

# AT Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2024

10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

In Person: Burlington Tryout Center

128 Lakeside Ave, Suite 106

Members present: Heather Berg, Accessible Web, Prabin Pokhrel, Opportunities Credit Union, and Peter Jonke of VCIL.

10:00-10:05 Welcomes and Introductions

10:05-10:35 Tour of space and discussion of future vision

The new Burlington Tryout center space has been open as of March 2024. Accessible parking is available, and we are located on the first floor. The new space is carpeted and spacious. Large windows allow considerable natural light in. The bike path is nearby, and a café on site.

BTOC has a pediatric corner that includes AT for communication, sensory, adaptive drinking, seating, eating, and switch adapted toys.

The ceiling lights in our tryout center are fluorescent and have light covers to limit glare. Covers have peaceful pictures of sunsets, water scenes, and aquatic life.

Other corners and shelves in the Burlington Tryout Center feature; adaptive seating, a laptop stand with wheels that can be used for someone on a bed, and [adaptive gardening tools](#).

We have sit-to-stand tables, one with a manual crank, and the other table is electric. The desk has an ergonomic set up with captioned phone, monitor stand, and keyboards.

Other equipment featured includes adaptive keyboards, mice, phones, voice amplifiers, noise cancelling headphones, mounts for iPads that connect to chairs and tables.

Digital notetaking items include the smartpen. Also on the shelves are sensory tools for adults, magnifiers, reachers, clocks, medication reminders.

This tryout center includes items from our AT Exchange program, listed as General Listing in AT4All. Items on this shelf are aging AT that is free and still useful to the public. AT4All houses our extensive inventory by category. Visit it to view all of the items discussed today! <https://vt.at4all.com/>

We are looking into applying for the [Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation](#), grant will allow us to purchase and create an accessible living space.

Vermont Inclusive Arts will meet with us on 9/26/24, to discuss hanging accessible art on the walls of the Burlington Tryout Center.

Our federal fiscal year ends September 30, 2024 and staff will be working to input annual data such as demos, loans, and public awareness numbers.

Our program was [recently recognized](#) by [All Brains Belong](#) for inclusive hiring practices. All Brains Belong's mission is "Our mission is to make life better for people with all types of brains."

10:35-10:45 UVM OT Open House

More information will be forthcoming about an open house at the Smart Apartment at the UVM campus. The date is November 15, 2024 in the afternoon. It is said to be open to the public, and VT AT Program will showcase some AT as well.

This teaching apartment is part of an OT Doctorate program at UVM in its second year. They created an accessible apartment smart home, bathroom, kitchen, which includes many smart products, such as a Samsung Smart Refrigerator!

<https://www.uvm.edu/cnhs/rms/program/occupational-therapy>

10:45-11:00 Hands on time with AT Inventory

11:00-11:30 Members open time

Discussion and updates from the Opportunities Credit Union's Independence Fund (free application and very

low borrowing rates), Accessible Web (lots of traffic from organizations seeking guidance on accessible sites), and VCIL (currently planning a new office location).

11:30 Adjourn (Members are welcome to stay and join us for the afternoon open house).