

NCATP GRANT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2023

10:00-12:30

Attendees: Tammy Koger, Annette Lauber, Mose Dorsey, Kathleen Wood, Karen Fraller, Rene Cummings, Brittany Hawley, Christey Kirk, Elizabeth Martinez, Frank Harden, Gloria Jinks, Hogan VanSickle, Joy Tribble, Julie Dutchess, Samantha Westrich, Sandy Johnson, Sonya Clark, Tammy Pereboom, Josh Barton, Mark Steele, Valerie Coles, Latrell Broughton, Kendal Rasor

Call to Order and introductions

Tammy Koger

- Member Updates – Karen Fraller from EasterSealsUPC is retiring so Valerie Coles will take her place. Frank Harden with NCATP is also retiring May 31st and he will be missed.

Easter Seals UCP

Karen Fraller, Valerie Coles, Elizabeth Martinez

- Dual State, Dual Agency focuses on IDD, Autism, and Behavioral Health Services. They offer community-based supports, group homes, employment services, recreation services, therapeutic foster care, crisis services, etc.
- Two Grants which can help with DME/AT Devices – Valerie Coles is the contact for these; Bellows Grant and DHHS Healthy Living Grant for individuals who have limited resources
- Information & Referral Services – Elizabeth Martinez handles all information requests and can send out referrals to other agencies. Range from childcare, senior care, wide range of resources on a variety of topics

GAC Mentorship Program

Sam Westrich, Annette Lauber, Kathleen Wood

- New project with the goal of providing opportunities to connect individuals who have experience with AT with individuals who would like support or are just starting out with their AT journey. A flyer has been made and will be made available to gauge interest.
- Guidelines/Process has been outlined and the idea is for the program to feel like more of a peer support program.
- Tammy suggests creating a timeline on when the documents can be tweaked, then identify one geographic area to roll out initially. State-wide would be too much

AT Pop Up events recap/update

Mark Steele, Sonya Clark, Latrell Broughton

Adaptive Gaming/Recreation Pop Ups

- Winston-Salem – Solutions for Independence partnered with NCATP for the event. Individuals could try different devices for recreation and gaming. 200 attendees with about 30 participants showed up. There was a DJ and food truck.
- Wilmington – Smaller scale, 9 total vendors spread throughout the VR office/AT Center. Participants tended to stay longer, intimate setting which allowed more one-on-one conversation between the vendors and visitors. 54 attendees including 7 self-contained students.

- **May 19th – Sanford Event** - Indoor/Outdoors at the VR office/AT Center in Sanford. Able Gaming, hunting, fishing, ultimate frisbee, blind soccer, therapeutic horseback riding, and gardening are a few of the adaptive recreational activities that will be on display.
- Photos of the Winston-Salem and Wilmington Events

AT Expo (October 5th, 2023)

Sonya Clark

- 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.
- Don't forget to register at https://ncsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v5v0sCaTTJuymf0vT1dDtA and please distribute flyer.
- 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.

Stephen E Sallee Committee

Frank Harden

- 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. Tammy Pereboom with NCATP will take care of setting up the meetings, sending the nominations, etc.

21st Century AT Act

Tammy Koger

- Reauthorized in December and will become effective in June of this year. The GAC may receive new members such as State Medicaid. It does expand some services and performance measures such as individuals who are homeless and transportation. We are waiting for more guidance and information to come.

Announcements/updates

All

- NCSU is looking for paid interns on their charging stations project. See attached flyer.
 -VR Encore case management system is scheduled to go live on June 6th. VR is trying for an in-person, scaled back NCRA conference event, probably in December, and VR continues to have a high vacancy rate for VR counselors.

Updates from the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)

- NCCDD is hosting its May quarterly meeting on May 11th-12th in Greenville.
- NCCDD is also hosting an in-person showing of "UNMET" on May 10th in Greenville. "UNMET" is a 25-minute film produced by filmmaker Robin Rayne about the twin crises affecting North Carolina's I/DD community: the Direct Support Professional (DSP) shortage and the long wait on the Registry of Unmet Needs to receive Medicaid Innovations Waiver services. This spring NCCDD has hosted a number of in-person and virtual showings. We are planning our next one for June 9th in Asheville. Please visit our

website at www.nccdd.org or sign up for our e-mail listserv for updated information about film showings.

- Special Note: One of the people appearing in the film is Luke Wilcox from northwestern North Carolina. He uses Tobii eye gaze technology, and we hope to have a Tobii representative attend the Asheville showing, where Luke plans to speak!
- NCCDD's *Making Alternatives to Guardianship a Reality in North Carolina* initiative has advocated for reforming North Carolina's guardianship system. Senate Bill 308, known as the "Guardianship Rights" bill passed 47-0 in North Carolina's Senate on April 20th, 2023 and is now sits with the North Carolina House of Representatives.
- NCCDD's *Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook* initiative has released a draft Guidebook on its website: www.slnc4.me. This is still in draft format, but a final version will be ready by June 30th, 2023.

Next Meeting scheduled August 9th.

**Tammy has asked if the group would like to go back to in-person meeting or hybrid.
Email Tammy if you have strong feelings one way or another.**