration continues with the KY Department of Public Health. The KDPH previously requested assistance with their statewide *Functional Assets Needs Population*. This is KDPH’s term for people in a disaster situation who need DME and addressing his/her disability in a disaster situation.
* There is now a Memorandum of Agreement in place with KDPH for Sheila to serve the additional role of *Functional Access needs Coordinator;* with a portion of her salary now paid by KDPH. Sheila will be traveling throughout the state, providing training to clinics and providers.
* Louisville CARAT has lost the use of the OVR van. It was returned to the transportation pool.
* Sheila submitted a grant to the Wellcare Foundation to purchase items insurance companies usually do not provide, such as shower benches and chairs. Grant funding is currently on hold.
* PowerMax, a manufacturer of hearing aid batteries donated close to $200,000 worth of hearing aid batteries. These were offered to the council members to give to those in need.

**Budget - Dave**

* Spend down funds have been utilized through providing additional funding to the centers; Independence Place to support Newsline; CAL; support for CARAT Project in Paducah; SHARP for application fees; purchase of demonstration equipment for the Rehab Techs.
* Fifty percent of Sheila’s salary was absorbed from the CARAT grant by KATS. The other will be paid by the grant from DPH. Ten percent of Elizabeth’s salary will now also come from the DPH grant, to support Sheila.

**KATLC- Dave**

* Meeting book pages 34-36 KATLC Annual Report to the Governor’s office.
* Modified vehicle limit has been raised to $50,000 from the previous limit of $25,000.

**Discussion Notes:**

Dave responded to council member’s questions concerning loan requirements and terms.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation– Seth**

* Effective July 1st- OVR began serving Priority Category 1 only. Federal law requires OVR to serve individuals with the most severe disabilities first when there are not enough resources to serve everyone. The other consumers go on a waiting list for services.
* Statewide training on WIOA (Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act) in October.
* PreETS
* Some areas of increased spending last year were: driver rehab, driver training, vehicle mods, home mods and wheelchair purchase/repair.

**Discussion Notes:**

Budget concerns were discussed. Sharon encouraged the council to contact legislators to express the hardships of the reduced budget to OVR and OFB.

**Open Discussion from the Advisory Council:**

* Sharon shared information on the Order of the Eastern Star’s service project; to purchase a Service dog for an individual who needs one, but cannot afford to purchase on his/her own. She asked the council to contact her directly with names of individuals who may be candidates.
* Sharon also shared a piece of new technology; a Braille NoteTouch from Humanware.
* Lee announced the schedule for the Student Technology Leadership Program’s Regional Qualifiers. They will be demonstrating their Assistive Technology projects; starting 11/3 at Murray State; 11/10 at UK; 11/14 at NKU; 11/17 at Morehead; 11/29 at UL; 12/5 at the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, 12/8 at the Eastern KY Expo Center. The State Championship will be on 4/12/17 at Rupp Arena. Go to the Kentucky Department of Education’s website and search for STLP for further information.
* Tour of WKATC offered to council members.

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

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

**Date: December 9th, 2016**

**Time: 9:00 am**

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

**Location: TBD (possibly Redwood or CDPTVC)**

**Date: March 3, 2017**

**Time: 9:00 am**

**Adjournment:**

Joe motioned to adjourn and Lee seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.