**MassMATCH Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 21, 2017**

**Members in Attendance**: Kevin Hatch (phone), Les Cory (phone), Peter Gefteas(on VGO), Paul Remy, Lisa Chiango, Evan Silver, Susan LaSante, Randi Sargent, Jonathan O’Dell, Owen Doonan, Tom Mercier, Robert Dias, and Ann Shor

**Members Not in Attendance**: Linda Landry, Lee Nettles, Tory Dixon, Karen Janowski, Maxine Knight

**Program Staff in Attendance:** Kobena Bonney, Tanya Bombard

**Representatives from Provider Agencies**: Louise Norton (phone), Cathy Bly, Jennifer Baker, Desi Forte and Leo Tonevski

**Introduction and Communication Protocol:** Meeting was chaired by Ann Shor. She asked folks to remember to state their name when they spoke.

**Discussion and Approval of Minutes:** The April minutes were approved with one correction of adding Randi Sargent’s name to the list of members who were not in attendance.

***Program Updates:******Kobena Bonney***

The funds for the Weight and Seating Independence Project have been received from the Reeve Foundation and purchases of devices have already been made.

There has been one Pressure Mapping Technology (PMT) training so far lead by Mary Jo Wagner. Mary Jo works with Tom Mercier, she is an Occupational Therapist who runs a seating clinic. She also has another contract arrangement with MRC and DDS. Mary Jo will work with Eliza Anderson to come up with the “how to” manual that will be lent out with the PMT every time it is borrowed so the end-user can have that with them. The training was held on June 8th in Pittsfield, Kobena, Ann Shor and staff from UCP all attended as well as a few others. Three other trainings are currently scheduled. The next one will be held on August 2nd in Amherst, then September 19th back in Pittsfield and last November 6th in Worcester.

The second component of the project is the provision of wheelchair accessible scales. There are two different types of scales, one is portable scales made available for the public to borrow through the device loan program and will be located at the AT Regional Centers in Worcester and in Pittsfield. Those scales have been received and will be available soon for anyone to borrow. The other scales are heavy-duty and will be installed at 4 different locations - Adlib in Pittsfield, Center for Living and Working in Worcester, and both Stavros locations in Springfield and Amherst. The four large permanent scales are in the process of being set up and will hopefully be ready for use shortly.

There will be demonstration events set up for the general public to see how the PMT and the scales work. An announcement will go out once the demonstrations are set up.

**OWEN** asked if there were plans to make these scales more available. E.G. putting scales in more public areas such as CVS or Walgreens.

**KOBENA** reminded everyone that this is a pilot program that was set up to serve the western part of the state. It is a onetime grant given to MassMATCH by the Reeves Foundation. The funding has to be used to serve people with various types of paralysis. Once this initial program, which will run until around April 2018 is over, and the success of the program will determine if it is changed to be offered statewide. As far as putting these scales in places such as a CVS, even those it would be nice, MRC should not have to take on the responsibility of putting them in public places. That should be the obligation of each provider whether it be a pharmacy, doctor’s office, etc. The outreach to them can certainly be done but what they do with that afterwards would be up to them.

**OWEN** said he believes one the experiment has been completed there should be information provided to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, to doctors’ offices, to pharmacies and to others that would find this technology useful and practical.

**ANN** mentioned that she was recently at a meeting with various state agencies including the Department of Public Health. She informed them of the WSIP and Medicaid stated it is now a requirement of medical providers, through the Accountable Care Organizations, to have the capability to keep track of and report on a person’s body mass index. And in order to do that, you need to be able to keep track of a person’s weight. Ann also mentioned that these scales and PMT will be accessible through the ATRCs and anyone will be able to borrow these items whether it be and individual, a business or a health care provider. If the program is successful then they will look at funds and try and purchase more of these items to be housed at the Boston ATRC as well. Ann also stated that there are a lot of good advocates out there such as, Boston Center for Independent Living which has a settlement with the Partners Healthcare system to make their hospitals more accessible to people with disabilities. So, if we can connect with those advocates, get the information out to them, to do a real public education through EHS, and through other agencies to help make sure that this kind of technology is more accessible and available to people.

**RANDI** asked if there has been a public announcement of the project yet.

**ANN** said there is a press release that went up the chain in EHS but has not been released yet. And until all equipment has been received and the ATRC staff was trained and comfortable with using the equipment it wasn’t a good idea to do an outreach blast. Fliers have been made and if they have not already will be going out soon.

**KOBENA** asked anyone who is interested in reviewing the information and feedback about how the WSIP is going and what if anything else needs to happen along the way to reach out to him. He would like to start a group and get together by phone two or three times throughout the duration of the WSIP.

**ROBERT** asked if the scales could be used by someone who is ambulatory and if they would still be accurate. If so, he suggested fliers go out to doctors’ offices that say look here is a scale that anyone could use.

# **ANN** stated she thought that would be a good idea. The scales cost around $600 or $800 for the big permanent one. It is probably a minimal investment for a doctor's office. Also, coming up in late July, the State Independent Living Council has an ADA Council. They Get Lots of People from the ILCs. It would be good if someone could bring one of the scales and maybe see if there is a way to bring the Pressure Mapping System too. People can try them out. The event will be in Gardner, Mass.

**KOBENA** mentioned that he would like to get a group together to follow along with the progress of the project along the way and have them meet 2 or 3 times for about an hour each time. He asked anyone who was interested to email him.

***Introduction of New Staff/Members***

**Evan Silver** is the Assistant Director of the Assistive Technology Department at the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB). He is joining the council as the MCB agency representative in place of Alexander Pooler. He handles the day to day business regarding the comings and goings of the AT at MCB

**Louise Norton** is the Director of AT services at UCP Berkshire. She is new to UCP but has 17 years’ experience working with a variety of AT and comes to UCP Berkshire from Early Intervention where she worked for 6 years. She has a background in assistive technology and have used AT and adaptive equipment through cross populations. She handles the day to day operations at UCP and provides ergonomic services to the VR consumers.

**Robert Bilotta**, who could not make the meeting, is the ATRC Coordinator for Easter Seals in the Worcester location.

**Jennifer Baker** is the Statewide Director for DME REquipment program. She has been with REquipment for about 4 months and comes from the DME project out of Connecticut where she helped build the program for 15 years.

**Desi Forte** works as an assistant to the ATRC and also worked in the Youth Leadership area at Easter Seals. She has been with them for 3 years. She has a Master’s Degree in Assistive Technology and is happy to be involved in both of her passions, working with Youths with Disabilities and helping assist with the AT operations.

***REquipment Update: Jennifer Baker***

**JENN** gave the REquipment update. Have reassigned over 800 pieces of equipment valued at $1.6 million so far this fiscal year. Jenn went on to say REquipment receive a small grant from the Reeves Foundation that will help with donation drives and outreach efforts for Western Massachusetts. The plan is to work with UCP and STAVROS to get the information about REquipment out to the hands of spread out population. REquipment received another grant and purchased a van that will go down to the Pappas center for them to do pick-ups and deliveries. They are working on an elder outreach grant as well. Tom Filiault got a two minute slot on channel 22 to promote REquipment and that has brought in over 100 phones calls and emails. Roxy has left REquipment and they are now hiring for her position.

***Easter Seals Update: Cathy Bly and Leo Tonevski***

**LEO** started by mentioning assistive technology kit program called AT on Demand. Easter Seals received a grant from Comcast Universal. They are offering innovative AT on demand that provides free curated kits of essential assistive technology to people of Massachusetts who have acute/urgent needs for AT devices to help them regain independence and communicate while hospitalized and in recovery. These kits will fill immediate needs. AT specialist have pre-assembled 10 reusable AT kits to help with speech, computer access and home safety as soon as possible. The kits can be used for as long as needed. The kits contain a wide range of AT and AAC devices such as iPads, computers, Echo DOTS, speech devices and apps as well as other devices. More specifically in some of these kits, iPads, modular hoses, clamps and discs, table kits, and the buddy buttons, iBart Fiber Tip Series Stylus, Samsonite bags. In other one, a laptop, Microsoft Home Office, Buddy mic, Dragon software, joystick mouse and in other one we have iPads and host tablet kits and smart plugs and Amazon Eco Dots. Then we have some AAC devices. Again, blue tooth adapters, iPads, blue tooth speakers, I tune gift cards and iPad case. Some of the kits contain different items then others. When someone wants to borrow one of these kits they match the correct kit to the specific needs of that individual. This is a new program and the kits where just posted on the website. There is an evaluation that needs to be done by an AT specialist for these kits to be loaned out.

**ANN** asked to send the information to her if Easter Seals is ready to have that publicized. She also wanted to know where the funding came from and if this was something that could be included in the MassMATCH annual report to the feds.

**CATHY** gave the update on the ATRC. She gave a quick summary of the Boston office. They have had 15 different outreach events. The short term loans between April 1 and June 21 they had 107 loans most to assist with decision making. The average length of a loan was 44 days. The most popular devices were for vision, daily living and computer related. The purpose of most loans were for education and daily living. The satisfaction rate for the loans were at 90% high satisfied and 6% satisfied. They held 13 demos with 20 participants. The primary purpose for the demos were for education and daily living. The satisfaction rate was 94% satisfied.

# **ANN** gave a quick update on Stavros. It been an increasing partner with our AT projects, like the seating project, it is Tom Filiault who is going out and installing the scales at the other Independent Living centers. They have been a key partner with the REquipment program. It is great we have an Elder Outreach Grant working with them. The also got their Hub Scrub up and running.

***Cathy Bly showed a short 3-minute film created by an intern.***

**JONATHAN AND LISA** both suggested that the captioning be replaced with traditional caption. It was distracting and hard to read.

**ROBERT** told Cathy to look into WGBH for their CC tool called CADET. He believes it will be released for the public to use for free soon.

**KOBENA** asked the video could be put on the MassMATCH website and if she had plans on putting it anywhere else.

**CATHY** responded by saying she was planning on uploading it to the Easter Seals Facebook page and that they would edit the video and change the captioning. She also plans on using it for different community events and promotional services.

***Other Program Updates: Kobena Bonney***

***FY16 Annual Report***

# There are two different reports, the marketing report, and the annual report that was sent to the feds. There was a suggestion at the last meeting that the AT council should have an in-depth discussion about the report and whether or not the providers are meeting their goals, if they are not, what can be done to help them and so on. Kobena asked the council which report they would like to review, a summary spreadsheet that has compiled data for all of the years since MassMATCH has been in existence, or a summary of just the FY '16 data.

# Every three years a new State Plan has to be done. The next State Plan will be due in 2018. The process to solicit input from the advisory council should start as soon as possible. Kobena asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be part of that process. The State Plan lists all of the activities that MassMATCH is planning to do. It is where a decision can be made to continue doing something, change the way it is done, stop working on something that hasn’t improved or start something different all together.

# **OWEN** suggested that it would be a good idea to look at a summary of all the years combined so that everyone could make informed decisions and be then able to tie up that with goals and objectives in the future, short‑term, middle term and long‑term.

KOBENA said he would resend electronic copies of both the FY16 user-friendly and Marketing Reports to everyone along with a spreadsheet containing a compilation of summary data for all the years the program has been in existence. He will also mail printed copies of the FY16 Marketing Report to members and partners so they will have them and also help disseminate to the public.

***NO WRONG DOOR SYSTEM: Ann Shor***

MassMATCH together with Easter Seals and UCP with funding through Elder Affairs has done a series of AT trainings for members of the Aging and Disability Resource Consortia (ADRC) Network. Part of the training is a review of all the different AT programs and all the different ways that people can get access to AT. The MA Department of Elder Affairs received a federal grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) as part of an on‑going initiative to expand the "No Wrong Door system". The No wrong door (NWD) is ADRC partners (Independent Living Centers, Aging Service Access Points, Councils on Aging, and other organizations) working together to cross‑train each other to ensure that individuals who are seeking information about services will be able to get the information they need or get access to the services that they need no matter what agency they call.

As part of the grant, MassMATCH, Easter Seals and UCP developed a basic AT Training and a more advanced AT Training. There have been 5 basic training sessions and altogether there were about 150 people that have received training from all sorts of organizations. There has been one of the advanced trainings using the TACLE Tool, the Transition Assistance to Community Living Environment, which MassMATCH developed. It is a tool that people can use to work with an individual to identify what sort of AT that person might need to become more independent. In the fall, there will be another round of five basic trainings and one advanced training.

**OWEN** asked with all of the political stuff that is going on, with the senior community and healthcare, with regard to identifying disabilities as people age into disability, if there is any strategic thinking going on so there is no gap in services. VR is something that is going to be essential for seniors. But VR cuts off at 65 or somewhere before that. He asked if there is a way to bridge the gaps that seem to be rising as the Senate debates their final secret on healthcare.

**ANN** replied saying at the state level for the last year, there is a group that has been meeting, called Care Across the Elder Spectrum. It is people from all different state agencies that have anything to do with elders. They have been looking at all of the different regulations and programs. What initiatives they have to identify, where they are involved in serving people who are elders and where the gaps are. They have developed joint initiatives. There is an awareness that as people age they tend to acquire more disabilities and that people with disabilities might have some additional needs. To try to make sure that the different service coordinate better, and minimize those gaps. She continued saying all federal AT Act programs are required to serve people across the age spectrum. All the AT programs are available to people regardless of their age. VR is a realm that is a discussion that needs to be taken up with VR, and I think we all have to watch closely what happens at the federal level in terms of funding and how that could affect us.

**ROBERT** added at the Office on Disability they do house the Client Assistance Program which receives funding through the RSA to ensure that consumers of the VR agencies are being appropriately served. Anyone, at any age who is looking to be employed, and who can be competitively employed can receive services including people 65 and older.

**RANDI** asked if there has been conversation about the AT Act funds and if that is given out annually.

**ANN** replied saying the AT funds and Voc Rehab are formula grants. They are based on population and income in each particular state. If Congress writes a budget that slashes funding to Health and Human Services, or to this particular program, if they can do that, there is an advocacy group, ATAP, that is watching it closely.

**KOBENA** added how the Administration, and the talk about the project being cut, impact the AT Act programs. By the time the Administration came into office, the continued resolution, which is basically the state says these funds are going to be expended.   
Under the continued resolution, which funds the act until the end of September, it has been spent on the AT Act programs. The FY '18 budget is being talked about and there is a proposal to the skinny budget that the Administration released. There is a lot of money being cut from Health and Human Services, which is where MassMATCH is funded. It sounds like Congress is not going to approve it. Its hoped that the amount will stay the same because the money that is spent on the AT Act programs all over country is just about $33 million a year. It’s not a whole lot in the grand scheme of things.

**ANN** added that if there are cuts, the programs would have to be carefully looked at and depending upon what would still be required to do for all of the different types of programs. Across the board cuts may have to be considered. Unless legislation allowed us to focus on just particular programs. Between now and the next meeting, there should thought put into “what if” it is cut and how to handle it to minimize the disruption.

**LES** asked in regards to the training that was recently conducted, who attended this training and roughly how many.

**ANN** responded saying with Elder Affairs, the advanced training using the TACLE Tool there were about 35 people who attended. There were quite a few Case Managers from the Statewide Head Injury Program, Money Follows the Person Waiver programs, the Independent Living Centers and Aging Service Access Point people. Marylouise Gamache did the registration and she knows more about who was there. The first round was done in Central Mass., one in Taunton, Westborough and Pittsfield. The next round will probably down on the Cape. They will be held all across the state in different locations so people can pretty easily get to one.

**KOBENA** added that the WSIP has to do with how that fits into what we do already. When the proposal was put together, it was known that the money was going to be one time and for one year. It was made to make sure it is sustainable. The bulk of the money was spent on buying devices and they will be added to the inventory, people will still be able to borrow them to use when it is over. As part of the project data needs to be collected from both users of the roll‑on scales at the ILCs and users who borrowed through the ATRCs to show who benefitted from the project. The ATRCs already collect data and will continue. From the scales at ILCs the data will be collected for the first year. The data that will be collected, especially from the ILCs, will be from people who agree to give us feedback about how useful the project was. That information will be included in the report submitted to the Reeves Foundation. The project will be closed in April 2018, but the project will continue to exist and people will have access to the devices after that.

**ANN** suggested focusing on vocational rehabilitation and AT. She said there's a lot going on the VR side, especially related to transition at the federal and state level. There's a real focus on meeting the needs of young people transitioning to adulthood. VR received a five‑year federal grant that will revise the approach to working with transition‑age youth. Part of it requires collaboration with the AT Program. This should be looked at as far as what is being done and what can be done to help in those efforts.

**OWEN** said he recalled MassMATCH put two toolkits together. One was AT and the other was VR toolkit. One was to take to actual employers and the other one was to use for the consumers.

**KOBENA** replied saying they were one in the same, one toolkit. The idea was that especially the employment specialists, but VR counselors in general who have access and were willing, go to a would‑be employer. They would take the toolkit and show examples of AT that a consumer could use to make themselves employable or work in that environment without the AT issue being a stumbling block. It is one thing for someone to tell an employer who has no idea what AT is that people with disabilities can work and they can use AT. But, if you have AT that can be shown and demonstrated it can make a big impact.

**CATHY** said employment continues to be the least loaned out area for the ATRC in Boston. She has given presentations at employment agencies, but as far as getting more companies or agencies that are employing people with disabilities and learning or knowing how to use AT, it is really low. Any data would be great to have.

**OWEN** said he was secretary for the SRC and they went through these issues and disconnect with VR and employers. They had these demonstrations to show people how easy it is to put a person into employment with the right tools. A big measure of reducing the hesitancy to hire people with disability. He said he would be willing to work with people on those types of things.

**KOBENA** there's an organization called ATAP. They are a lobby organization for all of the AT programs all over the country and they do an annual conference. The issue about employment came up. In some states, the way they are able to deal with it is they have specific Memorandum of Understanding with the VR agency and that makes it possible for them to collect data that Massachusetts, right now, doesn’t. There needs to be a way to get those numbers and get involved in order to collect that data. The services are already being provided. The AT Act is managed in each state by whatever organization the Governor of that state designates to receive and manage the funds. There are three types of organizations, those that are part of a state agency, vocational rehab agency or another state agency like MassMATCH. We are part of Mass Rehab. There are those states where there's a private non‑profit that has been given a contract to manage the funds. In Illinois, it is Easter Seals that runs the AT program for the state. And in some other states it’s universities that have the contract. In states where the AT Act programs are run by entities outside the state government system, it is easier for them to partner with a VR agency through a Memorandum of Understanding and be able to collect data than those who are part of the state agency. Maybe, MassMATCH can work with MRC VR division and see if there is a way to collect data from some of these services that are being provided. There's expectation that we are going to provide data, for three main areas, community living, education, and employment. It needs to be looked at closely to meet all of those target areas.

**OWEN** added that there is a wealth of information with regard to this situation in VR at MRC in R & D.

**ANN** said the focus should be to make stronger connections with VR and to create opportunities. Also, to make sure that VR staff are aware of and making use of the resources like the ATRCs. There's a Transition Pathways Project that is bringing together schools and career centers and VR and employers.

**OWEN** said there was a lot of publicity especially under Elmer Bartels and the informational things and targeted use of that information to get employers enthused.

**ANN** said that could be part of the goals for the next State Plan.

***Website Rebuild: Kobena Bonney***

Since the last council meeting there has been one meeting with INDEX. Those who have volunteered in the past to be part of the website committee need to get ready. The work will start on July 1st. The plan is to meet fairly quickly right after the month of July starts to talk about the work and what we want to be done and how. It will be a complete rebuild of the website. If anyone has any ideas to offer or interest in being part of the committee, reach out to Kobena.

***Membership "Issues.": Kobena Bonney***

After the last meeting, an e‑mail went out about the need to conduct elections for new officers. Only one response came back. There are currently two officers, the Chair and Vice‑chair. Each of them serves a two‑year term. The way that things are supposed to work is that it is a two‑year term. Whoever holds the office has to be one that is going to be able to serve a two‑year term. The responsibilities is to chair the meeting and participate in one or two planning conference calls to put the agenda together. The Vice may not have to chair the meeting unless the chairperson is not around. The election needs to be done at the September meeting. The one person who responded is on a one‑year term, which could be expiring once the decision is made on what to do with memberships. Last year it was decided that long term members of the Council would extend the term by one year.

**KOBENA** suggested to do another extension. Then the person who has expressed interest can still run.

**OWEN** made a motion, to extend memberships for one year or two years.

**LES** asked if it made sense to modify the bylaws.

**ANN** explained there are no bylaws and the council is not a formal or legal organization. There is operating policies in place that should be reviewed. She expressed that even though she thinks it’s a good idea to bring in new people with new interests, if there are people who are committed, engaged, and want to remain on the committee there should be a discussion about the set limits on how long somebody can be part of the project. She then asked if anyone opposed extending the memberships

**KOBENA** added sayingif the guidelines are enforced there will not be anyone on the committee. He agreed to do a two‑year extension like Owen suggested.

**SUSAN L.** said she has been on the committee for longer that the guidelines have set and is willing to stay or give up her place.

**ANN** said If people with expertise and commitment want to continue being a part of the Advisory Council there is nothing that says to impose term limits. There is no limit to having a certain number of people either. Everyone could stay on and also bring in more people. As long as 51% of the members are people with disabilities or family members. The more people who are interested and involved the better.

**JONATHAN** suggested to re‑visit the topic of the barriers that stop people attending. Physically not everybody can get to the meetings. Occupationally the schedule that is set might conflict with some people. Provide CART on‑site, but streamed service as well so anybody with hearing loss could join using CART at the meeting or remotely. That may open it up to more people to participate.

**PETER** added that the robot he was using to participate remotely has its limitations. One person can navigate the robot at a time but multiple people can see the video being displayed, people need to use the additional screen sharer.

**ANN** said UCP has a telepresence robot, called the Pad Bot. It is possible to use both at each meeting as well as remote CART.

**JONATHAN** asked why Skype hasn’t been used for the meetings.

**LISA** added that Skype is a more cost-efficient solution than robots and many organizations can't actually send representatives. Skype accessibility. Anyone could access it. Specifically, for Deaf and hard of hearing people that need visual access. She continued saying her and Jon both have experienced a number of different methods in terms of VRI and Skype was the most accessible. From her experience, remote CART is more effective than using VRI or remote interpreters.

**PETER** said anyone using Dragon can't use Skype. His computer only has one audio input and would not work with Skype but with the robot the company designed it to work with a virtual webcam as opposed to an actual webcam. The software program of the virtual webcam tricks the robot into thinking it is an actual webcam. Skype needs an actual webcam in order to give access.

**KOBENA** added that the suggestion was not to stop using the robot and just go to Skype. It’s having Skype as well. There is a group of members, Jonathan, Lisa, Peter and Kobena that will get together and try to put all the technology together for the next meeting. **JONATHAN** suggested doing a survey to find out what would members need to do attend remotely.

**OWEN** said he’s done quite a bit of research on it and there were a number of tools that can be used to broadcast back‑and‑forth. They need to make it as Omni accessible as possible and Skype was the best case and Omni accessible.

**JONATHAN** said the weak link in the meeting is the telephone audio. He asked Ann if there is a way to assist this particular location, financially, with improving their telephone and conference interconnection. He continued saying the MCDHH has a system that have microphones connected directly into the telephone system and it is crystal clear audio.

**ANN** replied saying it could be looked into to see what resources might be out there and how MRC could help them. She said she doubts MRC could come up with the money but the MassMATCH budget she would have to look at. Ann said they should look into what can be offered in terms of technical assistance or help them find a grant.

**KOBENA** added MassMATCH bought a phone device to help with the telephone audio. And that it seems like the library is invested in making sure that they have whatever is needed. MassMATCH is not the only organization that meets in the library. MRC might want to provide something more than technical assistance.

***Other Announcements***

**PETER** congratulated Cathy Bly on the award that she won. Can you indicate what that was and what else happened?

**ANN** read a statement from Paul Remy. He mentioned that Senior citizens from the Sharon Council on Aging are interested in learning more about assistive technology. The Sharon community center could host an AT workshop. Les Cory and Randi Sargent were the guest speakers at the last one. Paul hopes to have a similar one in the fall of 2018. The working theme for it is AT For All Ages. He asked if MassMATCH could help organize the event.

**KOBENA** said he would be interested in helping Paul out with the workshop. He also mentioned the Abilities Expo is going to be in September, the 8th to the 10th. It is going to be in Boston at the Convention Center.

**RANDI** announced that Easter Seals is bringing back adapted swim in Worcester. It is a free program in partnership with the department of conservation's Universal Access Program, and it will be in the accessible pool before it opens to the public. They’re offering adapted swim for children and adults. Randi said she is thrilled to be organizing the revival of the program. It is open to anyone. The pool is in Worcester, there is free parking. The program will be working on pool safety, water safety, stroke development primarily to build independent skills in the water and some social games. Also, DCR pools do offer free Red Cross swim programs to anyone who is interested. So not adaptive, but they are free.

# **LISA** announced that there are two different organizations in Massachusetts who provide resources for recreation. One is the Department of Conservation, and they have a Universal Access Program, which is statewide and year‑round. The second one is called Adaptive Sports New England, it’s a new organization that’s been around for two or three years.

# Also, the I Can Connect program has become permanent. They provide assessment and evaluation, equipment and training to the DeafBlind community. Visit their website at [www.icanconnect.org](http://www.icanconnect.org).

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.