

Assistive Technology Advisory Council Meeting
March 10, 2010
Approved Minutes

Members Present: Brenda Wickard, Chair; Elizabeth Flaherty, Vice Chair; Margaret Fields, Ph.D., Secretary; Michael Behrmann, Ed.D.; Matthew Deans; Tom Dowling; Kelly Lum, OTR/L; Joseph Wallace, Ph.D.; George Scott Higdon; Joann Willis; Rose Pruden (Representing Senator Yvonne Miller); Sharon Jones (Representing John Eisenberg)

Members Absent: John Eisenberg; Ben Garrett; Tony Gentry, Ph.D., OTR/L; Jason Neal

Others Present:

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner, Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)
Sonja Schaible, Dir., Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment (FREE)
Douglas Powell, Chair, State Council for the Blind (teleconference)
Barbara Seymour, Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

Staff Present:

Kathy Hayfield, Director, Technology and Employment Support Services (TESS/DRS)
Robert Krollman, Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) Central Office
Barclay Shepard, VATS Central Office
Elin Glass, VATS Central Office
Joann Ervin, VATS Southeast Site-Old Dominion University
Susan Asselin, Ph.D., VATS Southwest Site-Virginia Tech
Rick Barrow, VATS Southwest Site-Virginia Tech
Lindsay Ivey, -VATS Northern Regional Site-George Mason University
Emily McKeough Fallings VATS Northern Regional Site-George Mason University (teleconference)

Call to Order:

Brenda Wickard, Chair, brought the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. All members of the Advisory Council, VATS staff and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Elizabeth Flaherty, seconded by Peggy Fields, Ph.D., and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2009 ATAC meeting as amended.

Public Comment: No public comment was offered.

Old Business – Review of Proposed Public Comment Procedures:

Robert Krollman distributed a handout on a format for the Virginia Assistive Technology System to solicit and receive Public Comments for Council Members to review. A discussion of this topic followed.

It was decided that Advisory Council members may send additional comments regarding the proposed procedures to Mr. Krollman. Mr. Krollman will send an e-mail reflecting comments and changes to Council members prior to the next quarterly meeting.

Old Business – Review of VATS Newsletter:

Joseph Wallace, Ph.D., directs the Council's Newsletter Committee which was charged to develop, implement and provide oversight for a quarterly newsletter. In this capacity, he gave a presentation on the initial edition of the newsletter and discussed strategies to promote widespread distribution. Editions of the newsletter will be available for download from the Virginia Assistive Technology System's website and will also be archived there.

Dr. Wallace requested Council members send him any suggestions regarding the format and any materials for articles for the newsletter.

TESS Director's Report/ VATS Program Updates:

Kathy Hayfield, Director, TESS, provided an update of VATS activities since the last meeting, highlighting FREE's efforts to expand to Richmond and the Hampton Roads areas, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Virginia Tech to more closely examine the impact of Virginia's policies regarding AT following students as they transition out of school systems, and our new initiative with DMAS to place "1-800-Call VATS" stickers on Medicaid-funded DME.

VATS submitted their annual data collection report to Rehabilitation Services Administration which was due by December 31, 2009. The numbers were reviewed with Council members and discussion followed. VATS 2009 numbers showed substantial improvement over 2008 in terms of services delivered in all categories.

Ms. Hayfield explained that an AT Fair will be held by VATS Central and Regional Site staff in collaboration with DBVI, DDHH, Virginia Relay, and the NewWell Fund at the Virginia Transition Forum, March 14-17, 2010, in Roanoke. Council members Peggy Fields, Ph.D., and Joey Wallace, Ph.D. will also participate in the AT Fair.

Advisory Council Development:

Robert Krollman stated the need for Council members to be thinking about adding new members to the Council who can give perspective and guidance as well as meet the

Federal requirement for composition of the ATAC. He requested that Council members contact him with suggestions.

Report on AT and Transition:

Susan Asselin, Ed.D., Director, VATS Regional Site at Virginia Tech gave a presentation on a small project that over the next several months will conduct and complete an examination of Assistive Technology and Transition discussion and will compile recommendations to assist VATS as they develop a more comprehensive understanding of the myriad of issues associated with AT and transition to school, employment and the community. This project was developed as a result of an extensive discussion of this issue at the previous Council meeting.

VATS Regional Site's Reports:

Regional Site Coordinators from GMU, ODU and VA Tech gave a report on current activities and projects. Upcoming events include "Say Yes to College" June 3-5 held by ODU and "College Bound" June 23-25 held by VA Tech.

Report from F.R.E.E. – Reuse Initiatives:

Barclay Shepard (VATS) and Sonja Schaible, Executive Director of the Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment and Endowment, which operates the Virginia Reuse Network under a contract with VATS gave a report on their activities to date to implement action steps to operate the Virginia Reuse Network as outlined in the scope of work.

Report from Commissioner Rothrock

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner, DRS, attended the meeting and offered updates and observations on a number of issues including funding, budgetary challenges and his vision of the future direction of assistive technology with the Agency.

Presentation: NIMAS:

Mike Behrmann, Ed.D., gave a report on AIM-VA which is the Accessible Instruction Media-Virginia Project which is the project that implements the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) within the Commonwealth. AIM-VA operates out of the Kellar Center for Human disAbilities at George Mason University.

Issue Discussion: Development of AT Equipment Loan Program and Development of a Strategic Vision/Action Steps:

There was a presentation by VATS staff on Equipment Loan Programs and the need to develop a statewide program where citizens can borrow assistive technologies on a short term basis to assist them in making decisions about acquisition of AT.

A motion was made by Joey Wallace, Ph.D., seconded by Peggy Fields, Ph.D., to form a steering committee that will facilitate the examination of this issue and the process of the Council developing a strategic plan to meet needs of this type in Virginia. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Much of the next scheduled advisory council meeting will be devoted to this issue, The steering committee is composed of Kelly Lum, Joann Willis, Dr. Behrmann and Dr. Wallace. They will provide a report at the next Council meeting.

Planning for future ATAC Meetings:

The ATAC meetings have been scheduled for Year 2010 and Year 2011 and the conference room has been reserved at the DRS Central Office/Richmond for the meetings:

Schedule for ATAC Meetings 2010-2011

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mar. 10, 2010 | Mar. 9, 2011 |
| June 9, 2010 | June 8, 2011 |
| Sept. 8, 2010 | Sept. 14, 2011 |
| Dec. 8, 2010 | Dec. 14, 2011 |

Next Scheduled ATAC Meeting:

The next ATAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at the DRS Central Offices, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, VA 23229.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn this meeting was made by Dr. Wallace, seconded by Brenda Wickard and passed by unanimous vote. The ATAC Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

•