

# AT Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022

10:00 a.m. -11:45 a.m.

In Person: Waterbury State Office Complex

Online: Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Phil Seiler, Darren McIntyre, Joel Klug, Marjorie Wells, Bill Hudson, Peter Jonke, Ben Wimett

Absent: Heather Berg, Allie Kelly, Andrea Wasson, Ana Russo

10:05-10:15 Welcomes and Introductions

Welcome to the Autumn advisory council meeting for the AT Program. Each member introduced themselves and we welcomed new member Joel Klug from DBVI.

10:15-10:40 AT Demonstration: Ben Wimett

iOS 16 iPhone features.

- Live Captioning is built into iPhone. Located in Accessibility settings under Hearing. Ben tested it and feels it is very accurate. There is a half second to a second delay when the speaker speaks. Perhaps this could be used for when an interpreter is not available. This can also be used with FaceTime. It does not differentiate between the speakers. Turn on speakerphone, turn on mic and it will caption the call. This works on an Apple 11 iPhones or newer.
- Here is information on the [iPad and Live Captioning](#).

- Voice Dictation is also improved with iOS 16. It is more responsive and accurate.
- Bill said he uses [Otter](#) for voice dictation.

10:40-11:00 Preliminary Data Review for Federal Fiscal Year End

Federal Data notes:

These are preliminary numbers for FY22 which ends 9/30. Comparing to FY21 numbers

Reuse:

FY21: 14 people, 4 devices, savings to VTers: \$1500

FY22: 75 people, 73 devices, savings: \$7750

Loans:

FY21: 293 loans, 458 devices

FY22: 395 loans, 661 devices

Demos

FY21: 151 demonstrations to 301 individuals

Fy22: 152 demonstrations to 390 individuals

[Newsletter](#) continues to be our primary method of public awareness during COVID. Did attend VT DHBI+ (Deaf/DeafBlind Hearing Inclusive) day in spring with a table to show off some AT and some other, smaller presentations.

Have not had a chance to review alternative funding numbers but Opportunities Credit Union has had a

change in program managers so will need to monitor this and ensure data collection is accurate.

484 I&As for FY22 so far (571 last year): Ironically good news. More I&As are resulting in demos and loans. That indicates better quality inquiries (not sending people to other entities/services).

11:00-11:10 Break

11:10-11:25 Updates on Program initiatives

Money Follows the Person: recruiting challenges. Looking for ways to expand the reach of our postings.

VCAP: Vermont Career Advancement Project – HireAbility grant project to enhance career pathways for their clients through various methods including credentialing, coursework, internships, etc. AT staff member will be recruited to support the participants in the grant, mostly focused on learning tech. Recruitment to begin asap.

Judiciary Access and Resource Center: Working with them in a technical assistance capacity to improve accessibility. Helping review accommodations documentation, provide information on website and informational video accessibility. Expect to be working with them for the foreseeable future.

Mobile Device Management: implementation has been slow and negatively impacted by sharing an instance with DOC. DOC will no longer be using it and we hope to unravel some of the complications as we become sole administrators. We have 20 new iPads ready to be

deployed once this is completed so it remains a top priority.

Staffing levels returning to normal as team members come back from leave. Not fully there yet but we've managed to stay afloat through the lowest points.

Staff Retreat: Next week staff will be meeting offsite to discuss initiatives for the coming year, brainstorm on our service delivery model, and generally strategize about how best to serve Vermonters within the structures of our grant.

Advisory Council Recruiting: Need a rep from Labor. Reaching out this week. Need more community AT users/care givers of users on the council. Please spread the word whenever you can.

Some success stories:

Young non-verbal gentleman in a wheelchair, we adapted an iPad with switch control, and he is now communicating with the use of apps and accessibility settings and hopes to start his own business.

Lent some devices to a client and caregiver which allowed the client to express his end of life wishes after 20 years of a debilitating disease.

Laptop stand used by a client recovering from surgery so they could type on a laptop while own their side and continue to work.

11:25-11:45            Members open time

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and we will send out reminders before we meet.

Peter/VCIL is also trying to hire for a Money Follows the Person position as well.

Marge continues to seek assistance on an affordable captioning option for a Deafened support group. VATP believes a free solution may be possible with an Apple TV, large screen monitor, and the iOS16 updates. We may be able to demonstrate something next meeting.

We still do virtual as well as in person Assistive Tech requests. We have three locations for Vermonters to visit: Waterbury Complex, Castleton, and Burlington VT.

11:40                    Adjourn