

## AT Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2022

10:00 a.m. -11:50 a.m.

Online - Zoom

In Attendance: Phillip Seiler, Quinby McLellan, Emma Cobb, Whitecoat captioning, Patrick Galasso interpreter, Janet Datillo interpreter, Darren McIntyre, Peter Jonke, Andrea Wasson

Absent: Rose Lucenti, Ana Kolbach, Bill Hudson, Marge Wells, Allie Kelly, Heather Berg.

10:00-10:10 Pre-meeting (Meeting will be open for attendees to test their connection and technology. Leaving some extra time since we are switching platforms)

10:10-10:15 Welcomes and Introductions

10:15-10:20 VocRehab rebrands as HireAbility, implications for VATP

- VR is currently rebranding as HireAbility, Vermont. There have been several television commercials.
- Implications for our program since we are housed within VR, are that we will refer to them as HireAbility Vermont but can use DVR and VR for federal purposes.

- Here is the new [HireAbility website](#) and the new television commercials can be viewed [here](#) at the HireAbility You Tube site. You Tube commercial channel.
- Here is a [presentation on rebranding](#).

#### 10:20-10:25 Grant supported positions

- The MFP Supplemental Grant will support ACL's No Wrong Door initiative and will be focused on expanding AT Awareness and knowledge within Area Agencies on Aging and direct service providers.
- Vermont Careers Advancement Project (VCAP), this position will be supporting HireAbility 100% and new VR positions that are career focused.
- These are two limited service, 4-year positions. Recruiting will begin soon.

#### 10:25-10:30 AT Awareness Day, April 6<sup>th</sup>

- Traditionally this is a day for the AT Acts across the US to visit Capitol Hill and educate our representatives as to why our programs are so important. This year the visits will be held remotely.
- Public Health Workforce Initiative-organizations can apply, they provide a supplemental grant to all AT

programs to expand public health workforce. We are currently looking at how we can leverage those funds.

- Peter said VCIL has also reached out to receive funds for their program.

#### 10:30-11:00 4 Year Plan discussion

- AT staff came up with these program ideas last fall.
- Peter suggested a program where people can get AT repaired without having to go to medical providers as they are expensive. He said that long ago, VATP collaborated with a technical college's rehab techs to assist with affordable repairs.
- Andrea said she is always looking into increasing the school districts knowledge of AT by expanding outreach to schools. Phil asked for clarification about how best we can engage. Andrea said the AT tryout centers are a very helpful resource. Transition conferences were also effective with educators. How can we increase student independence as they move forward in their education?
- Darren announced there is a conference for special education teacher's academy in the fall. Can AT collaborate to be part of this?
- Darren suggested that the new AT positions will be helpful, but what can we offer transition age youth

who are exiting the school that are not HireAbility customers?

- Mobile AT van idea is still on the table pending staff and funding resources.

#### 11:10-11:20 Future Advisory Council Meeting Agenda items

- Should we have a strategic meeting about our goals and how we intersect with the AT Program?
- Can our AT Act federal reps come to our meetings and speak to how other programs in the state carry out their services?
- In person meetings? When is a good time to resume?
- Examples of AT that may be new to the group. Simple AT and higher tech AT.
- Darren mentioned revisiting our You Tube channel clips that feature low- and high-tech pieces of AT.

#### 11:20-11:50 Members comments, issues, concerns

- Darren asked if we are still looking for advisory council members. Phil answered that we still need 51% users of AT.
- Phil met with Children's Integrated Services, DCF who have a robust number of their own advisory council

members and there might be an opportunity for candidates there.

- Phil and Quinby are presenting Confident Care for Kids to highlight sensory support for younger Vermonters with disabilities getting vaccinated at Vermont Family Network. Phil suggested mentioning we are looking for members during the presentation.