**Minutes of KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting**

**December 4, 2015**

**Spalding University/Entech**

**Louisville, KY**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Chair, Joe Cowan.

**Advisory Council Members**

Andre Ryssemus, Todd Stephens, Lee Muncy, Rowena Holloway, Sharon Fields, Joe Cowan, Nathan Bolton, Vivian Lasley, Rick Boggess, Heather Markham (Proxy for Carol Weber)

**KATS Network Coordinating Center and ATRC Staff**

Jimmy Brown, Jerry Wheatley, Linnie Lee, Sheila Levy, Kelly Turnham, Cindy Huston, Peggy Farmer, Lisa Staub, Josh Skuller

**Advisory Council Members not in attendance**

Jennifer Hicks, Patrick Murphy, Matt Davis, Kat McGee, Steve Burchett

**Others in attendance**

Malicia Hitch, Protection & Advocacy

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

Joe called the next order of business; approving the September 4, 2015 council minutes that were

e-mailed to members. Motion made to accept the minutes as presented and it was seconded. Voted on by the council, all were in favor.

Advisory Council Membership – Nominations

Council is seeking nominations for three seats on the Council as Sharon Fields, Matt Davis and Joe Cowan have served 3 consecutive terms and are ineligible to serve. These 3 seats will be vacant after March 31, 2016. Council members are asked to recommend persons with disabilities that are willing to serve. The nominees must be submitted to the Governor’s office for appointment.

The Council voted and approved to move Todd Stephens from his current position serving as a representative for Independent Living Centers to occupy an individual seat. This move is subject to approval by the Governor.

The motion was made and approved by the Council to reappoint Jennifer Hicks as Council Co-Chair for the next year. Rick Boggess volunteered to be Co-Chair, motion was made and approved by the Council.

**Assistive Technology Act Program Update**

**Transition to Administration for Community Living - Jimmy**

* KATS Coordinating Center has relocated to the Charles W. McDowell Center on Westport Road in Louisville.
* Elizabeth Thompson was awarded the “Rookie of the Year” award by OVR for exemplary performance.
* We have until the end of September to obligate the funds from FY ’14 (carry over monies) and funds must be liquidated by December 31st. The same process and deadlines are expected to apply for FY’15.
* It is assumed any carry forward funding will have to be requested prior to any approval to spend those funds.
* Transition from RSA to ACL has mostly taken place, except the data collection.
* Data collection processes from the coordinating center are still in transition.

**Discussion Notes:**

None

**Updates from ATRCs**

**Bluegrass Technology Center – Linnie Lee**

* Providing same reuse services
* Debbie Sharon is no longer employed by BTC.
* As a cost cutting measure the center is now open only 4 days per week from 8:30 to 4:30. Will be closed on Mondays
* As a cost cutting measure, the BTC board chair is now acting director.

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

* KITE (Kosair Integrated Technology Experience) updates:
* Has changed the ages it serves to 2 ½ through 9 years old (formerly it was 3-12). Reasons for the change are at 2 ½ KITE is able to serve the child before they age out of First Steps at age 3. Reason for adopting age 9 rather than 12 for inclusion in KITE is that the disability community services available for ages 10 -12 are plentiful for this age group.
* Entech is working on a collaboration with the ALS organization to provide loans of AT to persons with ALS. Program has been successful and is going to be voted on by the ALS board to approve this program’s continuation.

**Redwood –Peggy Farmer**

* In July and August they hosted a summer technology camp for students ages 6 to 20.
* In September they hosted training for professionals on how to use AT for consumers in transition (school to work, etc.).
* They continue to give out and loan AT and DME to consumers.

**Western KY AT Center – Cindy Huston**

* Worked on a public awareness video with a local television station showing a child they served.
* Presented a program for Sr. citizens and Foster Grandparents on AT.
* Did an employment transition workshop.

**Carl D. Perkins Center –Heather presented a verbal summary**

* They have hired a new person to take over the KATS lending AT library and project CARAT duties. She is currently on maternity leave.
* They have given out 250 AT items through its CARAT reuse program.

**Discussion Notes:**

None.

**KATS Network Coordinating Center – Jimmy Brown, Jerry Wheatley,**

**Sheila Levy, Elizabeth Thompson**

* For FY15 into FY16, after commitments to the CARAT program and another year with the SHARP Program, we will have spent all remaining carry forward monies and be back to the annual federal grant of $456,000.
* Device Demonstrations: 5
* Short Term Loans: 189
* Reutilization: 47
* Public Awareness: 32,942
* Information and Assistance: 3,353
* Training Participants: 57
* Powerpoint presentation on Federal Data report by Jimmy Brown

**Discussion Notes:**

Jerry and Jimmy are working with KY Board of Elections to develop online voter registration that is fully accessible to the disabled.

* Discussion ensued on working with other state offices to make websites and electronic media accessible
* Lee suggested finding someone in the legislature who would be willing to be the spokesperson with the state agencies.

**Project CARAT Update - Sheila**

* Referenced pg 34 of the meeting book.
* CARAT is officially state-wide with the sites in Louisville/Spalding University and Paducah Lourdes Hospital
* Since 2012, almost $318,873 of equipment has been distributed.
* 352 KY individuals with disabilities have been served.
* The Paducah CARAT site will have a PACE volunteer which is an OVR training program. RSVP which is a volunteer program for Senior Citizens is working with the site to provide volunteers.
* CAL Murray is helping with the administration of the Paducah CARAT site.
* CAL Murray is hiring a new employee that will spend either one full day or two half days per week at the CARAT Paducah site and they will coordinate CARAT’s volunteers there.
* Two grant applications have been submitted for CARAT. One is for $75,000 with the Christopher and Dana Reeve foundation. The other is with the Pew Charitable Trust for $45,000. If awarded to CARAT, these funds will be used to enhance CARAT’s sustainability.
* The logistics of the DME transportation continues to be a challenge.
* A December 9th meeting is planned with Spalding University to discuss moving forward with obtaining nonprofit 501 c 3 status for CARAT and also EnTech.

**Discussion Notes:**

None.

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

* SHARP has assisted just over 136 people with applying for the national Hear Now program, many of whom have already received his/her hearing aid(s).
* Cost to SHARP has been $28,875 in application fees. Cost savings (compared to purchasing new hearing aids is approximately $870,625.
* There have been over 150 who have been scheduled with hearing professionals.
* The monies received from the donated hearing aids has fully-funded the reconditioning (repairing) of consumer’s hearing aids.
* Currently, we are working with about 35 hearing health professionals across the state.
* About 80% of the individuals participating in the SHARP program have a monthly household income of under $1,200.
* Jerry is working on a referral list of audiologists that participate in SHARP in KY.
* Jerry attended the Lions Club meeting of the District Governors in Elizabethtown and made a presentation.
* Jerry presented SHARP at the Bowling Green Lions Club.

**Discussion Notes:**

None.

**Office of ADA – Jennifer**

* There was no update on the Office of ADA.

**Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation - Jimmy**

Referencing Dave’s submitted report:

* Made 19 loans from July through October totaling $129,780.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation-Carol (Presented by Heather Markham)**

* Substantial Gainful Activity Project (SGA)
* Currently working with 166 SSI recipients
* We are on track to serve our target number of 500 people across the state in a one-year period.
* We have hired 3 Regional Managers. All were former Branch Managers.
* Jason Cole serves Western Kentucky
* Ryan Henson serves Central and Northern Kentucky
* Brent Sturgill serves Eastern Kentucky

**Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA) – Carol**

* Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS)-looking at what services we will provide and tracking current time and expenditures in relation to services to high school students.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation-Rehab Tech Branch-Carol**

* Hired Seth Basham to serve the Western side of Kentucky.
* We are hiring another position that will cover the not-so-far Western side of KY.
* The position in Thelma at the Carl Perkins Training Center has been filled. The person, Rachael Johnson is currently on maternity leave.

**KCDHH update –Rowena**

* We are working with SHARP as we get requests daily for hearing aids.
* Rowena is working with the LRC and Protection and Advocacy to interpret a federal court case that she has been told will require insurance companies to pay for hearing aids for customers of any age. Previously insurance companies haven’t had to purchase hearing aids if the customer was over age 21. Rowena will investigate with assistance from P & A to determine what the new requirements are.

**Discussion Notes:**

None.

**Summer Assistive Technology Institute & KATS council- Jimmy**

The 2016 SATI conference will be June 14 for ½ day and a full day on June 15. The June KATS Network will be held on June 14th prior to the beginning of the SATI conference. The conference and meeting will be held at the Kentucky State Research Farm in Frankfort.

**Discussion Notes:**

None.

**Open Discussion from the Advisory Council:**

None.

**Announcements / New Business**

The OVR office and administrative office for the KATS Network has relocated to the McDowell Center in Louisville at 8412 Westport Road. Todd Stephens noted that the National NFB newsline office has moved from Independence Place in Lexington to the National Federation of the Blind’s office in Lexington.

**Date and Location for next meeting:**

**Location: McDowell Center 8412 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40242**

**Date: March 4, 2016**

**Time: 10:00 am**

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

**Tuesday, June 14th**

**Location: Kentucky State Research Farm**

**Adjournment:**

Motioned to adjourn and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 P.M.