

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, Schedule, & New Members 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.

GAC Meeting Schedule reviewed and 2nd Wednesday every three months appears to work for everyone.

New Members are Tommy Cloyd, Mark Steele, Kathleen Wood, Hogan VanSickle, and Joshua Barton.

NCATP Updates **Tammy Koger, Director**

- New Staff include Sarah Gachuz, Latrell Broughton, Brittany Hawley, Christy Kirk, Samantha Westrich
- 1 vacant temporary position for Community Outreach. This position will last approximately 16 months and focus on aging and Latino population.

2020-2021 Federal Report **Tammy Koger, Director**

Reviewed the loan totals of the Self Help Credit Union, AT Reuse exchanges/loans, short term device loans, device demonstrations, training, technical assistance, and information assistance. Discussed how the pandemic greatly reduced these totals. Trends include increase in virtual service as a method of receiving services. Another new trend included employers beginning to request NCATP's services.

- Sonya shared personal stories as examples of how our services were utilized and reflected on the Federal Report.

ADRC/ACCESS Project

Tammy Koger, Director

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 had access to Covid information, vaccine, telehealth services, etc. 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. The new grant is considered "other funding" under alternative financing for the state plan and federal report.

- Currently, we are not taking new grant referrals so we can complete the ones already in process. In addition, the grants end in September of this year.

Video Projects/Trainings

Gloria Jinks, 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. These videos will be produced and added to our YouTube channel. The idea of these video demos came out of the Pandemic and the need for individuals to view demos when the Centers were closed. All videos are accessible also.

- AT4ALL is another video project where NCATP demos different assistive technology devices weekly. The videos are available on our YouTube channel. We are on a break for the summer, and they will resume in August.

AT Pop-Ups & AT Expo

Sonya Clark, NCATP

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.

AT Expo last year was virtual. We had several vendors with sessions, gave out door prizes, and recognized the Stephen E. Sallee award winners. This year the Virtual AT Expo will be from 9:00am to 4:00pm on September 29th, 2022. We will incorporate breaks and a lunch. We are looking into getting a keynote speaker this year and would like to add testimonials. Hopefully, we will go back to a live event for 2023.

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.

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

Partner Updates and Announcements

Easter Seals UPC - Karen Fraller will be transitioning to part-time, and Elizabeth Martinez will be the main point of contact. There will be 2 grants opening back up in July for AT needs.

DSB – Kim Harrell with DSB announced an Expo for individuals who are deaf & blind entitled “A Taste of Technology”. This event will be held in person at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh on October 1st and is sponsored by NC Relay. AT agencies and vendors will be present. If any agency wants to be invited, reach out to Kim. A flyer should be available sometime this month.

Solutions for Independence – Mark Steel mentioned several events taking place soon. He also mentioned some vacancies for Community Inclusion Specialists.

- “ADA Celebration Through the Arts” will take place at the Southern Center for Contemporary Arts on July 29th, 2022 from 4-8pm.
- Adaptive Sports EXPO will be held on Saturday, October 15th in Winston-Salem.

NC Council of Developmental Disabilities – Philip Woodward had several announcements that were not mentioned in the meeting as we ran out of time, so they have been added here.

- 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.
- NCCDD plans to recognize the 32nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) this July. Stay tuned for more information on our website: www.nccdd.org

Discussion

- Peer Support was discussed at length. Several members saw the need for this service and several also volunteered to provide peer support. This issue/topic will be researched and reported on at the next GAC Meeting.

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