

Grant Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2019: 9:00 am – 12:50 pm
4900 Water's Edge Drive

Attendees:	Keith Greenarch (Chairman)	Tammy Koger
	Sonya Clark	Gloria Jinks
	Cheryl Cherry	Philip Woodard
	Kim Harrell	Annette Lauber
	Mose Dorsey	Sandy McMillan
	Joy Tribble	Becky Rosenthal
	Tony Davis	Frank Harden
	Lynne Deese	Meisha Evans
	Felipe Cabrera	
	Amy Chavis	

Also attending: Nicole Fox and Catrina Phillips (interpreters), Samuel Cerda (Spanish interpreter), and Connie Gillespie and Monique Cox (minute takers), Imani Darden (Intern)

Call to Order: **Keith Greenarch**

Keith called the meeting to order. He welcomed the group and introductions were made. A list with contact information for GAC Voting and Ex-Officio members, along with a sign in sheet, was passed around. Members were asked to verify his/her information and update if needed.

- Next GAC Meeting Date: September 6, 2019 at 9:00 am was selected. Location: Waters Edge Drive. (This meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather)

Director's Update: **Tammy Koger**

Staff Announcements:

- Connie Gillespie changed her name back to her maiden name, which is Connie Moore. Connie has submitted her retirement paper work and she will be leaving NCATP at the end of August 2019.
- Information in GAC Packet: GAC Agenda, CMIST PowerPoint Presentation, "Save The Date" draft for the NCATP Expo, AFP upcoming events, AT Expo T-shirt picture, Stephen E. Sallee information and application, NCATP Federal Report, NCATP Success Stories, Vendor feedback from 2018 AT Expo and participant feedback from 2018 AT Expo.

Sonya Clark- NCATP Staff

NCATP EXPO 2019

Vendor Update

- Seven vendors have paid: Quintex Low Vision, Convaaid-R82 CapTel Outreach, Self Help Credit Union, Vispero (Freedom Scientific, Enhance Vision, Opetelec), Kurzweil Education, Ability2Access

- Vendors that are coming but we are still waiting for payment: SureHands Lift & Care Systems, NC Cap, NC Agrability Partnership, Best Bath, Relay, Bellman North American Inc, AT Works, Community Low Vision, Indigo Logic. There is a total of 16 vendors participating at this point.
- Companies that are thinking about attending: Scanning pens, National Seating and Mobility-NSMC, OB Design (a feeding robot)
- Six vendors have signed up to present
- We have six new vendors that did not participate in last year's expo!

Vendor Booth

- We had six vision booths last year, but we are trying to get a variety of vendors
- Q: Can we use the larger room right beside the hall if we need it? A: No, that room is not available
- Q: If we reach capacity in the vendor hall can we put a few tables outside the hall? A: No, that's not an option according to the venue.
- Q: Have you tried Eastpointe Prosthetic A: They came last year, we've sent an invitation, but we haven't heard back from them.
- If you know of an agency what would be interested in joining us at the expo, please reach out to them, as well as contact Sonya Clark to add the vendor to the list.

Expo Questions and Comments

- C: From a consumer's standpoint, it's nice to have all the vision vendor in one area so you can compare products. On the flip side, I know that wouldn't be good for the vendors. In the past, it was stated by some of the vendors that they would prefer not to be close to other vision vendors.
- C: We may want to tell the vision vendors the amount of vision agencies that have already accepted our invitation, so they will know how many will be there in advance and it will give them the opportunity to withdraw their acceptance if they believe it's too many.
- C: All the vendor booths are first come first service and in most cases the vision agencies are quick to accept our invitation.
- Q: When you were going through your list, it didn't sound like there were very many mobility vendors. A- None of the mobility vendors have signed up but the invitation to come has been sent out to them.
- We (GAC counsel) can help make personal calls to the vendors that have not responded. A list will be sent out to everyone to make calls to vendors that haven't responded. The

list will include bullet points on some of the things we need to say to the vendors, such as first come first serve and our limitation in space.

- Q: Could we look into a vendor that do 3-D printing? A: Yes, if you know of one, please contact them to see if they would be interest in coming to the expo.
- C: We should look into having NC Vote come back again this year.
- Q-Do we have any ramp vendors? A: We can contact ramp vendors to see if any can come

Expo Participation

- So far, we have 240 participance that are registered to come but we would like to know how we can get more.
- If you're on other boards; please let your board members know
- If you need our flyer sent to you electronically, so you can print them out to hand them out, let us know
- When you present anywhere, you can bring our flyer with you or if you're attending workshops or if you have a vendor booth for other events
- We can send them to the local universities (some of the programs will give extra credit if the students attend, such as OT or Allied Health)
- If anyone is on the mayors committee, please invite them
- Social Media
- Event Bright
- Local School Systems
- Center Groups
- Raleigh Parks and Recreation
- Triangle Radio Service
- Duke has an engineering design class where they specifically do assistive technology. Some of the students can come to the expo
- The Guiding Lights
- Anyone that could volunteer the day of the expo, we could love to have you.
- We will have vendor buddies this year and lunch will be served to vendors at two separate times.

-Door prizes

- 2 feeders were given as donations (makes sure Agrability and farmers attend so they can get this prize)
- We still need door prizes or door prize ideas
- Q: Do we have form letters to request door prizes? No, but we can draft one up
- Door prizes should be given to the expo participants only

Sponsors

- We still need sponsors
- EasterSeals couldn't be a sponsor but they sponsored all the bags
- We're willing to accept any kind of assistance from agencies if sponsoring is not an option
- They can buy the awards or sponsor the food, anything would be helpful
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing has always been a great sponsor for us

Expo Registration

- You can preregister now on Everbright for the expo. It is not mandatory, but it can give us an idea of how many people are coming.
- The event bright list will be printed out and instead of signing in we will check your name off but if anyone is not on the list they will sign in.

Presenters

Tony Davis- Hard of Hearing Services Coordinator, with the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- The goal for this presentation is to give everyone a better understanding of the Equipment Distribution Services (EDS) program, info on health implications of hearing loss, and EDS equipment available through the program
- What percentage of the population has hearing loss? 20%
- What percentage between the age of 55-65? 30%
- Over 70? 40%
- Hearing loss is connected with accidental falls
 - There a 4.9 percent risk of falling
 - Mild hearing loss triple the amount of falls
- People with diabetes are twice as likely to have hearing loss
- Pre-diabetics are 30 percent more likely to have a hearing loss
- You are 50 percent more likely to develop dementia if you have hearing loss based on a recent study from The New York Times
- People with untreated hearing loss lose an average of 1 cubic centimeter of brain matter (tissue) per year. Therefore, it's so important to have your hearing checked on a regular basis.
- Mid hearing loss, you are two times more likely to have dementia
- Moderate, three times more likely
- Severe, five times more likely
- Hearing loss can lead to depression due to people becoming self-isolated

- People with cardio vascular problems (such as heart attacks or stroke) are 80 percent more likely to have hearing loss.
- The world of hearing loss technology is changing rapidly
- The purpose of the program is to connect people to the telephone, but we don't want to limit people to just telephones.
- MiFi is made for iPhones but it is also in hearing aids and cochlear implants
- With MiFi, you can have your iPhone stream directly to my implant without any wires. The sound is completely clear and easy to understand. The iPhone can also become an amplifier by allowing people talk in your iPhone and the message will go directly to my implant or hearing aid. Many of the new hearing aid have this new technology in them, people just don't know about it.
- Your audiologist will know what devices that you can purchase that has MiFi in them and not your cell phone companies such as Verizon or AT&T
- Devices with MFI (Made for iPhone) and MFA (Made for Anything) maybe a little more expensive
- Its best that you ask your audiologist if the hearing aid or implant you want to purchase has MFI or MFA in them
- Telehealth has the ability to send you loved one's information that you have fallen. The hearing aid has the ability to detect a fall and your love one can call you and their call will go directly to their hearing aid.
- Your hearing aids can changes depending on your environment. It allows your hearing aid to adjust to the room or setting that you're in.
- There are many hearing aid accessories, one includes a remote microphone that can clip on someone your communicating with shirt and the microphone will stream directly to your hearing aid. You can also connect a TV stream to a hearing aid and it will stream directly to a hearing aid and it will be clear.
- Bluetooth technology can be used at work, home, school and for activities
- Telecoil is a small coil of wire inside a hearing aid that is designed to pick up a magnetic signal
- Inductive Loops allows you to connect to your environment a lot easier
- EDP equipment demo
- Pocket talker (help people hear others around them)
- Alert Master (Flashes and makes sounds to alert people if the phone rings, doorbell etc.)
- Silent call pager (shakes to alerts you of a baby crying, doorbell, etc.)

Becky Rosenthal- EDS Program

- 90 percent of the applications we receive are for hearing aids
- There are several different types of phones that we offer such as amplified phones, TTY phones, Caption telephones (some are analog, and others are internet-based, also a braille caption telephone), Pocket talker (often in nursing homes or hospitals)
- Hearing aids are getting a lot smaller and including rechargeable batteries

- With new hearing aids, there is a 30-day trial period that allows the consumer to return the hearing aid if it not efficient for them.
- The equipment we provide is for distant communication and not one on one
- We offer devices and accessories for speech impairment

Cheryl Cherry -Self Help Credit Union

- AT Pop up events with Disability Rights, NCATP, and Self Help
- Self Help was stated in the 1980's by Martin Eakes and wife Bonnie Wright.
- Mission is creating and protecting ownership and economic opportunities for all
Goal is to provide capital for everyone
- A 3 billion-dollar entity now and the largest community development credit union in the united states
- There is also a Self-Help Federal Credit Union, the center for responsible lending (they do the advocate work), Self-Help has a 504 program (which partners with USDA) for commercial lending
- Alternate Finance Program (AFP): If you're trying to get a loan from any other bank, your interest rate can be anywhere between 12-14 percent interest but with Self Help, the capped interest rate is 4 percent
- There are several types of lending including home lending, commercial lending, small business loans, church lending, nonprofits, individual, organizations and several others.

AT Pop Up Events

- The AT Pop up events have been in Windsor, Rocky Mount, Morganton, Asheville, Wilmington, we sponsored an event in Greenville through Koinonia Christian Center Church at their Differently Abled Fun Fair, June 27th
- There will be pop up events coming soon in Wilson, Durham, and Charlotte

Self-Help Partnership with NCATP

- Self Help provided 6 AT loans last year for 83,000, which included services for vision, hearing, mobility, daily living, and vehicle modification
- This year there has been 7 loans for about 40,000 (2 hearing aids, 1 knee brace, a conversion van, a car repair, a computer purchase, and wheel chair)
- Our goal is to never put people in a worse financial position than what they are. Self-Help works with other agencies to see if there are any other aids available that would better assist the client.
- If you know of any individual or organization that need our assistance, please let us know.

Gloria Jinks-NCATP AT Staff

- The Pop-Up events have been a success.
- The consumers were able to try out different devices, ask questions and we were able to demo the devices we had available
- Connecting with Self Help gave consumers a avenue as to how they could purchase devices they may need.
- We had a lot of questions about low vision devices
- Pocket talkers were one of the most popular devices

Frank Harden- NCATP Staff

Stephen E. Sallee Awards

- We began sending out email distributions at the end of March 2019 to let organizations and schools know we were accepting nominations for this award
- We have one nomination at this point
- If anyone knows of other ways we can get the word out, please let me know.
- We need three volunteers to be on the selection board (Joy Tribble, Philip Woodard, and Sandy McMillian volunteered with Karen Fraller as a backup)
- The deadline for nominees is August 23rd

Tammy Koger- Director

Updates

- We have two vacancies, which includes a SLP for our Raleigh location and an admin position in our Charlotte location
- We just hired a SLP for our Charlotte location, Susanne Cescon
- A new location for the Dortha Dix campus hasn't been selected
- There is a possibility we could be moving to Granville County