

Tools for Life Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
November 16

Attending: A. Anderson, J. Bearden, N. Curtis, C. Freier, A. Goldman, P. Hanus, B. Heard, J. Kniskern, J. Leverett, M. Mattison, C. McGonagill, L. Persaud, C. Phillips, M. Rust, S. Steinmann, J. Willis, A. Worley

10:00 Welcome, Meeting Introduction & Celebrations - Judy Bearden & Carolyn Phillips

- Beth Tumlin - not able to attend (card signed & sent)
- Donations in Natalie's name will be made to GA Community Support
 - Email CP, Send donation to CP by 12/1 (currently \$150 to be sent)
- John Weber (card)
- P. Hanus representing C. McGonagill
- Minna Hong, unable to attend

TFL State Plan Update – Carolyn

- The Law AT Act 2004 (see PowerPoint Presentation*)
- Aspects of Law to be incorporated into TFL planning/marketing: education employment is employment
- AT Demo: Tech-Able brought various software demos for loan
 - MindMapping explanation: visual planning process for people of all abilities
 - Wynn – What You Need Now – loaned to N. Curtis
- AT Loan Library
- Windows XP Accessibility options/Vista
- Tech-Able has been selected as a Microsoft Access Center! – XP Demos
- Leaders in the state to help people learn about AT
- Reboot – almost 7,000 computers
 - Selling computers to projects in Louisiana
 - Joy – RESNA included Reboot in contract as model . . . working on conference in March (\$25,000). Honor.
- AT Co-Op –
 - C. Phillip is in contact with a Maryland project that collaborates with the school system, has established vendor relationships, buys with bulk discounts. They are willing to share their model. \$5million saved for school system! (Legislative advocacy tool). CP asked for input.

Discussion/Comments/Questions

- Norris – audience? CP – cradle to rocking chair
- Joy: Credit-Able involvement
- N. Curtis: Suggested GA Healthcare Assoc. involvement

- Joy – funding possibilities ...matching funds?
 - Allen – supports contact GA Healthcare Assoc. . . . multi-year project.
 - Will discuss possibilities w/ ATRCs - CP will send out info
 - Vision to fill funding chasms
 - Joanne – training
 - Joy – assessment
 - Joanne, Carolyn M., Martha and Carolyn P. will meet to work on the AT Co-Op Concept Paper to be ready for Council's review at next meeting.
- Tools for Life Leadership
 - Carolyn P. and Connie F. presented training & tech assistance (Columbus library)
 - Transition –
 - Collaborations w/ HS/HT
 - Touch the Future & Transition Conf. 2006 – Time & Location TBA . . . importance of planning (respect for agencies, people, consumers)
 - Town Hall Meetings: Region based (see PowerPoint Presentation*)
 - Public forums
 - 2 hrs. (1 hr. team approach)
 - Discussion/Comments/Questions**
 - Allen: Set realistic expectations!
 - Buy in . . .
 - Joy – AAA coordination
 - Calendar:
 - Macon, Albany, etc.: 1/11, 12, 13
 - Athens: 1/26, 27
 - 1/31 – 2/1 – Atlanta
 - Newsbrief: reinvigorating, quarterly, spotlight on Adv. Council (contact Norris), AT(ex. Freedom Scientific (JAWS thumb drive!, 400 types of keyboards, bar code readers), funding streams (VA – to read bar codes on meds), CVS? – Judy B.
 - Discussion/Comments/Questions**
 - Allen – Adv. Council involvement in newsletter
 - Marketing: Town hall meetings, matching web site, brochures, etc. more closely to state plan,
 - PSAs – (cp - Mike L., can produce)
 - Discussion/Comments/Questions**
 - Allen – stress statewide

- Jerilyn* – Shared successful experience w/ producing a PSA w/ Americorps
- Include on web site
- Joy – DOL vs. Centers process, CP has talked w/ DOL about process
- Break
- TFL Database Update – Connie
 - Database – (see PowerPoint Presentation*) begin Oct.1 2005
 - Discussion/Comments/Questions**
 - Allen – use for trends, forecasting, etc., make info useful
 - CP – Database company rapidly becoming assessable
 - Accolades: Connie, Martha
 - Useful in advocating for funding
- Dollars and Sense & G-Trade – Martha & Liz
 - All info updated. This represents a significant accomplishment!
 - Logo: considering new logo design
- AgrAbility – Carolyn M. (Pat)
 - New Program in the state for farmers' w/ disabilities
 - Grant from UGA to Tech-Able
 - Through Ext. Agents
 - 1st Meeting in Oglethorpe
 - Setting up 3 new meetings
 - (see PowerPoint)
- Credit-Able – Pat H.
 - 86 program applicants
 - 8 referred from BSITF (Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund)
 - 2 referred to BSITF
 - 15 Applications have completed or are in the loan application process

Year to Date

Total amount in loan guarantee fund YTD = \$800,000

Total amount funds loaned YTD = \$95,834

Total funds obligated in the guarantee fund = \$38,337

Success Stories

2005-03 - Referred to BSITF:

- Applicant is a C-4 quadriplegic

- Gwinnett Federal Credit Union approved applicant request in the amount of \$9,709. The applicant requested a loan for a modified van. Total cost for the van and modifications was \$19,709.57. The applicant had a \$10,000 down payment.
- The applicant was initially approved for \$9,706.57 for 36 months at 5.9% - monthly
- With Credit-Able guarantee, the applicant received financing for 48 months at 3.9% with a monthly payment of \$218.66.

The result - \$75.98 monthly savings!!

2005 Referred by BSITF:

- Applicant is a quadriplegic due to traumatic spinal cord injury.
- Gwinnett Federal Credit Union approved applicant request in the amount of \$6,134.90 for a modified computer, software, and related equipment.
- Without a Credit-Able guarantee, the credit union was not able to approve this loan.
- With a Credit-Able guarantee, the applicant was approved for a loan of \$6,134.90 for 48 months at 3.9%- monthly payment of \$138.27.

The result - an affordable loan for much needed computer equipment for a self-employed person with a disability!!

- o (See PowerPoint) – Customized Employment

• ATRCs & ReBoot Updates/Highlights:

- o Tech-Able:
- o A total of 556 individuals were reached by staff of Tech-Able during the October.
- o Joe Tedesco conducted training sessions reaching 142 individuals as follows:
 - 46 VR/AWT staff
 - 51 Department of Education employees
 - 5 consumers
 - 4 Babies Can't Wait Service Coordinators
 - 3 ALS staff and consumer
 - 33 Professionals (Therapists, Case Managers, and Educators).
- o Pat Hanus and Anne Wheeler provided services and participated in public awareness events reaching 103 consumers, educators and professionals.
- o Carolyn McGonagill reached a total of 311 individuals by organizing, exhibiting and conducting presentations for Credit-Able at the following events:
 - High School/High Tech Site Coordinators Meeting - 51
 - disAbility Link - Rome Location -3
 - Center for the Visually Impaired - 42
 - Ability Expo in Athens - 50
 - disAbility Link Job Fair in Decatur - 100
 - National Disability Employer Awareness Job Fair - 65

- DisAbility Connections (see Handout attached)
 - Training, working one on one w/ consumers
 - Database issues
 - Section 8 Vouchers - memo of understanding for nursing home transition
 - Waiting list conflicts
 - Facilitates process for/with consumers
 - Magnolia Award w/housing authority
 - TV pilots (3) – cable outlets in SW quadrant, looking for sponsorship (more info from J.)
- ReBoot & the ATRC – Joanne
 - Database issues
 - Meeting inv. Unemployment, with help from AWT (details?)
 - Include consumers presenting
 - Premier Suite: software issues, training?, what computers will it go on, many helpful tools, low cost solution will work w/ TFL on that
 - New staff member
 - Closing Gaps
 - 52 apps a month (avg.)
 - 32 computers out per month (62% free, other fees)
 - 128 service calls
 - Difficulties w/ Windows XP transition
 - **Discussion/Comments/Questions**
 - Norris ? – process of getting a computer
 - AWT, counselor is in charge
- Tech-Able –
 - Fund raiser coming up
 - Pat gave report (get from Pat)
- Walton Options
 - Database training coming up
 - A.A. moving office to Washington, Ga 1/06
 - Representing AT at Fr. Stewart – table
 - McDuffie MH
 - Louisville MH

- Nursing Home Transition: 25 persons transitioned as of Sept.
- Working w/ Katrina evacuees (#'s uncertain)
- Inquiries about Credit-Able
- Working w/ AAA, VR, to do Credit-Able presentation
- 12:30 Working Lunch - Continue TFL Adv. Council Meeting
- 1:15 Advocacy Committee – (Jerilyn)
 - AT Act 2004 Handout: background, goals, Core services, talking points
 - Consortium Update – Jerilyn
 - N. Curtis suggested trying to include Consortium (?) on State Employee Charitable Contribution Form
- AT Legislative Updates –
 - Request \$200,000 increase in state funding
- Martha: Medicaid questions being referred to GA Cares

Discussion/Comments/Questions

- A. Goldman: Question about GA Cares training on new Medicaid Prescription Plans
- Joy – maybe include Medicaid training w/ Public Forums?
- Dual eligibility issues
- General consensus is that there are significant issues with the Medicaid Prescription Plan as it now stands
 - Example: New rules that motorized chairs will only be approved if required for in home use.
- N. Curtis: Mentioned existing alternative prescription program
- Adrienne Anderson has more info
- Judy Bearden has info on web site
- Resource/info sharing, Confirm Dates and Locations of Next Meetings & Wrap up - Judy and Carolyn
 - A. Goldman: Working on RFP focusing on consumer friendly Medicare issues, CP will assist in RFP on accessibility questions
 - A. Goldman: Please send out Meeting Evaluation Form

Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Location
February 2, 2006	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	TBA (tie in w/ Public Forum)
June 8, 2006	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Walton Options
August 24, 2006	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Tech-Able
November 9, 2006	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Atlanta Office

- 2:00 Adjourn

** PowerPoint Presentation** emailed by Carolyn Phillips 11/28/05*