

NCATP GRANT ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 8, 2023

10:00-12:30

Recording can be viewed at: https://www.zoomgov.com/rec/share/qIG-S6ax3feHKsLZPHmObw5Ip8O-6wAIU6WGKKV7DAn_mfsJjxQihIVYLkvsP11H.LR3ogfxEZQ9OU0dd?startTime=1699454412000
[Passcode: QhGk7.D8](#)

Attendees: Joy Tribble, Rene Cummins, Mose Dorsey, Annette Lauber, Elizabeth Martinez, Tara Muller, Valerie Coles, Karen Fraller, Kathleen Wood, Tammy Koger, Julie Dutchess, Gloria Jinks, Kendal Rasor, Betty Rodriguez, Josh Barton, Gloria Jinks

NCATP Updates

Tammy Koger

- Federal Report – Tammy & Kendal are currently working on the Federal Report. There are 11 different databases, and they have lots of bugs, so NCATP is currently working with a company called Embrex to develop a new database. It's in the beginning stages but will be much more functional.
- **April 17th** looks like it will be National AT Day – Tammy submitted a proclamation to DHHS to have April declared as North Carolina's Assistive Technology month. We are waiting on feedback.
- Staffing Updates - Vacant Outreach & Funding Position, which was previously held by Sonya Clark. We have submitted a candidate and hope to have the individual in place by January. Vacant Intake Coordinator position, but we do have a candidate in process. Kelly Towery joined NCATP staff in the Charlotte AT Center in an Admin position. Lastly, we have a vacant temp position with 30 hours, 4 days a week for admin position in the Raleigh Office. Job link and posting is below.

The repost for JO# 19170 is now active. Repost Link:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/northcarolina/jobs/4185679/administrative-specialist-i-temporary-solutions?keywords=Administrative%20Specialist%20I--Temporary%20Solutions&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Date closing: 11/10/23

Disability Rights of NC (DRNC)

Tara Muller

- NC's Protection and Advocacy Organization. P&A organizations are federally mandated, and services are free. They are allowed to have access to ANY facility where individuals are receiving treatment.
- They do a lot of outreach and self-advocacy. Also have an investigation team to ensure laws are followed and rights are protected.
- Disability Rights of NC sees frequent healthcare barriers and sometimes litigation is a tool used to have the most impact and reach the most individuals.
- They do have a team of Medicaid Attorneys – can't help people get approved for Medicaid and/or Medicare, but they can help individuals get the benefits they are entitled to under the program.
- They also have an education team primarily to help ensure students stay in school. Lots of students with disabilities are not in school or not in the least restrictive environment because behaviors that are related to their disability became problematic. AT devices and access has often not been provided or even considered.

- Other teams include employment, monitoring, elections, justice, and home (IL). (see attached power point)

NC AT Expo 2023 Highlights

Julie Dutchess, Gloria Jinks

- 803 individuals were registered, actual attendance was 550. This includes in-person (349) and Virtual (201).
- 9 states are represented, also UK and US Virgin Islands. Attendees were individuals, professionals from education, medical, and non-profits.
- 7 different presentations including the keynote, and all were well attended.
- DPI did the CEU's this year, so big thanks to Josh!
- AT Awards were presented, but not a lot of nominations. Be thinking throughout the year of someone who would
- Accommodations – 14 ASL, 13 Audio Description, 7 CART, and Spanish Interpreters were present but were not requested specifically.
- The presentations will be put on our website, we are working on that now.
- 31 vendors total, variety of vendors across device categories, professional groups, non-profits, medical, and educational.
- Great feedback received all around about the vendors/presenters and the AT Expo as a whole.
- Lessons learned and great takeaways. Thanks to everyone who supported, attended, referred, and spread the word.

NC AT Expo 2024

Julie Dutchess, Gloria Jinks

- Date is already set – **October 3rd, 2024** and will be at the McKimmon Center again and will be Virtual and In-person again.
- Larger Vendor Hall – 45 exhibitors with 2 vans. Inviting back all previous vendors.
- Exhibitor booth fee increased by \$25 so Non-Profit is \$275 and For-Profit will be \$425.
- Apple will likely be a vendor for the 2024 Expo.
- Looking at the possibility of a separate education tract.
- Save the Date 2024 cards are available and attached. Please distribute and help spread the word.

AT Pop up Events/Other Partner Activities

All

- **March 16th, 2024 – Winston-Salem** at the JDL Indoor track from 10am-2pm, just like next year. We are also partnering with Solutions for Independence again and focusing on Adaptive Recreation for ALL ages.
- **April 12th, 2024 – Smith Lake right outside Fort Liberty.** NCATP will be partnering with EFMP and focusing adaptive and recreational gaming like last year.
- **May 2024 – Charlotte** but date is TBD.
- Rene Cummins with ADA discussed a survey which focuses on parents and caregivers with disabilities who have children. Through the Looking Glass is the company that developed the survey. They are the premier organization for peer support, information, and advocacy for parents with disabilities. They are based in Berkley; CA and their complex includes several non-profits and other organizations that can provide other resources. Please share the survey with anyone who might be able to speak on this topic. This survey is needed because often the rights of parents are challenged.

- DVR updates – several weeks into new case management, slow but making progress. Due to multiple factors, VR did not host the NCRA Conference this year. VR is looking forward to hosting the 2024 conference during the Spring/Summer. Phil Protz, the director of policy with DVR has retired so that position is currently vacant.
- We are looking for GAC members, AT users specifically. If you know of someone, please send Tammy Koger their contact information.

Thanks to all for your continued support and contributions. Next meeting will be in February 2024.