

# NCATP GRANT ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2023

10:00-12:30

**Attendees:** Rene Cummins, Mose Dorsey, Sandy Johnson, Annette Lauber, Sandy McMillan, Mark Steele, Joy Tribble, Hogan VanSickle, David Beck, Philip Woodward, Josh Barton, Tammy Koger, Sam Westrich, Kenny Gibbs, Betty Rodriguez, Valerie Coles, Marissa Conniff, Julie Dutchess, Sarah Gachuz, Brittany Hawley, Gloria Jinks, Christey Kirk, Elizabeth Martinez, Tara Muller, Tammy Pereboom, Kathleen Wood, Kendal Rasor

Call to Order and Introductions

Tammy Koger

- Member Updates – Mark Steele with Solutions for Independence is sponsoring a 5K race on Saturday, October 14th and trying to get the word out and there will be a virtual component. Mose Dorsey advised us the registration is now open for the NCWorks Partnership Conference October 11-13<sup>th</sup> 2023 in Greensboro. <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/jobs-training/workforce-professionals-tools-resources/ncworks-training-center/ncworks-partnership-conference> Philip Woodward with the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities shared a I/DD town hall hosted by Secretary Kinsley will be held tomorrow evening. Here is the link to register online [Meeting Registration - Zoom \(zoomgov.com\)](#) It will be a hybrid event. If you wish to attend in person, please email [townhall@nccdd.org](mailto:townhall@nccdd.org) Tara Mueller shared Disability Rights of NC is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Walk and Roll Together event on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> in Gastonia. [Walk & Roll Together Gaston - DRNC \(disabilityrightsncc.org\)](#) David Beck with Self Help Credit Union introduced himself and advised us on loan programs for AT devices. [Assistive Technology Loans | Self-Help Credit Union](#)
- Sonya Clark is no longer with NCATP, so Julie Dutchess and Christey Kirk are handling the AT Expo.

Workforce Solution

Mose Dorsey

- WIOA Equal Opportunity - 22 local areas that work with 81 NC Works Career Centers to serve the public. Career assessments, training & guidance, job fairs, workshops, and local job market information are some of the services provided. Assist with resume preparation, interviewing, and soft skills. Workforce Solution also have apprenticeships available. The Career Centers also focus on special populations such as veterans, ex-offenders, and individuals with disabilities for example.
- DEI Compliance – Mose is also the ADA Compliance Officer for DWS. He makes sure all Centers are accessible and handles any grievances of discrimination. He works with new Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as well. EEO and DEI are very close so some benefits of ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion would be the organization would grow faster, be more creative, and ensures everyone as access. Be mindful of the implicit bias we all have and micro-aggressions which can lead to discrimination. DWS offers training on DEI through free online courses.

GAC Happy Hour/Mentorship Program

Sam Westrich, Annette Lauber, Kathleen Wood

- Once the group started getting into the details, they had to take a step back as it got very complicated. They have come up with a new idea called **AT Happy Hour**. Propose 1x a month the GAC will host and create a space for connecting individuals across the state that either use AT or are interested in using AT. The previous idea was more one-on-one and matching individuals to a mentor. This is a group activity instead where individuals could talk among themselves, share resources, talk about news or noteworthy topics in the field of AT. Each month could focus on a specific area of AT. The goal is helping people connect, so may need separate sessions with different timeslots.

- The AT Expo will be in-person for the first time since 2019. It will be at the McKimmon Center on NCSU campus in Raleigh. Starts at 9:00am, partnering with DPI who will be providing CEU's for the event. It is free and open to the public, we will provide live stream of the event, and there will be vendors of AT devices and resources. The theme will be "A day in the life with Assistive Technology". We are inviting anyone who uses AT or serves individuals with AT to tell their experience and present.
- Don't forget to register at [https://ncsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_v5v0sCaTTJuymf0vT1dDtA](https://ncsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v5v0sCaTTJuymf0vT1dDtA) and please distribute flyer. Right now, 194 total registrations with mostly professionals.
- Begins at 9am and ends at 4pm, hope to have a keynote speaker with 45 minutes; next 2 sessions of 45 minutes each plus a 45 minute lunch. After lunch will be the Stephen E Sallee awards, then 3 more sessions and the closing remarks by Tammy Koger. The vendor hall will be open until 5pm.
- Space for 30 vendors and 1 van. Right now, we have 12 vendors confirmed with payment. Trying to get a variety of AT categories. Still needs vendors for computer access, education, and recreation/leisure.
- Send vendor suggestions with a contact name directly to Christey at [Christey.Kirk@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Christey.Kirk@dhhs.nc.gov)
- Please share the AT Expo flyer with groups, friends, family, and colleagues and if you are interested in volunteering, please email [Julie.Dutchess@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Julie.Dutchess@dhhs.nc.gov) or [Christey.Kirk@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Christey.Kirk@dhhs.nc.gov)
- If you are involved with Facebook Groups or LinkedIn Groups and they will allow you to post the AT Expo flyer on those personal pages, please do so. More on the AT Expo at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/vocational-rehabilitation-services/north-carolina-assistive-technology-program/ncatp-events>

Stephen E Sallee Committee

Tammy Pereboom

- Seeking 3 individuals that will serve on a committee to select award recipients. There are two categories, and each will have an award winner.
- The awards will be presented at the AT Expo. Kathleen Wood, Valerie Coles, and Mark Steele volunteered to serve on the committee. **September 15<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for nominations. Here is a link for the nominations. [NCATP Grant Advisory Council Stephen E Sallee \(office.com\)](#)
- Please SHARE and get the word out. The committee needs nominations.

Announcements/updates

Tammy Koger

- NCATP currently has 4 vacancies; Charlotte Admin – candidate selected, Intake Coordinator – interviews scheduled for next week, Raleigh Temp - been posted, and the Raleigh Information & Referral position – will be posted very soon.
- NCATP is planning AT Popups again for 2024. Locations include Fayetteville (right outside Ft. Liberty), Winston-Salem since we are partnering with Solutions for Independence again, and Charlotte with a DSS partnership.
- GAC Meeting Schedule – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday every 3 months works well for everyone's schedule so we will continue. This was the last pre-planned meeting on the books with the Zoom link, so Kendal will work on sending out the invites with Zoom links for the next 5 meetings through 2024.

**Next GAC Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 from 10:00am-12:30pm via Zoom. Link will be forthcoming.**

