

Grant Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
June 8th, 2022 10:00am – 12:30pm
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees:	Tammy Koger	Karen Fraller	Marissa Cowan
	Philip Woodward	Elizabeth Martinez	Tyrell Hobbs
	Joy Tribble	Brittany Hawley	Gloria Jinks
	Joshua Barton	Monique Cox	Christey Kirk
	Sandy Johnson	Sonya Clark	Frank Harden
	Kimberly Williams	Tammy Pereboom	Kendal Rasor
	Mark Steele	Hogan VanSickle	Rene Cummins
	Annette Lauber	Tommy Cloyd	Kathleen Wood
	Kim Harrell	Kelsey Kilgore	

GAC Purpose and Member Introduction

Tammy Koger, Director

The GAC works to advise and support assistive technology services provided by NCATP and to make suggestions about expanding AT and related services to all citizens of NC. We are comprised of professionals and AT users across the State.

Members who were absent at the last meeting were introduced as well as our newest members who are Tommy Cloyd, Mark Steele, and Kathleen Wood. Hogan VanSickle and Joshua Barton are two other new members but were not present for today's meeting.

GAC Member Presentation -DVR

Joy Tribble, DVR

- Recent DHHS Initiatives such as supporting the Olmstead ruling, promoting Employment First, and the creation of a council supporting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- Factors which influence policy changes include legislation such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. It emphasizes competitive employment, career tracks that include training, and Pre-Employment Transition Services. The pandemic also brought about temporary policy changes and adjustments needed to serve individuals.
- DVR is also on-track to receive a new case management system which will allow clients to sign electronically, send messages, and upload documents. The go-live date has been pushed back due to a cyber attack so TBD for that new software.
- DVR is also experiencing a staffing shortage which is impacting service delivery. Currently there is a 32% vacancy rate for Rehabilitation Counselors and 20% overall vacancy rate for all positions.

AT Expo & Pop Up Events

Sonya Clark, NCATP

This year's Virtual AT Expo will be from 9:00am to 4:00pm on **September 29th, 2022**. It will include a keynote speaker, 8 sessions, and presentation of the Sallee Awards. There is a scheduled break for lunch and prizes will be given out throughout the day. Sonya has asked for DIY videos or pictures of AT demonstrations to fill in time gaps. See separate attachment. New this year, participants can earn CEU's of .08 for attending the Expo. Thanks for DPI, DVR, DSDHH, EasterSealsUPC, NC AgrAbility, and Annette Lauber for donations of prizes and/or sponsorship of this year's Expo.

Next year, the AT Expo will be sponsored by DPI and will be live in-person at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh on October 5th, 2023.

In May, NCATP hosted 3 Aging Resource Fairs or AT Pop-Ups for aging adults and their caregivers along with vendors in Raleigh, Greenville, and Morganton. The purpose is to connect the aging and disabled population with services now and what they might need to stay independent. It was a great success and planning has started for Pop-Ups for 2023 with a focus on adaptable gaming & recreation. The sites have not yet been confirmed so more to come.

Stephen E. Sallee Awards

Frank Harden, NCATP

This award recognizes individuals who support Assistive Technology. There is one award for AT Professionals/Advocate and a separate award for AT user/family/caregiver. These awards are presented at the AT Expo every year. Please help spread the word as there have been no nominations for the AT user category.

- Nominations will continue to be accepted until **September 16th**.
- Mark Steele, Kathleen Wood, and Karen Fraller are serving on the selection committee.

ADRC/ACCESS Grants

Sarah Gachuz, NCATP

Grants NCATP received under the Cares Act in partnership with DAAS to provide services to individuals who are social isolated, aged, and disabled. NCATP provided assessments and/or consultations to ensure these targeted groups beginning at the end of 2020. Another grant allowed NCATP to purchase AT devices identified during the assessment for these individuals. This was the first time NCATP has purchased equipment directly to individuals as the AT Act does not allow individual purchases.

- 217 individuals have received assessments/consultations and 102 individuals have received devices or are in-process to receive a recommended device.
- Most referrals are from seniors who have vision, hearing, or mobility impairments.
- Currently, we are not taking new grant referrals so we can complete the ones already in process. Both grants end September 30th, 2022.
- Several success stories shared

AT Videos

Latrell Broughton, NCATP

Latrell has been traveling to each of our NCATP centers across the state. Eventually, each video will include an introduction to the center, equipment demos, views of each accessible rooms, and interviews with NCATP staff members. So far, each center has been visited and videos have been taken. He showed two quick videos of the Sanford AT Center and the Winston-Salem Center. His work includes editing, captioning, and posting these videos. These videos are multi-purpose and will be uploaded to DHHS's YouTube channel.

Partner Updates and Announcements

Easter Seals UPC - Karen Fraller announced grant funding available for AT devices without another source of funding. For more information, email Karen at specialassistance@eastersealsupc.com

NCATP – Mentoring program idea that came up during the last GAC meeting is being pursued. One employee with NCATP has expressed an interest in participating so more to come.

DVRS-Joy Tribble announced details of the 2nd Annual Virtual Training Conference. It takes place on September 23rd and September 30th from 8:30-12:30pm. As soon as the registration link is available, members will be notified. Also, a name change for DVRS has been submitted to the General Assembly for approval to better reflect the work and services they do. The name put forth is the Division of Inclusive Employment and Independence.

Division of Workforce Solutions-Mose Dorsey announced the 2022 NC Partnership Conference will be held in Greensboro at the Koury Center on October 12-14. For more information, go to <https://www.ncworkforcetraining.com/PartnershipConfPublic.aspx>

NC Council of Developmental Disabilities – Philip Woodward had several announcements

- NCCDD hosted its quarterly meeting in Asheville in May. This was our first in-person quarterly meeting since February 2020.
- NCCDD recently released a Request for Applications (RFA) for Summer Mini-Grants designed to support systems change activities or build capacity to enable individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live full and meaningful lives in the community. Applications were due by June 1st.
- NCCDD presented at the i2i Center for Integrated Health Spring Conference in Raleigh on June 6th about unmet needs and how the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) crisis is impacting people with I/DD.

REMINDERS:

AT Expo: September 29th: Register @ <https://go.ncsu.edu/2022-at-expo>

Next GAC Meeting: Wednesday, November 9th, 2022 from 10am – 12:30pm