**Grant Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**September 7, 2018: 9:00 am – 12:18 pm**

**4900 Water’s Edge Drive**

Attendees: Keith Greenarch (Chairman) Tammy Koger

Joy Tribble Lynne Deese

Philip Woodward Felipe Cabrera

Frank Harden Sonya Clark

Meisha Evans Corye Dunn

Kim Harrell Annette Lauber

Katie Lee Cheryl Cherry

Sandy McMillian Lisa Worth

Sandy Johnson

Also attending: Samuel Cerda, Kathy Beetham and Catrina Phillips (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.

* Next GAC Meeting Date: January 25, 2019 was selected. Location: Waters Edge Drive.

**Director’s Update: Tammy Koger**

Staff Announcements:

* NCATP vacancy: Lauren Zubow, who worked as an SLP in our Charlotte Center, resigned. Celeste Helling, our only SLP in Charlotte now, has appointments booked into January 2019. Consequently, our Charlotte Center is not accepting any new AAC referrals at this time.
* Referral Coordinator, Monique Cox, was introduced to all those that may not have been able to attend May’s meeting.
* Federal Report: NCATP is funded under the Assistive Technology Act at the federal level. NCATP is required to submit reports annually (end of the year). In October, Tammy and Sonya will begin gathering information and data from each Center to create the report. For the last couple of years, Annette Lauber has volunteered to assist them with gathering and analyzing data for the reports. As you may recall, NCATP’s database crashed, so that makes information gathering more difficult. After the crash, Frank created an individual database for each center so that will assist in obtaining needed data. This will be the first year we will report on our collaboration with Alternative Finance Program (Self-help Credit Union). NCATP always has a fantastic report, and we expect to meet all the goals set for us. Tammy will give an update at the January meeting.
* State Plan: NCATP is still operating under year 5 of our old State Plan. Since the AT Program was moved from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services at the federal level. We have not been given directives on what the

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department wants in the State Plan. Tammy expects we will be required to submit a new plan in early 2019. Tammy will give an update at the January meeting.

**Disability Rights NC: Corye Dunn and Meisha Evans**

A PowerPoint presentation was shared with the group. Some highlights shared:

* DRNC is the state’s federally mandated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities. Its staff are statewide experts (all 100 countries) on legal rights of people with disabilities. Also, staff has certain federal authority which allows them some unique rights to:
	+ Enter facilities which are providing services to people with disabilities
	+ Represent a person with disabilities in disputes related to discrimination/failure to comply with federal laws.
* DRNC does not have the right to enter VA facilities or Federal prisons.
* In addition to legal advocacy, DRNC staff perform policy advocacy.
* DRNC is NOT a state agency and is also independent of the disability service program. This allows DRNC to remain free of any conflict of interests. DRNC has several different federal funding streams such as AT and voting. DRNC has federal funding streams dedicated to supporting people with DD, MH as well as other disabilities and those that are beneficiaries of Social Security enter or return to the workforce. DRNC can also receive private donations -501(c)(3).
* DRNC’s responsibilities include:
	+ Ensure that individuals with disabilities live in safe and humane conditions
	+ Inform people with disabilities about their legal rights and how to enforce them
	+ Make sure that individuals with disabilities are not unnecessarily institutionalized
	+ Enforce the rights of all people with disabilities in NC under federal and state law
* DRNC uses strategies such as legal representation, information, referral, training, monitoring, investigation and public policy advocacy to achieve their goals and responsibilities.
* DRNC would like people or any agency wishing to obtain information and assistance related to voter registration/barriers to voting to reach out to contact DRNC.
* To request assistance from DRNC, a person may use the online intake form or call DRNC at 919-856-2195, toll free 1-877-235-4210 or TTY 1-888-268-5535.

**2018 AT Expo:** **Sonya Clark & Tammy Koger**

Two handouts were distributed. 1) A floor plan map of how the expo will be set up at the McKimmon Center 2) Vendor presentation schedule

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Some highlights of Sonya’s update:

* 26 vendors have paid the required fee to attend the expo. We can only accommodate 28 vendors. It is possible that we will meet our goal of having 28 vendors. If you know any agency that may be interested, please let Sonya know. (Note: We did sign up 28 vendors this year!
* 2 vans will be set-up inside the event center this year. Near the vans, a large screen will display a list of our sponsors.
* Sessions: Almost all the time slots for vendor presentations are booked. We plan to have a group of chairs set up back to back. As one vendor is presenting to a group, another vendor can set up in the area behind them to be ready to present. This should keep presentations on schedule. Staff will monitor and give verbal time cues to keep presentations “moving”.
* Awards: At 1 pm, the presentation of the Stephen E. Salle awards will begin. We are awaiting confirmation of a speaker. Either Deputy Secretary Susan Perry-Manning or Senior Director, Tara Myers, will give a brief speech/presentation of the two awards. We received several nominees for each award this year.
* A suggestion was made to register voters during the Expo. Corye volunteered to contact staff who are already familiar with the process, forms, etc. to see if they could assist at the Expo.
* The six sponsors for this year’s Expo are DSDHH, New Voices, DRNC, DSB, Easterseals UCP, NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. Easterseals is providing bags for the event. A HUGE “thank you” was given to all our sponsors!!!
* As attendees enter the McKimmon Center, a monitor will display the name of our event and the room locations.
* PSAs: Katie Lee was interviewed by Triangle Reading Radio, and she talked about the Expo. In a week, Tammy will do a 45 minute interview about the Expo. It will air the week of the Expo. Tammy is also going to request that the department release a PSA.

Tammy shared that she took Sandy’s suggestion to post the event on Eventbrite. So far, 120 people have registered on Eventbrite. Sandy set up a Facebook page too!

* Breaks:
	+ One morning “snack” of muffins, coffeecake, coffee, water and soft drinks will be set-up for 100 people.
	+ There will be one afternoon “snack” of a cookie and brownie assortment as well as water and soft drinks. Sandy suggested using the food as a “lure” to get the public to attend the award presentation.
* Door prize: We are looking for a donor interested in donating a door prize such as an Amazon Spot or Show. The prize would be given away at the end of the day. Cheryl advised she would check with a source who might be interested in donating.
* Vendor and Sponsor “thank you” Bags: We really want to show the vendors and sponsors our appreciation. We plan on giving them “gift” bags. If you would like your agency or organization brochure, flyer or item included in the bag, get them to Sonya/Tammy by October 1st. Send them @ 250 so we will have enough.

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* Signage: Since we are not having piping and drape at the Expo this year, we need feedback about signage. There was much discussion about sign placement for the vendors’ tables. If the sign is placed in front of the table, attendees will most likely block it from view. Some vendors may have their own signs that will be placed at the side of their table. Several suggestions were made, so we will keep working on ideas.
* Expo Graphic: An example of the graphic was included with the meeting packet today.

This will be on the bags along with the sponsor logos. We are also ordering heather purple colored t-shirts with a version of the Expo graphic in white on it. NCATP staff will be wearing the shirts during the Expo. The year will not be included on the t-shirt, so we can wear the shirts again in the future. If you are interested in buying a t-shirt, please let Tammy know today.

* Badges: We will have badges to identify people such as “Staff”, “Sponsor”, “Volunteer”, and “Interpreter”, etc.
* Survey: We will be conducting a survey. One of the vendors will help us with asking about 5 questions.

Sonya was thanked for all her hard work!!

**Project Updates: Tammy Koger**

NC RAMMP (Ramp Access Makes Mobile People) Project:

* A flyer for the NC RAMMP Project was distributed. English is on one side and Spanish on the other side. Tammy brought extra flyers. Please take extras to share with others!!!!
* NCATP applied for this grant through the Christopher Reeves Foundation.
* Focus of Grant: After Hurricane Mathew, NCATP fielded many calls related to the need for ramps. With this grant money, we have temporary/portable ramps in all the NCATP Centers which can be used for our Demo/Loan program. The loan would be for 30 days. If needed, the loan could be extended. The type of ramps are threshold ramps and portable ramps up to 10 feet in size (bifold, trifold and bariatric). Katie and Lynne demoed her portable roll-a-ramp for the attendees.
* Liability form: We do have a form for people to sign when getting a ramp for loan.
* Resource List: We have a list of resources for a more permanent solution related to ramp needs to distribute to people when they sign out a ramp.

Alternative Finance Project (AFP): Frank distributed AFP flyers to the attendees

Tammy and Cheryl Cherry updated the group about this project. The project is a partnership between NCATP and the Self-Help Credit Union. Tammy Pereboom, in our Charlotte Center, is the point person for inquiries and is collecting information and data which will be used for our Federal report. Cheryl is collecting/providing data related to loans to use in the Federal report.

The word is spreading about this project. Cheryl shared that Self-Help has talked with and /or assisted 5 or 6 people in the last month. Katie mentioned that she shared the AFP information during an interview on a recent radio program. One of the success stories Cheryl and Tammy shared:

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* A senior lady needed a specialized bed (cost @ $45,000.00) that would rotate her body to prevent sores. Information was provided to her about the AFP, and she got the loan for the bed. She shared with Tammy Pereboom that this project was a “godsend!” Her venture with the Self-Help CU was the easiest process she has ever experienced. All the other processes she has ever been involved with were long and complicated.

**Open Discussion/Agency Updates:**

* NCCDD Update: Philip Woodward

The NC Council on Developmental Disabilities funded an emergency preparedness initiative for people with I/DD for 4 years. In August, Philip, Chris Egan, NCCDD Executive Director, and two staff from the NC Emergency Management (NCEM) travelled to Austin, Texas to collaborate with the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities. The discussion focused the success and lessons learned from NCCDD’s initiative. Some questions:

* + How would we be more prepared if a hurricane does impact NC?
	+ If individuals lose DME due to a hurricane, will the process for replacing the DME be quicker than previous processes used after past hurricanes?

Sherry Badger (NCEM) will be invited to present at a future GAC meeting. She is very interested in our Re-Use program and how to obtain a stock pile of equipment for daily use as well as emergencies.

* DSB Update: Kim Harrell

Kim shared that DSB will be having “A Taste of Technology” event on Saturday, October 6th in Greensboro. The event will be held at the Greensboro downtown Marriott from 9 am to 4 pm for individuals who are deaf/blind, families of those individuals and professional working with those individuals. Flyers are available!

* Self-Help Credit Union: Cheryl Cherry

Self-Help has just signed an agreement to do some pop-up events with Disability Rights NC. They want to spread the word about AFP, assistive technology and disability rights.

* FYI: The Awards Committee is meeting in this room after this GAC meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm