**Grant Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**May 4, 2018: 9:00 am -12:13 pm**

**4900 Water’s Edge Drive**

Attendees: Keith Greenarch (Chairman) Tammy Koger

Mose Dorsey David Beck

Lynne Deese Sonya Clark

Joy Tribble Dottie Snyder

Philip Woodward Felipe Cabrera

Meisha Evans Corye Dunn

Kim Harrell Annette Lauber

Katie Lee

Also attending: Joann Cerda, Laura Kelly and Kathy Beetham (interpreters), Connie Gillespie and Monique Cox (minute takers)

**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 was passed around. Members were asked to verify his/her information and update if needed.

* Appreciation for NCATP: Keith took a few minutes as GAC Chair and the on behalf of the GAC members to recognize NCATP staff for their hard work and dedication. His kind words such as “Their hearts are in the right place” and “It’s not about the money” are much appreciated by the NCATP staff!
* Next GAC Meeting Date: September 7, 2018 was selected. Location: Waters Edge.

**2018 Vendor Event:** **Sonya Clark**

Sonya shared some history of the G.R.E.A.T. Conference and NCATP’s involvement. Fort the past six years, our staff have partnered with NCRA for conference. Each year the conference is moved to a different region-East, Central and west. The G.R.E.A.T. conference focus is on professionals. Many GAC members as well as vendors shared feedback that the conference just did not compare to the past AT Expo events. Therefore, NCATP has decided not to co-sponsor the conference with NCRA in 2018. NCATP has decided to have a 1-day event similar to the AT Expo. Tammy and Sonya booked tours at the Friday Center and McKimmon Center to check out accessibility, space, pricing, dates, etc. No definite details have been decided but Sonya shared ideas:

* McKimmon Center has more available parking, better pricing for food/snacks and the ability to demo the accessible vans inside.
* Potential date: Friday, October 5, 2018
* Time: 9 am- 5pm
* No fee for attendees--just the vendors. The event would be open to the public.
* Vendors would buy a table (rather than booth or multiple booths). Non-Profits would not pay a fee.
* Additionally, vendors can buy a 20-minute session for set-up, demonstrating a product and clearing for next vendor. These demo sessions would be scheduled throughout the day. That would allow @ 15 vendors to demo.

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* Food: McKimmon Center does not allow outside food. Quotes for the event:
* 1 morning “snack” set-up for 150 people: such as bagels, muffins, coffee, water, soft drinks would cost @ $1,000.00 (50 staff members & vendors and 100 public attendees)
  + 1 afternoon “snack” for 150 people: water, soft drinks and a cookie assortment would cost @ $850.00
  + A box lunch example---Chick-fil-a at a cost $11.00 per person. Staff and vendors would receive a box lunch.

The Friday Center parking would be more complicated for staff, vendors, and attendees. Other negatives related to using the Friday Center are vans cannot be set up outside and it’s more expensive.

Sonya and Tammy asked for feedback. Some suggestions made:

* Many people asked that the Stephen E. Sallee Awards be included as part of the event.
* Some attendees thought that having a keynote speaker would be nice. One change recommended---having the speaker present @ midday and then present the awards afterwards.
* Some of the 20-minute demos and “marketing” product sessions should include how people with disabilities are using the technology being shown.
* Find sponsors to assist with event costs such as food, etc. was suggested.
* Philip commented that the timing for the event was great due to October being national Disability Awareness Month.

Thanks to Keith, Philip, Katie, Mose and Annette who volunteered for a committee to assist Sonya with event planning.

Kim Harrell shared that DSB is planning a similar event, “A Taste of Technology”, sponsored by Sprint Relay, for individuals who are deaf/blind on Saturday, October 6th in Greensboro. Sonya will check with McKimmon Center about possible other dates since DSB is planning this event. Further research with the two venues and with several vendors supports having the vendor fair on October 5th. One vendor commented that having the 2 events back-to-back would allow them to attend both prior to returning to their home base. Bola with Sprint Relay, of course, could not attend the Vendor fair due to her work on “A Taste of Technology”.

Tammy did comment that NCATP would be willing to look at partnering for next year’s event.

**Director’s Update: Tammy Koger**

Staff Announcements:

* Monique Cox joined the NCATP team on April 9, 2018 as the new Referral Coordinator. Connie Gillespie’s position as Intake and Billing Coordinator has been divided. Connie will now be the Billing Coordinator. Monique will be crossed-trained in billing at some point in the future. Monique was welcomed as Tammy shared a little of her background as an Intake Specialist with the Edgecombe County DSS.
* NCATP has no vacancies!!

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Reeves Grant:

* NCATP has been awarded the grant (@ $ 75,000.00)!!
* NC RAMMP (Ramp Access Makes Mobile People) Project, as the name implies, will focus on placing portable ramps in the NCATP Centers which can be used for our Demo/Loan program. The type of ramps will be threshold ramps and portable ramps up to 10 feet in size. NCATP also wants to partner with community organizations to place portable ramps in the organization’s center.
* Staff is working on creating a flyer for the RAMMP Project to distribute.

Veterans Workshop: NCATP has contracted with NC A &T State University again to provide more workshops. Flyers for the workshops were distributed.

1. Farming Resources for Military Veterans (Western Regional):

* This workshop was held on April 26, 2018 in Mills River, NC 28759. Shelby Kennerly and Tammy presented. 32 people attended!

1. Farming Resources for Military Veterans (Eastern Regional)

* May 16, 2018 in Fayetteville, NC 28306. Gloria Jinks and Tammy will be presenting. Spread the word!

New NCATP Flyer: A copy was distributed to attendees. Needs more copies? Contact Tammy.

Grant Advisory Council Information Card: A copy was distributed to attendees. While at a conference in DC, Tammy discovered that the Illinois Assistive Technology Program uses these cards to distribute to people who may want information about IATP and/or may be interested in serving on its GAC. Tammy asked for feedback as to whether this would be beneficial for NCATP and GAC. Some suggestions:

* ITAP’s card is too wordy.
* Change the shape of the card so that it would fit in a business size envelope for mailing
* Make the font larger so it can be more easily read.

If anyone has other suggestions, please contact Tammy.

**AFP (Alternate Finance Program) Update: David Beck**

The Self-Help Credit Union was awarded the grant in October 2017. NC now has an Alternative Finance Program. NC is the only instance is the country in which the grant has been awarded to a financial institution. With all the other instances, the grant money has gone through an AT Departments or non-profits. This is exciting because the money will be managed by an organization that knows banking! NCATP is co-partner with AFP. Some information David shared with the GAC:

* The Self-Help CU has 20 branches across the state with hopes of opening more branches (Raleigh area) in the next couple of years.
* The CU provides financial counseling as well as basic banking services.
* The grant amount available for loans is @ $600,000.00. Since the grant was awarded in October, the AFP has disbursed funds for a few loans--for eSight technology, a vehicle modification and a bath remodel.
* One challenge is introducing these new products and technology to loan officers.

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* NCATP will help the CU by collecting/tracking data on the individual. If the person is not sure what he/she needs, NCATP may assess the client to ensure appropriate need/device is recommended. Tammy Pereboom, our Charlotte AT Consultant, is the point of contact.

Tammy will send out Tammy Pereboom’s contact information so that GAC members will have the information to share. An informational flyer is being created!

Spread the word about the AFP!!!

**SharePoint: Lynne Deese**

NCATP is serving as the pilot agency. Staff and GAC can use SharePoint to share information, exchange files, manage projects, etc. with each other. Lynne would like to get all the GAC members signed onto SharePoint. There is an “area” for GAC on SharePoint. A list of Council members will be in this area. Small or large groups as well as committees can exchange files, post agendas, post PowerPoints, view event calendar, etc. Any GAC member that has not received an email invitation to SharePoint, please list contact email on the sheet that Lynne is passing around.

Lynne will be happy to assist anyone who would like help learning more about SharePoint.

**Quintex Demo:**  **Frank and Edna Beard/Brad Brautman**

NCATP has a long history with this company-@ 29 years! Qunitex is a vendor NCATP uses a lot for its low vision clients. Handouts for NuEyes and Irisvision were distributed to the attendees. Camera technology has made a huge difference in the lives of those with visual impairment. Three different types of the company’s technology were discussed and demoed.

* Brad, the OrCam representative, explained the OrCam technology and demonstrated its capabilities.
* Frank described the features of NuEyes and Irisvision and demonstrated them.

After the demos, the attendees were invited to demo the technology themselves.

Keith and Tammy thanked the members for their support and attendance.

Meeting adjourned 12:13 pm