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February 2020 State Rehabilitation Council ATP Report

Nancy Noha-Marketing

November 1, 2019 was ATP's 30th anniversary. ATP celebrated on October 29 and 30 with an open house. The event recognized long-time partnerships with Nebraska VR, Nebraska Health and Human Services, Nebraska Department of Education, and others. Demonstrations featured technology of the past along with the latest options on the market. A panel of staff (photo right) updated guests on ATP's services and shared how equipment reuse will impact the future.



Financial Programs Update - Angie Ransom

Enrichment Foundation Grant (EFG)-

ATP applied and was awarded the Enrichment Foundation Grant (EFG) for the fiscal year 2020. This grant was founded by Connie O'Neil in honor of her sister, Nancy, who was born with cerebral palsy. The purpose of The Enrichment Foundation is to reduce the physical and mental needs of those individuals who are unable to care for themselves as well as the physical and mental needs of their families. The Foundation endeavors to do this by providing assistance through resources that address the soul, as well as the physical and mental needs. The EFG funding only serves individuals who reside in Douglas and Sarpy counties.

DHHS Program Update -May Faith [10/1/19 through 12/31/19]

During the first quarter of FY 20, 163 HHS projects were authorized, utilizing \$ 953630.68 in AD Waiver funding, and \$25,470.00 in DD Waiver funding, totaling \$ 979100.68 in funding.

These projects assisted 157 consumers with greater independence and accessibility in their homes and communities.

Education - Brian Wojcik

ATP's Education program has been developing trainings around how to consider, implement, and evaluate AT in the IEP/IFSP. The team is currently in the process of re-writing Nebraska's TA document on assistive technology. This is the second year that ATP has provided free shipping to school personnel that use the statewide loanpool, and because of this we are seeing an increase in the amount of education loans compared to years past.

iCanConnect Program- Brooke Harrie



The iCanConnect Program (iCC) is also known as the National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program. This is a nationwide program that provides telecommunication equipment and training to individuals with both a hearing and vision impairment. The Assistive Technology Partnership is responsible for coordinating the program for the state of Nebraska. There are currently 2 active iCC cases, with 3 additional individuals in the process of applying for iCC services. The most recent case to be completed through iCC was for a young adult with significant vision and hearing loss. She wanted to stay engaged with her family and the community. An iPad was recommended for her due to its many accessibility features and as a result of this equipment, she is able to keep in touch with friends and family through email, text messaging, FaceTime and other social media access.

The Program Supervisor continues to do outreach in the community and is a part of an interagency group that includes members from the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Developmental Disability Services, the Helen Keller National Center, Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired in Nebraska City. This group meets quarterly and works together to identify gaps in services for people with vision and hearing loss and helps get the resources that our agencies provide out to the individuals who need them.

Resource Update - Angie Ransom

ATP received approximately 60 new Service and Device Applications from 10/1/2019 to 12/31/2019. Of those applications, we were able to help place some items items requested (Power scooters, recliner lift chairs, rollator walkers) through our Reuse Network.

Nebraska VR Title 1 Program Update- Brooke Harrie

On January 6th, 2020 ATP staff welcomed a new technology specialist in Omaha. Maddie Piittmann is the newest VR technology specialist and is housed out of the Downtown Omaha ATP office and is a great addition to the team. Welcome Maddie!

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 57 referrals from 9/18/19 to 1/21/20. Of the 57 service requests, 39 were adult VR clients, 10 were Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), 4 were Project SEARCH and 4 were Nebraska VR staff members. Requests were for worksite AT (10), ergonomics (4), cognitive aids (11), communication (2), ADL (9), mobility devices/repairs (4), vehicle modifications/repairs (8), bathroom modifications (1), entrance modifications (1), ramps (3), hearing devices (3) and information (1). Nebraska VR continues to be in an Order of Selection status. They took 1,000 individuals who had applied for VR services and were categorized as a priority 1 case off the waiting list in October 2019. They are focusing on serving these individuals and continue to evaluate how many more people can come off the waiting list and at what intervals.

The VR Title 1 Program Supervisor attended Disability Awareness events throughout October hosted by Metropolitan Community College. Each week in October, the Program Supervisor had a resource booth at one of the Metro campus locations along with other vendors who serve individuals with disabilities, such as Nebraska VR and Region 6. We provided information and answered questions for students and staff



about our agencies and the services we provide. The Program Supervisor was the guest speaker at the event held on Wednesday, October 23rd at the Sarpy County Metro location.

General Update -Tobias Orr

The AT4ALL website rebuild is moving forward, but not as fast as predicted. Because of some changes at the Federal level we had to modify how some of the data was tracked in the new system which put us behind schedule. We are currently testing the new website while the programmers finish up some of the reporting and user profile features. New projected roll out date will be in March 2020.

ATP is currently looking for qualified contractors across the state to bid on home modification projects. ATP staff will help all new contractors go through the process of becoming eligible to work on DHHS projects. If you know of anyone that is interested please have them call Liz Lohse at 402-471-0734.

