

**Final Approved Minutes  
Assistive Technology Advisory Council Meeting  
January 17, 2013**

**Members Present:** Elizabeth Flaherty, Chair; Margaret (Peggy) Fields, Secretary; Clayton Bowen; Mary Mathena; Melissa Oliver; William Massey; Joann Willis

**Conference Phone:** Melanie Brunson; Kelly Lum; Betti Thompson

**Members Absent:** Michael M. Behrmann; Christy Crowther; Tony Gentry; George Scott Higdon; Anthony W. Lineberry; Michelle Samoy; Samantha Hollins

**Guests:**

Mary Wilds, Statewide Coordinator for Distance Education, Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) – Old Dominion University (ODU)

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

**Staff Present:**

Kathy Hayfield, Director, Division of Rehabilitative Services (DRS), DARS

Barclay Shepard, Manager, Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)

Robert Krollman, AT and Aging Coordinator, VATS

Elin Glass, Administrative Assistant, VATS

Alisa Louthier, Assistive Technology Specialist, George Mason University (GMU), VATS North Regional Site

Joann Ervin, Coordinator, VATS Southeast Regional Site at ODU

**Call to Order:**

Elizabeth Flaherty, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. All members of the Advisory Council, VATS staff and guests introduced themselves.

**Approval of 9/13/2012 Minutes:**

Elizabeth Flaherty asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes of the last meeting.

The September 13, 2012 ATAC Meeting Minutes, as is, stand approved.

**Public Comment:** There were no comments from the public.

**Division of Rehabilitative Services Director's Report:**

Kathy Hayfield provided an update on activities since the last ATAC Meeting in September 2012. Ms. Hayfield reviewed the role changes within VATS. Robert (Bob) Krollman retired from VATS and was hired in a new position as the AT and Aging Coordinator. Mr. Krollman will be focusing on the aging population and assistive technology (AT) to help Virginia Seniors live and or transition in their community.

Kathy announced that Barclay Shepard is now the manager of VATS and as such has assumed overall supervision of the VATS program. Mr. Shepard will be the main point of contact for ATAC members and Regional Sites.

Ms. Hayfield reviewed the role of VATS Regional Sites in providing an array of services, but also specializing in certain services. The FREE Foundation has focus on reuse of AT and is located in southwest Virginia. VATS Southeast Site at Old Dominion University has focus on youth in transition, community activities. VATS North Site helps coordinate data collection, information and assistance 1-800 help-line and youth in transition activities.

### **Update on AT Follows the Student Legislation:**

Mary Wilds provided an update on the § [22.1-129.1](#). *Transfer of assistive technology devices*. VATS refers to this legislation as “AT Follows the Student” legislation. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is working with community stakeholders to develop and issue guidelines for the transfer of assistive technology devices no later than July 1, 2013. Several ATAC members volunteered to be on the stakeholder task force. Barclay Shepard will also participate on the task force. The next face to face stakeholders meeting will be held at the end of February, 2013. Ms. Wilds will keep the Council informed of the progress of the ATAC Sub-Committee as these guidelines are developed. Ms. Wilds provided several handouts regarding this legislation as well as the virtual TechKnowledge Conference which is scheduled for November 2013.

### **VATS Program Updates:**

Barclay Shepard reviewed VATS Annual Report submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) for federal fiscal year 2012. Mr. Shepard reviewed VATS federal reporting requirements under the AT Act. Data and anecdotes from this report were distributed to ATAC members in the January ATAC Update prior to the meeting. Mr. Shepard reviewed data submitted for State Level and State Leadership activities and provided a comparison of this data to the prior two years. Council members were invited to ask questions about the data and data report. Discussion ensued.

### **Commissioner’s Report:**

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner, DARS, joined the Council and emphasized some of the contacts that had taken place to educate people about AT and how to strengthen and provide independence for people with disabilities so they can live in their community. Commissioner Rothrock discussed the importance of AT services for persons with disabilities as well as the new focus on AT awareness and services regarding AT for persons who are aging. Commissioner Rothrock reiterated Mr. Krollman’s role as the AT and Aging Coordinator and its importance for Virginia’s senior population.

Commissioner Rothrock suggested that Ms. Hayfield and VATS meet with Kathy Miller of the Division on Aging to review a new program offered through the Veterans Administration which helps support veterans live in their own home.

### **Reports from VATS Regional Sites:**

Alisa Louther provided an update from VATS North Regional Site at GMU. Discussion included a report on a specialized free training that she and Joann Ervin are providing to Employment Service Organizations (ESOs) and employers on the benefits of AT in accommodating individuals with disabilities in the workplace. This training is funded through VATS using federal Vocational Rehabilitation dollars.

Joann Ervin provided an update from VATS Southeast Regional Site at Old Dominion University. Of note, ODU is planning their annual "Say Yes to College" event for students with disabilities transitioning from high school to post secondary education in May 2013.

### **Report from AT and Aging Coordinator, VATS:**

Bob Krollman reported that as of November 1, 2012, he started working as the AT and Aging Coordinator and has been having meetings and has been providing trainings to Virginia seniors in order to help them learn about AT products and services to maintain independence. Mr. Krollman has been in contact with Bill Massey on issues regarding the Area Agencies on Aging to promote AT for the aging community and caregivers. Bob has been asked to develop a plan for approaching this new role – and will let out options for the Council to review at a future meeting.

Mr. Krollman is still working with the Virginia AgrAbility project and is working on a grant to bring a national trainer into the state.

### **Advisory Council Members' Updates:**

Clayton Bowen, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH), reported that their department started a new program to relax the requirements for veterans in their Technology Assistance Program (TAP). VDDHH provided a Press Release for the Agency and the Governor's Office released it. Mr. Bowen provided a copy of the Virginia Relay Newsletter.

Mary Mathena informed Council about an upcoming Third Annual Symposium to be held in the South Hampton Roads area which will target people with various vision problems and with those who are now losing their sight. Participants will be provided with information on available AT and a doctor will be onsite to talk about different eye problems and on fighting blindness.

Betti Thompson reported that the CapTel telephone can be purchased at a significantly discounted price (approximately \$20). For more information go to the following website: [www.captel.com/endeavor](http://www.captel.com/endeavor).

Peggy Fields reported that the Technology Resource Center is completed at their headquarters building in Richmond for the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI). They plan to have an Open House and will inform ATAC Council members of the event date.

**Legislative Updates:**

Kathy Hayfield reported that the Disability Commission was successful in putting through a budget amendment to reauthorize the Consumer Service Fund which would be referred to as the Consumer Service Grant Fund. If approved, the Fund will be housed under the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority.

**Next ATAC Meeting:**

The next ATAC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2013 (10:00am-2:30pm), DARS Central Office, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, VA 23229. The following ATAC Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2013 (site to be determined).

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by William Massey to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Melissa Oliver and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned early as a result of winter weather conditions at 12:15pm.