

# AT Advisory Council Meeting Notes

June 14, 2023

10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

In Person: N/A

Online: Zoom

Present: Phil Seiler, Rich Tulikangas, Emily Shiels, Allie Kelly, Emma Cobb, Peter Jonke, Joel Klug, Bill Hudson, Ana Russo, Kristen Rengo

10:00-10:05 Attendee Tech Test and Verification time

10:05-10:10 Welcomes and Introductions

Welcome new member Kristen Rengo from the Vermont Department of Labor, Equal Opportunity, and Accessibility Manager. The department is working on accessibility of services improvements.

10:10-10:40 VCAP project with HireAbility: Allie Kelly, Rich Tulikangas, Emily Shiels

Emily is the full-time VCAP director beginning July 1. Allie Kelly, the statewide VT AT Program Consultant presented general VCAP goals and demonstrated some assistive technology. The VCAP program is a Federally funded, 5-year grant program in place until 2026. Program goals are targeted job skill areas, essential partners, and outcomes.

Demos included; [ReMarkable Tablet](#), [Tap Strap](#), [Anker Mouse](#), [Overlay Reading Highlighters](#). Items are available for loan on <https://vt.at4all.com>

How do people request our services or borrow items?

For general public, please call 800-750-6355, or email [dail.atinfo@vemront.gov](mailto:dail.atinfo@vemront.gov), or visit [atp.vt.gov](http://atp.vt.gov).

For a HireAbility client, they can connect with VCAP/AT Program through their counselor.

Visit <https://vt.at4all.com/> to make a free account and view/borrow items from the VT AT Program.

10:40-10:50          National Updates

The AT Act was reauthorized at the end of 2022. Some of our requirements have changed, guidance to be forthcoming. One of the changes is that the Advisory Council needs to add a representative of an alternative financing program, and the Adult Services Division. 50% of our reps need to be users of AT or caregivers of persons who use AT. Please contact Phil with any potential candidates. Here is our [online application](#).

We filed our 4-year state plan with the Administration for Community Living (ACL). We are on track to meet our objectives. A requirement of 5% of our spending threshold on Transition activities includes transition from

high school to post-secondary or transitioning from higher level of care to independent living.

10:50-11:00            Members open time

DOL asked for suggestions about outside contractors to do an audit as a client with a disability, applying for DOL services. VABVI can assist and well as resources from VCIL. AT staff can share observations about current, inaccessible, online state service applications and websites.

11:00                    Adjourn