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October 2017 State Rehabilitation Council ATP Report

Marketing Update - Nancy Noha

ATP is in the process of developing updated information cards for equipment, reuse, and general information. During the coming year we will be focusing on distributing the materials to organizations serving rural areas, including county health, county extension, Red Cross, housing authorities, community action agencies, and support groups.

Exhibits include Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island September 12-14, Social Workers Conference, September 15 in Omaha, and the Munroe Meyer Institute event for children with special needs and their families September 23 in Aurora.

AT4ALL - Kristi Berst

System updates are completed and go “live” October 1, 2017. Approved updates primarily will impact Equipment Managers processing loans and general users will not be impacted. Because a vast majority of the upgrades over the years have identified feature upgrades to benefit the management side of AT4ALL, ATP and ATP/Education are exploring potential overall system upgrades with the web developer in order to improve accessibility for borrowers.

Reuse - Kristi Berst

Since October 1, 2016, at least 6135.4 lbs of equipment have been diverted from Nebraska landfills through Reuse efforts. With input from partners at the Spring Reuse Summits, ATP continues to work on developing marketing materials aimed at increasing awareness of the program and of the partnerships by educating users about the benefits of equipment reuse. A webpage, paper brochure, return stickers to be placed on donated equipment are all expected to be completed in the coming weeks with a social media marketing campaign to begin thereafter.

iCanConnect - Kristi Berst

The 5-year pilot program became permanent July 1, 2017. During the previous program year, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, ATP served 15 consumers with 20 unique service requests through iCanConnect. For the current program year, ATP is allocated \$89,961 for assessment time, consumer equipment and training, administration, outreach, and (new this year to the permanent program) train-the-trainer expenses. Three consumers are currently receiving iCC services, 5 pending while awaiting disability eligibility verification documentation.



Financial Programs Update –Peg Hansen

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

The Part B program funds are in the process of authorizations for our 2017 fiscal year. The State Independent Living Council changed their Designated State Entity, so it took a little time for us to get a contract and process in place so that we could draw down the funds. We were given the go ahead in March of this year, which is six months later than average. We have it all in place now. The projects will be rolling over into the 2018 fiscal year. We currently have all but about \$20,000 set aside for projects and our technology specialist are in the process of completing the projects. The remaining funds will be used for co-funding of projects. 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 funds have currently provided for 50 individual projects this year, the rest will be used for co-funding a few more projects. Our leveraged amount to date is currently \$254,106.96. 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 [7/1/17 through 9/25/17]

During the fourth quarter of FY 2017, 129 HHS projects were authorized, utilizing \$621,758.36 in AD Waiver funding, \$27,920.87 in DD Waiver funding, and an additional \$15,919.92 with other funding sources, totaling \$665,599.15 in funding.

These projects assisted 129 consumers with greater independence and accessibility in their homes and communities.

ATP/Education – Alie Kropp

ATP/Education has started another school year with the education specialists providing trainings, demonstrations, awareness activities, and consultations to the schools within their regions. Besides providing these services, listed below are some of the other activities in which ATP/Education has been involved since the start of the new fiscal year (July 1, 2017).

July

Administrator Days (annual start-up meeting of all school administrators)

ATP/Education provided one table.

August

Start-up Meeting for Education Specialists

The annual start of the year meeting of all the education specialists.

Early Development Network

All of the education specialists attend regular meetings throughout the year hosted by the Regional Early Development Networks.



Unique Learning Systems Training

ATP/Education sponsored a trainer from Unique Learning Systems (Special education curriculum) for all schools to attend for free. The trainer will provide three full day training sessions located across the state.

September

Partner-Up Rodeo

This is an annual event held in North Platte for children ages kindergarten through twenty-one who are experiencing a disability. The area covers students in ESU's 15 and 16. Approximately 185 students attended this activity.

Advisory Council Meeting

The ATP/Education Advisory Council met on Wednesday, September 6th at ESU 10 in Kearney.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

ATP/Education provided a table at the UNK Early Childhood Conference.

Kids and Dreams Autism Conference

ATP/Education provided two tables.

Bridging the AT Gap Conference

Dixie hosted a conference at Midlands University in Fremont for anyone to attend.

Munroe-Meyer Resource Fair

ATP/Education provided one table.

Nebraska VR Title 1 Program Update- Brooke Harrie

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 85 service requests from 7/25/2017 to 9/22/2017. Requests were for worksite AT/ergonomics (22), cognitive aids (17), ADL/mobility devices (16), computer software/hardware (6), vehicle modifications (11), home/bathroom modifications (4), entrance modifications/lift (4), hearing devices/communication (3) and information/other (2).

The VR Title 1 Program Coordinator has participated in various meetings and trainings during the last few months. The first was the Implementation Training held in Lincoln at the State Office Building for new VR staff members on 7/25/17. The Program Coordinator presented on the ATP/VR Partnership and demoed various assistive devices for Nebraska VR consumers from the At4All loan pool. The VR Title 1 Program Coordinator presented to VODEC staff on 8/16/2017 along with another ATP Program Coordinator. The presentation took place at the Salvation Army building in Council Bluffs, but the presentation was to VODEC workers who have consumers in Eastern Nebraska with disabilities who could benefit from Nebraska VR and ATP services. The Business Advisory Council (BAC) for the Project SEARCH sites in Omaha had their first meeting of the school year, which the ATP Program Coordinator attended on 9/11/17 at the Embassy Suites in La Vista. These meetings are held monthly and highlight the Project SEARCH students, their transferable skills and employment interests. The group works together and partners with businesses to help place the students in positions with the goal of them all being



competitively employed by the end of the school year. The Program Coordinator also continues to meet monthly with Nebraska VR Program Directors to discuss cases, policy, and promote consistency throughout the state.

ATP Technology Specialists worked together to provide a training to all Nebraska VR staff called “Back to School Apps” on 8/22/17. The training was held via videoconference and took place at 3 different times throughout the day to allow for smaller groups and more interaction. The various VR offices throughout the state were assigned one of the time slots and attendance was voluntary. ATP Technology Specialists presented on applications that could assist with note taking, organization, reading, writing and math. There was a great turn out among Nebraska VR staff for the training.

Resource Update – Angie Ransom

During the reporting period of 7/1/2017-9/30/2017, there were approximately 76 Service and Device Applications (S&D) received for funding coordination. Examples of those requests are for home modifications, vehicle modification, purchasing of a vehicle for modifications, and ramps among others.

A Coordinated Funding meeting will be held October 3, 2017 from 1:30-3:00. Amelis Long with The Enable Program will be presenting.

General Update –Tobias Orr

At the end of FY17 ATP welcomes 4 new members to their Advisory Council. We look forward to their input on how we can serve our consumers even better in FY18.