

**Advisory Council Meeting
April 14, 2005
1700 Century Circle
Atlanta, GA**

Thursday 14th, 2005 10:30 a.m.

Attendees: Carolyn McGonagill, Allan Goldman, Connie Freier, Beth Tumlin, Joanne Willis, Carolyn Phillips, Stephanie Abdelal, Norris Curtis, Yvonne Wright, Judy Bearden, Barbara Bearden, Deb Keane, Maya Mattison, John Weber, Stephanie King, Starla Seinmann, Adrienne Anderson, Tom Bauer, Beth Tumlin

Note taker: Connie Freier

- Agenda Reviewed.
- Develop a 3 yr plan for State w/regard to AT.
- Must reviewed By-Laws not redo but review.
- TFL to be more involved with Aging.
- New person will be stepping in to represent DOE.

Introductions

- Add Adrienne Anderson from Walton Options to Call List.

Reviewed printed materials: by-laws (on Website), AT information, evaluation booklet (Carolyn Phillips to send out electronic format to everyone).

Reviewed AT Act (as it pertains to TFL) went over key points. Tools for Life held as a national model for many projects. TFL Power UP Conference held in Hawaii. Problem is document was signed in October but was not funded which is a big problem.

Tom Bauer: Updates to funding. 5 years ago received line items for State funds for Reboot and ATRC's. Economy went down so did our funding. We are back up to where we were in the beginning. Now trying to get Federal government to include funds for Technology.

Carolyn McGonagill gave out handouts, lists of Representatives and sample letter for legislators. Will send out electronic format. Beth Tumlin to put on her website.

In communication you should convey an extreme sense of urgency and disappointment in talking to folks in Washington and ATAP (Assistive Technology Association of Projects). Tools for Life is a member of ATAP. Do not express outrage it is counterproductive. Emphasize how AT has or will help your child, etc. Contacting Johnny Isaacson is good idea. He is every ones Senator and is very knowledgeable.

RSA – Rehab Service Administration – says we will have funding for the next two years without any problems. But we need funding beyond that.

RSA has set up that we have to be accountable, Advisory Council setup, Acting under new law for 1 – 2 years. Need 36 Million in order to keep going and everybody have funding.

- Carolyn McGonagill, Greg Sams and Carolyn Phillips met with White House Representative, in Washington.

- Disability Connections sent out 230 letters to representation that were personalized.
- Law pertains to a lot of what TFL is trying to accomplish.
- Fed funds \$410 K, State funds \$201K. Missing 30K next year.
- Relationship with GDOL working. Employers Committee 400 private companies will to pass out our fact sheet.
- TFL staff absorbed by GDOL \$290K. Carolyn Mc and Carolyn P to look at freeing up extra funds for ATRCs.
- Need Representative from South and diversity throughout the state, need more nominations for Advisory Council.
- Must have a representative from Independent Living group. Peggy Chavis interested and one other person from Savannah.
- Still have a gap.
- 51% Rep = Parent, PWD.
- Naomi Walker will be involved.
- Business Representative person.
- BPAO – Curtis Rodgers.
- Reach out to Babies Can't Wait.
- Minna Hong works at Shepherd Center active in Spinal Cord Injury.
- Contact GA College disability directors to see if they have student to recommend.
- Supportive Employment - Rich _____
- Piggyback on ATRCs meetings. Make one meeting in Reboot/ATRC, Walton Options, Tech-Able and Macon. Meet around the Technology.
- Student from Auburn – physical disability.
- Non-government person.
- Lobby people = Judy, John, Stephanie, Beth, Norris, Minna Hong.
- Formalize within our by-laws. Position need to be filled. Officers for 1 year
- Nominee for Chairperson – Judy Bearden,
- Vice-Chair – Allan Goldman
- Nomination Chair – Norris Curtis
- Consortium Representative – A voting member
- Advocacy Chair – Stephanie K.,
- Advocacy Co-Chair – Beth T., John Weber – 2 co-chairs
- Amy and Dr. Hill will not serve again. Need to replace them send nominations to Connie.
- Let us know if you are interested in the positions. That you would like to participate in this capacity.
- Will modify nomination Form, add Name, address, email address, etc. Email out form to Adv Council, fill in nomination and email back to us.
- New person would not be good to chair.
- Half people should be people who are not Agency people.
- Meetings will be quarterly
- Travel, accommodations and attendants to be covered by TFL.
- TFL database is strong. Data not turned in by NIDRR. Has been turned in to RSA.

- Reviewed State plan. Format dictated by RSA. Will need advise from advisory council from time to time. Jeremy (Frazil) contact. Sending a retro shortly with issues he'd like to see addressed and a format of how he would expect us to measure our schedules. We have 90 days to turn that document back around.
- VR Shown on GP TV done each year, TFL mentioned 5 times, technology 6 times TA own Video. Talked about conference.
- Have dinner for legislators. Different family, different situations people w/diverse disabilities. Beth to send information. ULWL.com website for updates.
- R. J. Cooper writes software for severely disabled people. Works one on one w/individual. Possible presenter for Conference.

Updates from Credit Able

- CA Funded by Fed Government, DOL Grant to State.
- Lunch and learn May 1st
- Will come talk with any group.
- Statewide council meeting in July (17 or 18?). **Norris to email information to Carolyn McGonagill.**
- Visit Tech-Able's web site for forms, application, and information.
- Big Partner – Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund.
- Designed for individuals.
- Can get CA Loan and Brain and Spinal loan as well.

Next Advisory Council Meeting:

- Reboot/ATRC, 4508 Bibb Blvd, Ste B-10, Tucker, GA. 770-934-8432
- Time: 10:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Phone List of Advisory Council members:

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