

**Assistive Technology Advisory Council Meeting
December 8, 2010
Final Approved Minutes**

Members Present: Matthew Deans, Vice Chair; Margaret Fields, Ph.D., Secretary; Michael Behrmann, Ed.D.; Clayton Bowen; Melanie Brunson; Tom Dowling; John Eisenberg; Tony Gentry, Ph.D., OTR/L; Kelly Lum, OTR/L; Shawn Utt; Joseph Wallace, Ph.D.; Brenda Wickard, Joann Willis

Present by Teleconference: Scott Higdon

Members Absent: Elizabeth Flaherty, Chair; and William Massey

Guests:

Barbara Seymour, Representing the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

Staff Present:

Kathy Hayfield, Director, Field Rehabilitation Services, DRS
Robert Krollman, Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) Central Office
Barclay Shepard, VATS Central Office
Elin Glass, VATS Central Office
Janice Austin, VATS Central Office
Emily McKeough Fallings -VATS Northern Regional Site - George Mason University
David Netherton, VATS Southeast Regional Site - Old Dominion University
Joann Ervin, VATS Southeast Regional Site - Old Dominion University
Susan Asselin, Ph.D., VATS Southwest Regional Site – Virginia Tech
Robert (Rick) Barrow, VATS Southwest Regional Site - Virginia Tech
Sonja Schaible, Executive Director, Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment (F.R.E.E.)

Call to Order:

Matthew Deans, Vice- Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. All members of the Advisory Council, VATS staff and guests introduced themselves.

Introduction of New Members:

The announcement of two new Council members was noted: Clayton Bowen, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and William Massey, Peninsula Agency on Aging, Inc.

Approval of 9/8/10 Minutes:

Tom Dowling made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the September 8, 2010, ATAC Meeting. John Eisenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

No public comments were offered.

Old Business: There was no old business brought forward for discussion.

New Business:

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Update:

Kelly Lum, WWRC, gave an update on WWRC activities. The Blueprint for WWRC was approved and comments from the ATAC were included. WWRC now has a new HubScrub installed to sanitize equipment. They are working on an Assistive Technology (AT) Evaluation project and plan to have an occupational therapist work one-on-one with the project. WWRC participated in the AT Training held in November 2010 and 30 people attended the training. The next AT Training is scheduled for April 13-15, 2011.

New Well Fund:

Joseph Wallace, Ph.D., reported on the New Well Fund. More business loans are available and they have a new brochure. The New Well Fund is also working on a Proposal for additional funding.

Dr. Wallace attended the Disability Commission meeting and Commissioner Rothrock made a recommendation to re-establish the Consumer Service Fund (CSF) in the amount of \$500,000. Additionally, the New Well Fund is going to submit a proposal for a CSF grant (\$50,000) from the Richmond Eye and Ear Foundation. This grant will reinstate the CSF for the greater Richmond Metropolitan area for individuals with vision and hearing technology needs. Support letters are due by December 31, 2010, and Dr. Wallace can provide a draft letter if requested. A grant decision will be made by the third week of March.

Brenda Wickard made a motion for the ATAC Council to draft a letter of support for the New Well Fund for their grant proposal to re-establishment of the Consumer Service Fund. The motion was seconded by Shawn Utt. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

VATS Data Reports and Update:

Barclay Shepard, VATS, presented a power-point report of VATS Data Performance. Dr. Behrman was interested in knowing how the data is counted and how to clarify some things that are only VATS funded. Dr. Wallace suggested a conference call with RSA, RESNA and the Council. Bob Krollman suggested a strategic planning meeting to collect questions and understand the rules. Council will follow up at next meeting.

Mr. Shepard reported that the Virginia Reuse Network (VRN) received additional funds and was able to purchase two new vehicles. The vehicles will be used to transport durable medical equipment between the VRN partners.

Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment and Endowment (FREE):

Sonja Schaible, Executive Director, FREE, reported on current activities. FREE is expanding to serve the Richmond metropolitan area with the formation of a FREE of Richmond Chapter. The new Chapter will open December 16 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6301 Midlothian Turnpike, housed in the Goodwill of Central Virginia facility.

FREE plans to follow the new Richmond location with another Chapter in the Hampton Roads area. All other Chapters in the state are running well.

Low Vision Technology and Devices:

Peggy Fields, Ph.D., Chief Rehabilitation Engineer, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, gave a presentation on assistive technology and equipment for those with low-vision equipment. The presentation included different causes of vision impairments and showed what an individual actually sees with their impairment.

VATS Regional Sites:

All three of VATS Regional Sites provided a report on regional site activities in the preceding quarter.

AT Director's Update:

Kathy Hayfield, Director, FRS, shared with the council that at the last Disability Commission meeting Commission Rothrock brought up that "AT did not follow the student" and the Commission put forth a study resolution so the General Assembly can look at it. *A motion was made by Dr. Wallace to draft a letter to the Disability Commission to support "AT equipment follow the student" and get it to every member. The motion was seconded by Joann Willis and passed by a unanimous vote.* Council members may add recommendations to the draft letter by contacting Bob Krollman. Brenda Wickard plans to attend the next Disability Commission meeting.

Advisory Council Member Update:

Tony Gentry, Ph.D., OTR/L; reported that VCU had received a small grant for community engagement with technology and the occupational therapy students were able to assist with preparing the room for the new FREE Richmond Chapter. Students were involved with what equipment needed to be kept and what equipment needed to be passed on as well as emptying trash. The room at the FREE Richmond Chapter is ready due to the involvement of the occupational therapy students from VCU and this experience is part of their grade.

New Business and Planning for future ATAC Meetings:

Joann Willis made a motion to have the next ATAC meeting in Manassas, VA, and to get with RESNA & RSA , with numbers, advice & feedback to discuss changes for strategic-plan purposes and weed out some of the questions and issues with federal equipment loans. Dr. Wallace seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Bob Krollman suggested having a presentation to the Council by the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) on their vision of AT and strategic planning. Ms. Hayfield suggested having this as an agenda item for an ATAC meeting.

Mr. Krollman also suggested having another presentation possibly toward the end of the year on an overview of aging services and how we could fit and support some of their initiatives.

Mr. Krollman asked Council members if anyone objected to shifting the ATAC meeting day from a Wednesday to a Thursday. Please let Mr. Krollman know if this will be a conflict to change the dates. The proposed ATAC meeting dates for 2011 are as follows:

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Adjournment: A motion was made by Dr. Wallace to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the ATAC Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm