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## February 2018 State Rehabilitation Council ATP Report

### **Marketing Update - Nancy Noha**

- The annual Brain Injury Conference will be held March 22-23 in Kearney. Limited scholarships are available to help consumers with registration. For more information visit our web site calendar [www.atp.nebraska.gov](http://www.atp.nebraska.gov)
- Plans for 2018 include outreach across Nebraska by sending electronic information to groups who are located across the state, focusing on rural areas (housing authorities, county extension, senior centers, county health, etc.).
- Events ahead are exhibits at the Civil Rights Conference and the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority Housing Innovation Conference.

### **AT4ALL - Kristi Berst**

AT4ALL is preparing to launch another round of upgrade conversations with database partners. This process will kick-off mid-February with a demonstration of additional built in federal report tracking features. In past years, a vast majority of the system upgrades have improved features to benefit the management side of AT4ALL, ATP and ATP/Education are exploring potential additional overall system upgrades with the web developer in order to improve accessibility for borrowers.

### **Reuse - Kristi Berst**

ATP Reuse wrapped up the Nebraska Environmental Trust/Nebraska Academy of Science Public Information and Education grant on December 11, 2017 and filed a final funding report shortly thereafter. With the aid of these funds ATP tracked 7,891 pounds of equipment diverted from Nebraska landfills. Additionally, Reuse partner at Handprints and Footprints sponsored a medical equipment drive to aid in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts shipping 1,500 pounds of medical supplies to restock the depleted shelves at the Parker Lee Project in Texas. Omaha Reuse is sponsoring a 'Lose It and Reuse It' equipment exchange Earth Day weekend at Metro Community College.

### **iCanConnect - Kristi Berst**

iCanConnect (iCC) continues to work with state agency partners to provide equitable and informed services and continuity of care to the deaf blind community. The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing continues to be a great referral source while the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired continues to partner with iCC to provide long term services and supports after equipment has been received and training has been provided. A train-the-trainer event is being planned for the spring. There are currently 5 open iCC cases and 3 in pending status awaiting eligibility attestation from a provider.



## **Financial Programs Update –Peg Hansen**

### **UNMC-MMI Part B Independent Living Funds (Part B)-**

We are currently waiting for this years funding, due to the continuing resolution that was at the Federal Level. We are still able to fund small projects due to some carry over from FY17. Once the funding is in place, we will start the assessments for our consumers for the 2018 funding year. This funding serves every part of Nebraska and is for persons who have a major physical disability and have fully utilized other funding options available to them.

### **Enrichment Foundation Grant (EFG)-**

The EFG program is now up and running. We are working through our waiting list and will be sending out our technology specialists to provide assessments, in the coming weeks. This funding serves the Sarpy and Douglas County areas for persons who have a major physical disability and have fully utilized other funding options available to them.

### **DHHS Program Update –Jackie Rapier** [10/1/17 through 12/31/17]

During the first quarter of FY 2018, 135 HHS projects were authorized, utilizing \$532,557.60 in AD Waiver funding, \$69,603.00 in DD Waiver funding, and an additional \$35,192.63 with other funding sources, totaling \$637,353.23 in funding.

These projects assisted 135 consumers with greater independence and accessibility in their homes and communities.

## **ATP/Education – Alie Kropp**

### **October**

- **The Youth First Conference**  
All of the education specialists will be involved in the Youth First Conferences throughout the school year starting in October.
- **Kids and Dreams Autism Conference**  
ATP/Education provided two tables.
- **Paraprofessional Conference**  
ATP/Education provided one table.
- **Closing the Gap Conference**  
Three ATP/Education staff attended the Conference in Minneapolis, MN.

### **November**

- **Nebraska Educational Technology Association**  
ATP/Education provided one table at the fall conference in Kearney.

### **January**

- **Advisory Council Meeting**  
The program coordinator participated in the ATP Advisory Council meeting in Lincoln.



### **Nebraska VR Title 1 Program Update- Brooke Harrie**

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 141 service requests from 9/23/2017 to 1/21/2018. Requests were for worksite AT/ergonomics (31), cognitive aids (21), ADL/mobility devices (16), computer hardware/software (8), vehicle modifications (21), home/bathroom modifications (11), entrance modifications/lifts/ramps (9), hearing devices/communication (19) and information/other (5).

The Nebraska VR Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Conference was held at Embassy Suites in Lincoln on 12/5/2017. This was a 1-day conference that all VR staff and ATP technology specialists throughout the state who will be working with Pre-ETS students attended. The ATP VR Title 1 Program Coordinator presented at the conference along with Tobias Orr and Kristi Berst. Topics discussed by ATP included the ATP process for Pre-ETS cases, AT4All/Reuse and various applications that could be helpful to Pre-ETS students. Other presenters at the conference included Easter Seals, Goodwill, PTI Nebraska, Nebraska VR staff, Department of Labor, Special Education and employers. The day was full of great information, collaboration and provided direction for those working with the new Pre-ETS program.

The VR Title 1 Program Coordinator completed the Annual VR report and it was submitted to Mark Schultz the end of October 2017. During the last fiscal year, numbers were down slightly with ATP receiving 446 service requests for Nebraska VR consumers. With the new Pre-ETS Program we look for referrals to increase in the next year. Monthly meetings continue with ATP and the VR Program Director of Counseling and the VR Program Director of Community Services. These meetings are held to discuss cases, policy and maintain consistency throughout the state for those consumers working with ATP and Nebraska VR. The VR Title 1 Program Coordinator presented on ATP services at the implementation trainings for new VR staff held at the State Office Building on 10/18/2017 and 1/17/2018. Various ATP staff members, including the VR Title 1 Program Coordinator, attended the ATP Advisory Council Meeting in Lincoln on 9/29/2017. Attendees enjoyed the presentation by Technology Specialist David Altman on various AT solutions he has created for VR consumers. All technology specialists have also been active in their Project SEARCH (PS) sites throughout the state. They keep busy with PS referrals, Business Advisory Council (BAC) meetings, steering committee meetings and planning meetings for the upcoming Project SEARCH job fair scheduled for April 30, 2018 at Embassy Suites La Vista.



### **Resource Update - Angie Ransom**

During the reporting period of 10/1/2017 to 12/30/2017, ATP received approximately 64 Service and Device Applications. Of those applications received, 31 of the applicants were Medicaid eligible. The majority of the requests were for home modifications including bathroom modifications, stair lifts, entrance modifications.

Easterseals Nebraska has updated their Alternative Finance Program (AFP) application. It is available to download and complete for loan consideration. There are two types of loan requests. The mini loan program is for assistive technology requests under \$1,000. The other loan request is for items ranging from \$1,000 to \$35,000. It is important for the consumer to have an idea of cost and to have started the process of identifying the equipment needed prior to applying for loan.

AFP loan application and information:

<http://www.easterseals.com/ne/our-programs/alternative-financing/>.

### **General Update -Tobias Orr**

ATP is off to a good start this calendar year. Currently we are looking into moving our referral process to a digital format. This would enable VR counselors to be able to refer to ATP directly through QE2, and for DHHS Service Coordinators and School personnel to be able to request ATP services through our website. The hope behind this move is to speed up the time it takes from the initial referral to the time a Technology Specialist is meeting with a consumer. We are also streamlining the dashboard on our database to improve the way we distribute cases, monitor performance, and to give the Technology Specialists a clearer picture of how they are managing their caseloads.