

# **Technology C.O.P. Meeting**

**March 25th, 2014 @ 10am**

## **In Attendance:**

Crescentino Secchiaroli, Doug Duford, Amy Blazawski, Robin Wood, Siobhan Morgan, Robert C. Smith, Arlene Lugo, Chris Blake, Bob Gorman, & Lara Phiaderini.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014: Tech Conference-** Look into inviting individuals who are Assistive Tech users to participate in the Community of Practice Technology Committee.

4 Individuals from the committee will be attending the Technology Conference: Chris Blake, Bob Smith, Amy Blaze, & Robin Wood. (Chris will submit an additional name to complete his application for the conference).

**Meriden April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 -10am-12pm: Assistive Living Technology, Inc. Showroom:** Various technology products and items will be featured and sold. The event is open to the public, and will be held at 74 South Broad Street, Meriden, CT.

Several other Tech Act Project showrooms /demo locations are available to see (by appointment only) including the Eastern Regional CT Demo Center in Windham, as well as the Western CT Aging Demo Center (hosting many disability/aging crossover devices). These centers can be accessed by scheduling an appointment through Charlene Wicks @ 203-757-5449.

Robin suggested that committee members (w/ A. Lugo) may want to consider producing a list of Assistive Tech items that individuals can introduce into their homes to increase independence. ( ie: Stove safety device, Automated medication box/monitoring, Video monitoring, Face Time, Skype, etc...)

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 Aging Conference** - Siobhan reminded the group that the conference will feature & demo some aging and disability crossover devices.

Siobhan spoke about possible Specialized Medical Rental options as an option to build into Consumer IP-6 budgets. Assistive Technology / Specialized Medical items as a covered Title 19 option.

Committee members are encouraged to look up Speak4Use-Computer and other devices to increase independence. Control + Click the hyperlink below to read more about "Speak4Use".

<http://www.speak4use.com/>

Robin suggested scheduling dates for families to look at all assistive tech demo sites in each geographic region. We may want to incorporate into family fairs if possible.

Reminder: COP is looking toward keeping our efforts Community focused, hence, we will need to be focused on how to create goals in a community focused manner.

Siobhan talked about the use of technology and remote monitoring as a "hierarchy" promoting the idea of increasing independence vs. increasing the amount or type of supports.

### Independence Through Technology



**iPad Assistive Tech Employment Pilot-** 3 Agencies were chosen to participate in the iPad Pilot toward promoting, increasing, and enhancing individuals' performance in a competitive employment setting. The agencies, along with other applicants and the SD Directors were invited to an iPad training which was extremely informative and useful. The agencies chosen will use iPad technology to assist 5 individuals each. The agencies chosen are noted below.

**North -**WILA

**South-**Futures

**West-** C.S.I.

Arlene Lugo made several good points regarding individuals who will be assessed through the technology pilot. She wanted to make sure that BRS is notified if they are BRS consumers, so that duplication is avoided. She also talked about making sure that we are approaching employers for equipment if the equipment is determined an appropriate accommodation.

Ideas were discussed around instituting a PRAT "checklist" in order to consider the implementation of technology to promote & increase independence, while simultaneously reducing staffing costs.

Siobhan raised the idea of possibly using an online survey to look at a 10 question survey to identify Specialized Medical-Assistive Tech needs, use, accessibility to etc...The Info Dissemination Committee looked at the PACER NY model as they use online surveys to support research on best practice. Question posed: How might the Technology Committee be able to utilize similar research/survey tools?

### **Plans & Updates Regarding the "Community of Practice" Actions and Events:**

- 1) Robin reported that we will not be holding an "all committee C.O.P event" in April as originally planned. At this point, the C.O.P. committees host approximately 260 people. Robin has also requested that the committees submit their goals and objectives by mid-April.
- 2) In September of 2014, the Committees will gather to talk about what they are working on, and present their ideas through a series of relevant questions.

In Sept. 2015, it is expected that the Committees will be poised to participate in a major conference outlining the accomplishments of each of the COP committees.

3)

## Next Steps: Technology Committee Planning

**Next Meeting:** Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 1:30pm at NEAT Marketplace on 33 Coventry Street, Hartford CT. \*Please bring a dessert to share\*

“Brainstorming Meeting”! Come prepared with ideas for projects, focus areas, or development. We may look at using the "Dot Exercise" (Pick top 5 goals or ideas for development to narrow in on focus areas).

Amy Blazawski will present iPad Accessibility features, and recommends that committee members bring their iPad or iPhone to actively participate in the training. We will project the iPad views for those who do not own an “idevice”.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Amy M. Blazawski, LCSW**

Director of Self Determination, North Region