

## AT Advisory Council Meeting Notes

December 18, 2024

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

Online: Zoom (link in calendar invite)

10:00-10:05 Welcomes and Introductions

Member introductions.

10:05-10:30 UVM OT Open House – Safe At Home  
recap

AT staff attended the [UVM OT SmartHome Open House](#), and displayed a number of tech items from our inventory. About 100 people attended and were able to view the OT program's teaching SmartHome space. Inside this teaching space are an accessible bath, bed, living room, and kitchen. The AT Program hopes to bring clients here in the future so they can view the independent living possibilities. Vermont Digger's article is [here](#) and WCAX story is [here](#). UVM Website for OT/SmartHome is [here](#).

10:30-10:45            Review of FY24 year-end data

Phil will share the annual AT report. A few snapshots from the report that we file annually with the Association for Community Living are as follows:

Alternative financing for AT is through the Vermont Opportunities Credit Union. They reported 49 loans last year, (21 of which were hearing aid loans, and 26 accessible vehicle loans), for a total of about \$984K.

Reuse of Assistive Technology. The AT Exchange Program reassigned 97 pieces of AT from our program or peer to peer exchanges and saved Vermonters just under 10K.

Device Loans: 795 devices to 456 people.

Device Demos: 204 devices for 339 people.

Innovative and unique. An AT staff member attended a group for Somali new Americans and discussed AT devices and learning disabilities. Opportunity to introduce AT and reduce some of the stigma around disabilities.

Public Health workforce expansion grant. In depth work with a non-verbal person living independently to make smart home accessories more functional, using switch control.

A client with a progressive condition used an Amazon FireTV with voice commands to be more independent.

Staff member Money Follows the Person who attended an end-of-life resource fair in St. J. Attendees were able to find out about assistive technology that could bring independence to loved ones facing end of life conditions.

10:45-11:00            Program Updates

The AT Program is in the process of relocating the Southern VT TOC. The location at Castleton is relocating to the Brandon Town Offices. The move will happen early next year.

VT Career Advancement Project funding is coming to an end in 2026. 100% increase in assistive technology referrals for participants.

The national AT Act Programs are hosting a 2025 AT leadership conference in New Mexico in March.

11:00-11:10 Member Open time / issues / questions / opportunities

Phil and Kristen will meet to discuss a list of assistive technology that will help with an accessibility audit of their office so that all participants can apply for services.

10:40 Adjourn