

AT Advisory Council Meeting Notes

December 16, 2020

Microsoft Teams Online

In attendance:

Phil Seiler VATP

Emma Cobb VATP

Peter Jonke VCIL

Quinby McLellan VATP

Allie Kelly Adaptive Program Smugglers Notch

Heather Berg Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Rose Lucenti VT Dept. of Labor

Jessie Brennan Vocational Rehab, White River Junction

Ana Kolbach Agency of Ed/Inclusion and Accessibility Coordinator

Darren McIntyre CDCI

Marge Wells

Introduction of Quinby McLellan, newest AT Specialist

Has been an AT Specialist for two months. She covers the Northwest part of VT. Her background is in OT, she is a certified assistant in OT, COTA.

She has worked one on one in school system K-8, college age students, and in-patient rehab, skilled nursing.

She also has an art degree and she brings a creative, holistic mindset to the AT requests she gets. She gives strategies

for daily living (dressing), community living (employment), and more.

Recently she created a holiday themed newsletter that included AT for the holiday. It involved ways to connect with family and friends using senses and connecting virtually. It shows ways to connect inclusively. If you would like to join the newsletter you can click [here](#).

Please reach out to Quinby if you have any other questions quinby.mclellan@vermont.gov

The Burlington Tryout Center, which is housed within the Burlington VR office, is being organized after moving to downtown Burlington. We have infrequent access to the space due to COVID. We are still doing some loans and working around this as much as possible.

She is looking forward to upcoming projects such as the AT we have purchased for Fanny Allen in Colchester where they demo AT for inpatient rehab patients, and reaching out to the Area Agencies on Aging and getting the [No Wrong Door](#) program rolling again.

Other ideas include staying in touch with other state AT Act programs and offering preventative AT.

AT Federal Data Review for 2020

We had a 50% drop in our device loans due to pandemic. We had to shut our loan program down for a few months as well. Other AT Acts are experiencing the same thing.

We also had a 20% reduction in device demonstrations. We were still able to conduct these virtually. Information and Assistance requests were down about 40%. We made good use of this time as a program by increasing our professional development meetings. We now meet bi-weekly for an hour

on a specific topic. It has been beneficial to the team to learn about new topics and be focused.

Call for Council Members

We need more AT members who are users of or care for users of AT, per the federal requirements. Currently we want to welcome 50% users of AT or caregivers of someone who uses AT. Please send any suggestions to Phil. Applicants should fill out the application on the AT website, found [here](#).

Jessica Brennan gave the name of a person [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is an AT user.

Phil mentioned that [REDACTED] would be a good addition and to the group.

Ana asked if there is an age requirement and Phil will find out the answer to that and report to the group.

ICT Training

To be in compliance with the federal grant, the AT Program must conduct one, annual Information and Communication Technology training. These types of trainings feature making electronic communications more accessible (websites, word docs, etc.).

Staff decided that we would be best suited to host a training. Phil will reach out to [accessible web](#), a local company to conduct a training for us.

Heather commented that AW is really good and they also expand employment opportunities for folks with disabilities.

Marge is excited about expanding access to captioning in Vermont. She would like to see free captioning for personal zoom calls. She is currently working with a captioning company in Utah to work towards this goal.

ATP Recreation Website – please bring your ideas and resources to help us build out a new web resource for AT designed for recreation

Currently we have accessible recreation trails at the bottom of our [Resource web page](#).

Ally mentioned the program she will be working for the [Smugglers Notch Adaptive Program](#) this winter.

Peter mentioned that [Local Motion](#) has accessible bikes.

Emma mentioned [Rad Innovation bikes](#) builds adaptive racing bikes and is in Vermont.

Heather mentioned [Peloton](#) has fully integrated screen readers onto their screens using Google. They are providing captioning for their classes. Peloton now has an accessibility support center where you can reach out to them directly. The accessibility app has good reviews as well.

Marge asked what information gets out to Hard of Hearing or deafened residents about Vermont Cap Tel. Is there any kind of printed information for audiologists, office on aging or nursing homes? She would like to work with someone on a small brochure that is to the point. Wants to work along with the deaf blind coordinator when hired, to get more captioning out to the public.

Peter said that through VCIL EDP program, they have done marketing on Captel and communication and phone devices that is sent to audiologists and SLPs, and VT Relay services. He will send Marge this information.

Please send along any accessible recreation web page suggestions to Phillip.seiler@vermont.gov

Heather suggested [ski for light](#). [Regional](#) and international program. They work with blind and visually impaired adults

to Nordic ski. It is free and online this year. She also shared this link about [adaptive gaming](#).

Thanks for attending the meeting, we will send out 2021 meeting dates soon. Happy Holidays!