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*Karen Wiley*

*Chairperson*

**NEW MEXICO TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

Monday, April 23, 2018

Adelante El Centro – Café Room

3900 Osuna Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

ATTENDANCE:

**Members Present:** Karen Wiley (Chairperson - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation/DVR); Katharine Gutierrez (Vice Chair - Consumer of AT); Albert Deimer (Independent Living Resource Center/ILRC); Richard Bailey (Consumer of AT); Andrea Valles (Disability Rights New Mexico/DRNM) and by Skype/phone - Nat Dean (Consumer of AT); Sam Cueto (Consumer of AT); Larry Melendez (Gadsden Schools Transitions); Chris Zafra (Workforce Solutions); **Members Absent:** Curtis Chong (New Mexico Commission for Blind/CFB) – excused.

**NMTAP Staff**: Tracy Agiovlasitis (NMTAP Supervisor); Jesse Armijo (AT Specialist); Erin Gallegos (AT Specialist)

**NMTAP Partners:** Meta Hirschl & Stephanie Swanberg (Adelante); Tim Carver (San Juan Center for Independence/SJCI).

**Guests:** Joseph Ray

**CALL TO ORDER:**

NMTAP Council Chair, Karen W, called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm. The chair called the roll and established that a Quorum was present. Karen W asked for everyone to introduce themselves.

Tracy A noted that Karen P was unable to attend and requested more time given for state plan discussion on agenda timeline. Council member Katharine G moved to approve the agenda as revised, Richard B seconded the motion. Agenda was approved unanimously.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Andrea V moved to approve the minutes as written. Nat D seconded the motion. The minutes from January 22, 2018 were approved unanimously.

**NMTAP PROGRAM UPDATE:**

Tracy A announced that NMTAP has created new brochures and will distribute either hard copies or digital copies to Council members. Tracy A also presented some statistics on activities from this last quarter including 49 consumers borrowed 155 devices, 270 individuals participated in 26 device demonstrations and 136 consumers attended 8 trainings. The Hands-On Workshop of Assistive Technology (HOW-AT) in Las Cruces, NM on April 6, 2018 provided device demonstrations and training to 30 individuals. A demonstration was held the day before in Anthony, NM for 20-25 Gadsden school professionals. The current registrations for the Assistive Technology Conference 2018 (ATC18) on May 7 & 8, 2018 is up from last year and registrations are good for the Hearing Loss Technology Workshop on May 9, 2018. She also noted that Jesse A is in the process of providing hands-on demonstrations of devices for 30 speech Language Pathologist students at UNM. The requesting professor is so pleased that she is placing NMTAP back into the curriculum and will place our brochures on their campus location. Tracy A ended her report with a reminder that we are still operating on a federal continuing resolution for funding and we will discuss the proposed changes to the 3-year state plan later in the meeting.

**FINANCIAL LOANS (NM SEED Loans, Access Loan NM & Community Fund) UPDATE:**

Tim C reported on both the statewide financial loan programs available through the NMTAP partner SJCI. He stated that both Access Loan NM (available for anyone with a disability to obtain needed AT) and SEED Loans (available to purchase equipment for entrepreneurs with disabilities) continue to be financially secure. He noted two Access Loans for vehicle modifications and two Access Loans for home modifications were provided this last quarter. About 80% of Access Loans are for van modifications and the majority of the rest are for home modifications, with a few for adapted recreational bicycles. There have been no new SEED Loans approved and two were denied in this last quarter. These denials were due to poor credit reports and they have provided the requestors with actions to take to improve their chances to resubmit a request. Tim C reported that the NMTAP Community Fund program approved $500 for an individual and Tracy A added that the committee anticipates a second will be approved. This will leave funds for only one more individual and there is hope that with ATC18 success, the fund balance will increase. The full financial records were reviewed and their audit was done in January.

**REUSE (Back In Use and DiverseIT) UPDATE:**

Meta H reported that 254 pieces of equipment were provided to 207 consumers. Majority, or 204, of these are for daily living and mobility, plus 45 computers. She noted that most items are used for community living and the consumers indicate that the needed assistive technology devices are not covered by insurance or the wait is too long. Adelante has arranged for staff to contact consumers by phone for satisfaction follow-up, which has greatly improved their response rate. Karen W has connected DVR Information Technology (IT) staff to Adelante to donate their old computers to DiverseIT. Meta H will follow-up.

Meta H invited Jordan When from their IT department to describe their recent experience arranging for Adelante staff, who are deaf, to have video phone capacity installed by Sorensen. She also reported that their Give ABQ project set up is in progress.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

NMTAP is operating under the current 3-year plan that was approved through 2017 and the new plan, for Federal Fiscal Year 2018-2020 (FFY18-20) is in an approval process by the federal agency Administration on Community Living, and submission was anticipated to be open this spring.

Tracy A reviewed the proposed changes to the Federal State Plan which has not yet been finalized and requested input from advisory council members. Briefly, there are smaller changes to data requested, but more importantly anecdotal information and formal collaborations with partners with written agreements are required. Pre-planned technical assistance, training and public awareness events are also required. Advisory council members provided some ideas on possible events that could be included, as well as ideas on standard demonstrations that could be provided. Tracy A will follow up with individual members to evaluate these proposed ideas.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Joseph R stated he attended today as an advocate on behalf of the Laguna Tribe Elders and notes a need for improved communication of NMTAP resources available for individuals living on the various pueblos. He is happy to assist in this in any way and would like to connect with staff to help. Tracy A welcomed the discussion and will follow-up with Joseph R.

**ADJOURN:**

The next NMTAP Advisory Council meeting was scheduled for July 16, 2018 in Santa Fe, probably at the GCD offices. Since Karen W had to leave at 2:30pm, Katharine G adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.

***Approved at July 16, 2018 Meeting.***