



**Community of Practice
for Supporting Families of Individuals
with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities**

Technology Committee

*These are draft minutes. The final minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Date of Meeting: November 18, 1:00- pm- 2:00 pm Videoconference

Attendance: Chris Blake, Amy Blazawski, Carlos Colon, Susan Klick, Siobhan Morgan, Bob ? for Pam Smith, Crescento Secciaroli, Doug Duford, Karin McMahon, Kathleen Stauffer, Robin Wood

Absent: Josh Scalora, Robert Smith, Beverne Cordner, Hannah Jurewisz, Arleen Lugo

Discussion Items:

1. **Welcome/Introductions:** The group was introduced to new members Crescento Secciaroli from the North region.
2. **Membership:** The group agreed that the following individuals/groups should be invited to the next committee meeting.

Nicole- ABD- Nicole will be attending future meetings

NEAT- A staff from NEAT will be attending future meetings

Paul Ford from MFP- Paul will be attending future meetings

Opening Doors Family Latino Group- Robin to follow-up to see if they have a found a parent interested in participating in this group

Autism Division-Jenn or her staff will attend meetings when they can

West Region Arc's- Bob will talk to Pam about following up with this contact

CCMC & Hospital for Special care- Amy to contact

Vets- Bob to contact

Masonic Care- Siobhan to contact

Bob Gormand from CIL will be attending future meetings

All committee members are encouraged to welcome whomever else they feel is appropriate. Please let Robin know if anyone agrees to attend next meeting, or agrees to join the group.

*Vendors will be invited to make presentations on specific topics

3. **Joshua- Update on Big Tent** – We are still unclear as to whether we will be able to use the Big Tent as a means for communicating with one another. Josh to report at the next meeting in January.
4. **Interests:**

Cres: Mainly interested in learning about technology that can be used in homes.

Doug: Interested in finding new ways to help people feel good about themselves and to be more independent.

5. Best Practice Ideas:

Amy: Will send everyone links to watch IGAZE videos from home. DDS will not allow access to these sites.

Bob: Will check to see if we can go to the ARC's Meriden SmartHome on January 16th either from 9:30-10:30 or from 1:30-2:30. Will make sure the resident of the home is available to speak with us during whatever time works.

Siobhan: Will help set up a tour of Masonic Smart Homes. She will try and arrange this for January 16th if possible.

Robin- Will check to see if the group can meet at NEAT in February.

Karin- Talked about the following resources: DOE Assistive Technology guidelines, CPAC- assistive technology webpage resources, upcoming assistive technology workshops, Southern CT Adaptive Education Center. Robin will send everyone links to this information.

Susan- Has volunteered to keep a chart on all of the information/resources that we are learning about. She will update and send this out to everyone in the group each month.

Kathleen- shared that the national ARC has lots of information on APPs. Susan will add this information to her chart.

Robin- will share IPAD information at the next meeting.

Chris- Is interested in learning more about technology that is available but that cannot be purchased in local stores.

- There is an Assistive Technology Conference scheduled for April 1st. Robin will check to see what funding is available to attend this event.
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6. **Technology Rights handout:** Everyone agreed that they liked the focus of the rights handout, but that the wording needed to be simplified. Robin will work with Chris to gather a group of consumers together to work on editing this document. The updated version will be used as guiding principles to guide the work of the technology committee.

7. Next Steps:

- Susan will send out the chart to all before the next meeting.
- Everyone will be responsible for researching ideas on technology to be used in the home.
- Robin will confirm where the January 16th meeting will be held. Bob will confirm whether the Meriden Smart Home field trip will also be scheduled on the 16th. Siobhan will confirm the time/date for the masonic field trip.
- Amy will bring her laptop to show the IGAZE videos at the next meeting.
- Siobhan will bring information on DSS authorizations to use technology to monitor medications at the next meeting.
- Robin will check with Nicole about a videotape of the accessible beds at Ability beyond Disability

8. Next Meeting: January 16 from 11:00-1:00. Robin to send out a confirmation email.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robin Wood