



Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
ATP Office, 3901 N. 27th Street, Suite 5, Lincoln, NE
January 25th, 2019

Attendance

Council members present:

Angela Fujan, John Wyvill, Tim Kolb, Nancy Coffman, Brian Wojcik, Jody Faltys, Joni Thomas, Robert Reick, Kristen Larsen, Dillard Delts

Phone/Video Conference:

Anne Ireland, Irene Britt, Neena Nizar

Absent:

Jennifer Meints, Rhea Hochstein, Nick Dropinski

ATP Staff:

Tobias Orr, Jackie Rapier, Nancy Noha, David Altman

Guest:

Caroline Helget

Meeting convened at 10:02 am.

Joni Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members and staff introduced themselves.

Presentation on Easterseals Nebraska Alternative Finance Program – Holly Windorski (Easterseals Nebraska)

Presentation on Project SEARCH and ATP's role – David Altman (ATP)

Working Lunch – Broke into workgroups

Workgroup Reports:

ReUse- Joni Thomas reported that the group discussed the AT4ALL website and how after the rebuild it would be nice if it was user friendly similar to ebay. One suggestion was to have drop down boxes giving options such as “ I am willing to deliver this equipment within ___ miles” so that individuals can advertise if they will deliver an item. Another suggestion is to improve the search feature so that it narrows down the amount of items displayed. The last suggestion was to put a list of recycle places on AT4ALL so that people know where to dispose of equipment that no longer works.

DHHS- Jackie Rapier reported on the challenges that ATP is facing with the implementation of Managed Care. One example is Ceiling Track systems. In the past DME Medicaid would pay for motors and slings, while Waiver funding would pay for the track and installation. Currently ATP has 15 projects that are pending (some for over a year) because the Managed Care companies are no longer giving prior approval or denial, or only covering a small percentage of the actual cost



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of the equipment. No DME vendor can and/or will absorb the loss of the reduced payment on the equipment. ATP has been working closely with DHHS for several months to resolve this issue but haven't reached a solution.

Education/VR-Tobias Orr reported that the group discussed different ways that ATP can market to VR and Education staff, including marketing approaches to educate people on the different types of AT.

Program Reports:

Marketing: Nancy Noha

- Upcoming training for ATP staff next month- "Workers Safety, Keep Yourself Safe in the Field" presented by Project Harmony.
- New DHHS online referral forms have been working well. They were recently updated. Jackie reports that there is a challenge for Waiver staff to find out what the Consumer's MCO is. We are hoping to improve the look of the forms and make them more user friendly and easier to read down the road. Tobias explained that the forms were built for ATP by Nebraska Interactive at no charge. Currently the data from the forms is manually entered into ATTIE. At some point ATP would like to automate the process. The new online forms have shortened the time from referral to assignment to a Technology Specialist.
- The new online Education request form is also working. Tobias explained that he feels the form is a bit lengthy and in the future will most likely be paired down. Rhonda in the Cozad office is the person responsible for entering the Education Requests.
- March is Brain Injury Awareness month. Nancy passed out a conference flyer. VR's TBI grant has been working on a survey for people who experience a brain injury to help identify needed supports, and also putting together a Brain Injury Summit "Living with Brain Injury". Also, they have redesigned the brochures they send out to individuals who recently experienced a TBI, so that they are now age and region specific.
- 2019 is ATP's 30th anniversary. Nancy is putting together a collection of 30 second videos ("30 years, 30 seconds") done by staff. These videos will touch on ATP and topics around AT and will be shared via social media. Nancy offered to the Council a chance to participate in a short video if they want to share their experience as a Council member.

ADA – Technical Assistance: Tobias Orr

Nothing new to report. ATP is still providing TA around ADA guidelines to schools across NE.

Education Update: Tobias Orr

- Halfway through the first year of the restructure.



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- Currently seeking 2 new Technology Specialists (Omaha, Scottsbluff). The position can be held until this summer to accommodate a teacher's schedule.
- ATP has been reaching out schools and giving presentations.
- A new training is being developed with the help of NDE on AT and how to write it into the IEP/IFSP, and what does an AT Evaluation look like. The first presentation of this training will be in February at the NDE Transition Conference.

ReUse: Tobias Orr

- AT4ALL is in the process of being rebuilt. Shooting for a completion date of 10/1/2019. The search feature (mentioned by the workgroup) is one of the top priorities of the rebuild. Looking at filtering out equipment that individuals don't qualify to reduce the amount of items come up in a search. Also, moving towards searching by keywords (specific to each item) instead of having the database search the entire description.
- May 18th, 2019 the 2nd annual "Lose it and Reuse it" equipment exchange will be held at Outlook Nebraska. Partners include CHI, Nanopac, Assistology, and ATP. Promoting the event should begin shortly.

Funding (Part B, EFG): Tobias Orr

- EFG is up and running. Peg is currently calling individuals on the waitlist and referring them to Technology Specialists. EFG is the Enrichment Foundation Grant and it is for individuals with disabilities living in Douglas and Sarpy counties who need AT and have exhausted all other options for funding.
- Part B IL Funds are now officially done. ATP has authorized the last of the funding and other than approx. \$46 in indirect costs waiting to post, the program is closed down. Jackie R. mentioned how beneficial this funding source was to individuals, especially those in rural NE, and how unfortunate that it has come to an end.

DHHS: Jackie Rapier

- In the past year ATP authorized 581 projects using over \$2,540,000 of Waiver funding. Other funding authorized included the DD Waiver (approx. \$146,000), Part B (approx. \$14,000), and EFG (approx. \$71,000). Total amount funded for DHHS projects = \$2,772,484.00. The partnership we have with DHHS allowed these projects which help individuals remain independent in their homes.
- Tobias and Jackie will be providing training to Children's Waiver staff this year to educate them on what types of projects and referrals are appropriate.
- Stacey H. with ATP's Ed program meets with the EDN and will be providing information to them about appropriate ATP referrals.

Nebraska VR: Tobias Orr

- Annual report submitted at the end of 2018.



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- FY 18 – 308 Service Requests
- 73 of the Service Requests were for PreEts students. For these individuals ATP cannot purchase equipment, so an info only consult is done, and then resource coordination of funding is needed by the individual to purchase the recommended AT.
- ATP is involved in all of the VR Project SEARCH sites across the state.

ICanConnect (ICC): Tobias Orr

- ATP has overseen this program for past 3 years.
- Funded by the FCC and is for individuals that are legally deaf/blind and need telecommunications equipment.
- Approximately 10-15 projects done per year.
- This is the one ATP program that may be affected by a Government shutdown.

Resource Coordination: Tobias Orr

- 10/1/2018-12/31/2018 – 66 new Service and Device applications received.
- Last Coordinated Funding Committee meeting held at the League of Human Dignity.
- FY 18 - approximately 486 Service and Device applications received.

Director's Report: Tobias Orr

- ATP now has cell phones for staff who are mobile. Landlines will be shut off within the next few weeks. Now staff will be able to text with consumers and take pictures of projects with their phones.
- ATP is shutting down 2 of their 3 (Kearney, Omaha) toll free numbers. Now all toll free calls will be routed through the Lincoln office.
- Funding – all ATP funding is in place except for ICC. All funding was passed prior to the beginning of FY19 including State AT funds.
- ATP is still unable to report to ACL. Currently ATP is reporting to their professional organization ATAP. ACL states a reporting system will be released this year, and that there may be some minor reporting changes.
- ATP still is unable to submit a new State Plan to ACL because of ACL not having a system set up to input the information. ATP has been running on an extension of the old state plan. Hoping that this summer new information about state plan submission will be released. Tobias would like to restructure the way ATP's state plan is put together to make it more reader friendly.
- ATTIE – ATP will be contracting with outside programmers to perform updates to the database. The system is working well but is missing some needed features.

Public Announcements:

Kristen L. passed out handouts that were created by Disability Rights Nebraska that talked about why Nebraska needs an Olmstead Plan. The DD Council provided \$127,000 to fund a consultant



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to create an Olmstead Plan. The creation of the plan is taking longer than projected. DHHS submitted a report to the Governor's office on December 15th, 2018 stating the progress made so far and recommendations. One recommendation was to change ~~add~~ legislation to include more agencies in the Plan. Current legislation only brings DHHS to the table. Legislation has been proposed to include DOL, NDE, Dept. of Corrections, and Office of State Long Term Care Ombudsman, and the Governor's Policy Research Office in the development of the Olmstead Plan. Also, an extension of 90 days is needed for the consultants to finish the plan.

Nancy C. mentioned that the Brain Injury Advisory Council is working to get more people on the Council that have a brain injury or are family members of individuals with a brain injury. If anyone is interested, Keri Bennett with Nebraska VR would be the person to contact. They are trying to change the make-up of the Council and have a majority of members be individuals with a brain injury or their family members. The Council is really trying to build the voice of brain injury in Nebraska and build awareness.

Approval of September 2018 minutes: Motion made by Nancy C., seconded by Jody F., unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm

Next meeting in September 2019. Date TBA