**Minutes of MassMATCH Advisory Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

**Morse Institute Library**

**14 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760**

Members in Attendance: Les Cory, Owen Doonan, Kevin Hatch, Karen Janowski, Randi Sargent, Ann Shor, Jeanette Spalding, Maxine Knight, Lisa Chiango, Karen Langley

Program Staff in Attendance: Kobena Bonney

Representatives from Provider Agencies: Cindy Aiken, Cathy Bly, and Eric Oddleifson, Salvatore Garozzo, Jeff Harrington, Dan Mayo

The day’s proceedings were presided over by Jeanette Spalding, Advisory Council Chairperson.Jeanette Spalding gave a reminder of the Council's Role/Purpose. She gave a brief summary including oversight of grant activities and advise to program staff.

The September meeting minutes were approved with no discussion.

Program update: Kobena Bonney

Kobena reported that there was no ASL interpreter. He was only informed this morning. He extended his apologies to Lisa Chiango.

There were other issues this morning including transportation problems for the PCA and other council members.

Jeff Dougan from MOD is stepping down. Robert Dears will be taking on role but couldn’t attend today. Will be joining future meetings by phone only.

AT School Share: Interest in expanding use for other groups e.g. business, higher education, interest in forming committee voiced by Owen Doonan.

Maxine read that portion of minutes to remind all of prior discussion. Discussion moved to the end of agenda.

The MassMATCH Annual report will be submitted end of this month. Kobena hopes to set up a group to evaluate the program and give feedback. Asked people to think about joining this group early next year.

AT Loan Program update was given by Cindy Aiken on behalf of Leo. Like the economy rebounding and getting more active, applications and approvals are increasing.

Requipment update by Randi Sargent. She’ll be busy. 93% of users are “highly satisfied”. Information based on 40% response rate. The program reassigned about 40 items a month. Especially Pediatric power chairs. Receive about 200 phone calls or emails a month.
New category- “special donations. Have received multiple donations from Spaulding- and $5000 grant. Hartford Insurance is donating 16 new wheelchairs which will be built through a team building exercise. Lenny Zakim Foundation toured the Worcester Center as part of their review for a grant application Requipment has submitted.
Next month, the program will be expanding and therefore recruiting for several roles- cleaners, drivers, and site coordinators. They are exploring TIP interns.

Randi will send a brief recruitment notice to Jeanette she can tweet it out.

Jeanette suggested Randi contact Simmons College AT graduate Listserv and National AT listserv.

Ann Shor added that as a result of available funding from the state, the MassMATCH Reuse Program will be recruiting additional reuse partners. Current partners are Stavros, UCP and Boston Home. To that end, the program Advisory Council has revised the RFR.
The roles of the reuse partners will be extended. One group of partners will be drop off sites. That is, places where donors can drop off items that can be picked up later. The other type of partner is the current ones that do actual pick-up and refurbishing of devices, etc.
MRC will also be trying to recruit a coordinating entity to operate the overall Reuse Program on its behalf.

ATRC Boston update by Cathy Bly. They are now using AT4All software/website internally. It allows for better accuracy, especially for customer service. The system sends auto reminders to borrowers.

They have redesigned the center’s physical space into quadrants- living, learning, working, playing. Indv. new access gaming system. Jeanette inquired if Easter Seals could put together a video of it. Cathy said they could once it is finished up.

It was suggested we look into Linked-In as a possible outlet for outreach. Owen said he is aware of multiple disability And AT related groups. Owen will get the names of the groups to Kobena.

ATRC Pittsfield update by Jeff Harrington. UCP Berkshire will also start using AT4All starting in January 2016.

Agency AT Activity Update by Salvatore Garozzo, Executive Director, UCP of Berkshire County. (His full PowerPoint is attached). Sal spoke about changes in the environment for providers, especially at the federal level.

UCP’s core services include the following: AT/IL, reuse, device Loans and demos. Others are early Intervention, Family Support-DDS- family Care, Individual Home Supports, General Advocacy, and Berkshire Talking Chronicle.
 Sal comes from business and VR background. Has been at UCP for just a few months. Has experiences supervising rehabilitation and clinical services in NY. Worked with Able Links from co (Dan Davres) tech for people with cognitive disabilities. Very Labor intensive to set up; considering adopting. AT program growing, works closely with Mass College for Liberal Art’s and Shriners Hosp. Biggest Challenges for prov.- Proposed Federation of “integration setting” by CMS requires group homes to offer AT and ensure direct care staff are educated a lot more with AT. Likely to be approved but AT language buried at the end of regs. Opportunity to educate providers and offer training e.g. BCARC. Pertains to all SVCS paid for by Medicaid.

“Lives without Limits” program focus uses Radio station for publicity- program “more than what you see”. They are looking for interview candidates. The program is streamed online through the UCP website. Jeanette interested to be interviewed- Sal will find out if it can be done remotely.

AT Demonstration: Perkins Solutions by Lisa Chiango, Ellen and Joe Martini. (The full PowerPoint is attached).

E-bot Pro- portable reading, writing and distance video magnifier

3 Levels $3195 to $3895 + iPad lower level- no OCR.

Deaf Blind Relay service from Scandinavia being beta tested here. Global VRS in FL? FCC doesn’t presently allow simultaneous video and text communication “my MMX’. Will be available for D/B consumers through I can connect program in the future.

Refreshable Brailler:$2600. Not a note taker

Modular hose; GPS Trekker.

Perkins has easy website accessibility check tools.

ATSS group explore use of ATSS platform for other purpose. Owen and Maxine volunteered.

Student Disability Service professional organization would be good to re-chat to Cindy Aiken can find name.

Membership Issues/Involvement. Under the leadership of Jeanette Spalding, members discussed issues such as how to engage current embers as well as recruit new members.

 Cindy Aiken recommended concrete plan to recruit more members to council along with accountability. Need a plan such as who to reach out to, how, need appropriate materials and methods (eg. WPI, MIT, NE). **MRC needs to lead!**

Membership Committee has identified gaps and will meet to develop plan.

Other Matters and Announcements: All Karen what kind of REPORTING should the council be getting? E.g. quarterly data to give input plus additional information would be more engaging. **BRIEF and CLEAR.**

**UCP qs, Can they sell AT? Does MassHealth cover iPads?

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25 pm.**