



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

Technology Committee

Date of Meeting: April 18, 2014 NEAT Marketplace.

Attendance: Siobhan Morgan, DDS, John Tierney, DDS, Pam Fields, ARC M/W, Arlene Lugo, CT Tech ACT, Robin Wood, DDS, Amy Blazawski, DDS, Katie Hanley, NEAT, Arianna Rivera, Intern of MARC Community, Larissa Gionfriddo, MARC, Elissa Velardo, Vinfen, CT, Hannah Jurewicz, Dungarvin, Robert Smith DDS, Beverne Cordner, DDS and Doug Duford, DDS.

Discussion Items:

- **New members**
- **Review of last meeting minutes**
- **Committee member updates**
- **IPAD presentation- Amy Blazawski**
- **Goals and Action Plan- next steps**
- **OTHER**

New members: Larissa Gionfriddo from MARC introduced herself.

Review of last meeting minutes: All accepted, however a small error in distribution was noted- perhaps there was a second page not distributed as page two of hand out indicated page 3 of 3, but there was no page 2.

Action item: Robin will look into this.

Committee Member Updates:

-Arlene Lugo shared that the recent Tech Act conference was a huge success with over 300 in attendance -88 individuals supported came from different agencies who use AT. Nine workshops were available and the IPAD playground was a big hit. The next meeting will be in May for a post-conference to look at ways to improve workshops. Some of the vendors that attended will be going to other Resource fairs. Tech Act information was distributed for device demos.

Action item: The next issue of Direct to Families will share information on the technology demo sites.

-Doug and Pam reported attending the Meriden AT Ribbon cutting last week. This new facility is awesome and full of innovative devices to improve one's ability to be more independent in their home. Both shared that this facility will be a tremendous resource to the community. Doug was hopeful that this could address issues like time alone in the Community Companion Homes program. Doug said will be arranging a tour for his staff.

Action Item: Robin will create an expanded demonstration list with the AT Meriden site added in. Robin will invite vendors to a future Tech Committee meeting.

-Siobhan stated we should be thinking about technology before thinking about staff. Siobhan pulled together an AT committee as well to operationalize AT for those we support, and is having Case managers connect people to identify barriers. A provider panel will be put together so providers can talk to providers. Waiver money can be used for these initiatives. The group will also be looking at other ways to pay for these things. A Dignity of Risk Committee is also being pulled together by the Commissioner. Question: What do people need to keep safe and promote independence?

IPAD Presentation – AMY

Amy went over many aspects of the IPAD that for those who may have disabilities could be very useful (i.e. speech to text, accessibility apps, eye gaze options, swipes, Bluetooth etc.) A handout was distributed illustrating all the benefits of the IPAD. People agreed that in the future perhaps folks we support could present these devices instead of staff, which could prove more powerful.

Goals and action plans:

Robin led the discussion regarding goals for this committee. She explained that there are essential themes that run through committees of what families want to see.

- Families want easy to read materials that provides clear information as to where to go if they have additional questions about the subject matter. Each CoP committee will be asked to develop a fact sheet on their topic.
- Families want to give input into where we are going with the CoP committees. Each Cop committee will be asked to develop a survey on their topic that families can respond to. These surveys will be put on the DDS website.
- Each committee will be asked to develop measurable goals.

Information: It should be easy to read

Navigation: Easy to navigate the information and find what people need

Evaluation: Monkey survey system should be in place on a website so feedback can be on-going.

All agreed we should keep these themes in mind.

The group went on to brainstorm ideas for the committee to work on in the next two years.

Many ideas were noted on wallpaper (paid jobs for tech. work, tech. evaluations, funding streams to pay for tech., tech. IDOL videos, video lessons, AT Bill Of Rights, fact sheets, lending library and video snippets of people using Tech.) In the end the top three we will work on are;

- 1) Tech IDOL video
- 2) Paid Tech jobs for individuals
- 3) Bill of Rights Campaign with videos

(*Just because we didn't highlight an idea doesn't mean other groups may not be addressing.)

In two years all groups will do a "show and tell".

Next meeting we will discuss: Measurable steps to reach our goals and finding people we need to meet the goal.

Next meeting will be: June 3rd from 12-2PM at the Willimantic Assisted Technology Center 872 Main St.
**** Please bring lunch and something to share.*

Minutes Submitted by Doug Duford

DRAFT