

**Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday July 9th, 2003
1700 Century Circle
Atlanta, GA**

Attendees: Judy Beardin, Barbara, Christopher Lee, Carolyn McGonagill, Lamar Polly, Allan Goldman, Connie Freier, Carolyn Phillips, Beth Tumlin, Tiffany Johnston, Cindy Milstead, Becky Roper, Tom Bauer, Joanne Willis, Joy Kniskern, Jerilyn Leverett, Mike Leverett

Meeting began 10:25 a.m.

Note taker: Connie Freier

Time Keeper: Christopher Lee

- Review of information packets given to attendees containing: Minutes from last meeting, Tech Act information, and new TFL information brochure,
- Christopher asked meeting attendees “How to make the board work better”.
- Need nominations from Board Members & interested parties.
- First AT Consortium developed by GAO. Applying for State funds. Writing Grant.

**Update on ATRC Consortium: Carolyn McGonagill & Tom Bauer
State Funding**

- Budget biggest concerns.
- This year there was 3% cut from Gov Barnes \$194,00 from \$200,000 allocated. Next year because of economic situation it will be harder.
- Commissioner maximized State funds to bring down Federal funds. Dept of Labor collaboration.
- Need last proposal sent to Larry Beck that gave recommendations. Send letter to Joy and Christopher.
- Build into contracts the ATRCs are serving individuals where billing has already taken place. Concern of DOL. Double dipping.
- Need to resolve issues with Pat Joseph.
- From conversations with Susan Sherman, ATRC/Reboot services currently being provided but not reimbursed after consideration by Dept of Labor, could possibly be incorporated in outsource manual or fee for services schedule.
- E-text Bill for College. Carolyn and Tom Representing Consortium at the Co Age Priority issue Meeting. The consortium will be presented under their budget issues.
- They will pick one additional budget item due to carryover from last year. Usually takes five years for recognition to come forward. We are in year three.

Federal Funding

- Consortium members will have to work hard in getting the Tech Act reauthorization of Fed funding or we will be in big trouble.
- ATAP Association of TA Projects dues are about \$1,000.

- Appropriations Bill - Senate version 26.8 million, House version 11.1 million. Jack Kingston on appropriations – touch base with him soon as possible.
- Johnny Issackson; Phil Gingery; Congressman Max Burns; Norwood; Educated on Tech Act reauthorization. They are key people to be contacted for the reauthorization.
- Senate version of funds is what we want.
- House version is long-term stability.
- Money stops 8/31/05.
- Need someone from South Carolina to contact for Tiffany. Tom will provide info.
- Max Burns is familiar with Statesboro Center, and Economic Development.

Christopher Lee:

- Olmstead Employment issues Grant.
- Wendy Parish working with us on grants in the fall. Funded through UGA.
- Two target areas – Urban, Rural.
- Addendums to proposal.
- Put funds into consumer’s hands up to 10-15,000.
- Put AT provider in each center managed through ATRCs.
- UGA through SILC.
- Funds used for isolated areas of career centers.
- Write a grant specifically for the Centers.
- Under ticket do not have to go VR.
- Transition Grant – Walton Options and Disability Connections 7/23 meeting. Write 2 –3 sentences overview.

Break for lunch 12:00noon

Update from Centers.

Joanne Willis – ATRC:

- Joanne attended AOTA conference in Washington, DC. Educational sessions and extensive exhibit hall expo. Attended Resna Conference Workshops on Special AT for Learning Disabilities and Computer Workstation Ergonomics and AT.
- Rob Harvey Technology Director presented at the South Eastern Technical College Disability Awareness Day.
- \$21,000 VR owes ATRC
- Need ANIs from counselors. Funds available since March. Funds set aside to develop relationship w/VR SS - Monies.
- Problem is at the Hub, ANI - client signs, Adm Staff.
- Look at the system.
- Serve 40 persons each day.

Tech-Able:

- More VR clients coming to Tech-Able. 20 active clients presently.
- Not charging fee for service some but not for everything. Will start charging soon.

- Summer camp of 8 weeks each Friday during summer. Children 2-10 and 10 and up. Therapist bringing in drums, sax, singing, dancing etc. Having great fun with kids. A & L music therapy group using for Rockdale Area. Have a waiting list.
- Changed by-laws to increase board members.
- Doing a lot with school systems. Will start paying for Joe's services.
- Helping Hands Organization to Partnership. Job training with individuals.
- Golf tournament was a huge success. Portion of proceeds to go to TA. Fall tournament coming up.
- Outside organizations using meeting room.
- Equipment Inventory growing.
- Ann working with low vision & blind clients. Can now convert text into Braille.
- Now have Diamond Labeler for loan. For Visually impaired.
- Joe passed ATP certification.

Reboot:

- Ga Tech Senior Design helped w/warehouse headed up by Lamar Polly.
- 18,000 cell phones recycled.
- Sign up as a recipient can get paid \$3.00 per phone.
- All components are separated and recycled and kept out of landfills. Some sold to other countries.
- Working with Dell computers to do their recycling.
- Meet Saturday at Coliseum 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dell, EPA, National Christina Foundation and Reboot. 1500 computer going to Dell and Dell testing out and returning working ones to Reboot.
- Ad in The Natural Pages – Alternative Health - like the yellow pages. Can get from Bookstore, article on page 61.
- TV Station on WBTV to do spot. Hopefully on partners as well.
- Ga's Committee on Electronic Equipment Recycling sat in as an advisor only due to State classification.

Disability Connections:

- Contracting with OT Marilyn.
- Adult Literacy Program works with 12,000 in mid GA area.
- Ga Association of Information GIR systems referral – sent info on ATRC had statewide meeting held at DC.
- Working with cell phone recycling program – Farm Bureau to put notice in their brochure for cell phone recycling.
- PSA “Can you hear me now.” Try to get it public.
- Kristy going to work with Board of Education to be a teacher. Brook hired Part time.
- Mike passed ATP certification.
- Medicaid billing accepted from ATP persons.

Beth Tumlin – UTWL

- Sorry year for UTWL increased 3142 to 4083.

- Did not get 10% cut.
- Provider Development has not developed.
- Work force development move to get trng for those w/more behavioral needs.
- Focus on funding for Waiting list.
- GA ARC network back to family reborn, reworked, 25 charters, 13 association organizations. Free membership for graduates for 1 year.
- Sustainable Future Conf in September 19 - 21 2003. (Atlanta or Macon?)
- Meet on Friday but Sat and Sunday main part of Conference.
- Better All Together Conference organizing Feb or March 2004 (on DD council calendar).
- Legislature Conference in Jan - 1 day.
- Self-determination Conference Jan. 16th.
- The Action Center – www.thearch.org or arcg.org (?) Hit Action Center – issues, Medicaid block grant, and letter written to add pertinent info. Put in zip code and it will send out to your area.
- 404/634-5512 Janice Rosie for equipment.

Allen Goldman:

- Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Grant. One stop shopping exposure to other options. Link groups of organization to writing grant for 3 year \$800,000 total.
- Build on Gateway System to include all the other populations and groups. Electronic System – centrally located.

Walton Options.

- Moved into additional 5000 sq ft space.
- Demonstration Center set up like home environment.
- Put a virtual tour on web site
- Remodeling going on around WO. Purchased one of the homes in area to create IL component. Creating accessible homes.
- S.C. moved into additional office space for at least three years.
- Negotiated equipment for rent.
- Blind Rehab teacher on staff from Idaho.
- Legislature form in May.
- ADH celebration coming up 7/24-25, 2003.
- Sam on CNN w/Eng from S.C. - Volunteer Engineers of America - take equipment that may need further adapting. Lead desk using an air pump.
- Home Modifications - Dept of Community Affairs Funds.
- Waiting list pulls off 25 a month but get 50 calls a month.

Judy Bearden update:

- Moved her location.
- Working on Federal Grant.
- Did four ramps in one week.

Joy – Title III:

- Packet of information given to attendees re: Credit Able Alternative Loan Financing Program (ALFP)
- Going after Grant.
- Have matching funds.
- 375K to pull down on.
- Community Partnership Advisory Network Meeting 8/5 11-3 p.m.. Call Joy if you want to participate.
- Single place for Funds to go to = “GA Credit Union Association.”

Becky – gTRADE/edTRADE

- Access Funding Guide on Web site.
- Ed Trade online:
 1. Password protected
 2. share equipment
 3. post a piece of equipment
 4. shared w/in their funding areas
 5. colleges only presently.
- User ID dsp
Password: postsecondary
- Passed around training schedule for ATRCs.

Christopher Lee:

- Board Nomination
- Sign up for mailing list at website at top of web page.
- Email info out each month.
- Advisory Council minutes will be posted after each meeting.

Parking Lot issues:

- Find a work related goal. Cannot envision themselves working.
- Need Literacy training.

Next week set for October 8th, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 1700 Century Circle, Atlanta.