

 *Keith Maes*

*Chairperson*

 **NEW MEXICO TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

 **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

Monday, March 9, 2020

Northern New Mexico College – Board Room

921 Paseo de Onate, Espanola, NM 87532

**Members Present:** Bill Newroe (Consumer of AT); German Benitez (New Mexico Commission for Blind/CFB); Robin Garrison (Disability Rights New Mexico/DRNM); Ricardo Ortega (Consumer of AT); and by phone - Chris Zafra (Workforce Solutions); Albert Deimer (Independent Living Resource Center/ILRC); **Absent:** Keith Maes (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation/DVR - Chair) excused; Nat Dean (Consumer of AT)excused; Katharine Gutierrez (Vice Chair - Consumer of AT); Larry Melendez (Gadsden Schools Transition)

**NMTAP Staff**: Tracy Agiovlasitis (NMTAP Program Manager); Anthony Alarid (GCD Interim Director)

**NMTAP Partners present:** Larry McCabe and Ryan Hagelbarger (San Juan Center for Independence/SJCI); Anthony Montoya (Adelante Development Center/ADC)

**Guests:** Eli Fresquez (Children, Youth and Families Department/CYFD); Verna Trujillo (Northern New Mexico College/NNMC)

**CALL TO ORDER:**

NMTAP Council Vice-Chair, Bill N, called the meeting to order at 1:13 pm. He asked for introductions of those present and established that a quorum was present.

Bill N asked for approval of the agenda. Robin G moved to approve and German B seconded. The council members approved the agenda unanimously.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Robin G moved to approve the minutes and German B seconded as presented. The council members approved the minutes from December 9, 2019 unanimously.

**NMTAP PROGRAM UPDATE:**

Tracy A thanked Verna T for hosting the council and invited her to share some information about the college. Verna T is responsible for student services and detailed some of the accessibility options she has instituted for NNMC students. The annual “ATC20” conference is secured for May 4 & 5, 2020 at the Uptown Sheraton with many exciting educational sessions. Council members are welcome to assist with providing information at the NMTAP exhibitor table and will let Tracy A know of their availability. Nearly half of the one-time appropriation for new AT has been spent on new equipment, with more in the works including the one-of-a-kind items. Program activity in the last few months include participation in 39 device loans, 12 demonstrations and 22 events. The project partners for AgrAbility are looking at options to adjust operations that can improve service delivery. Tracy A also noted the continued successful collaboration with the Speech Language students at the University of New Mexico, who are routinely spending classroom time at NMTAP actually using the speech generating devices they have learned about. The collaboration with DVR is also increasing with NMTAP.

Anthony Alarid, Interim GCD Director, reported on the decrease in funding this next fiscal year. The one-time appropriation to purchase new AT will be spent down by this summer.

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

Larry M introduced Ryan H, who is the computer technician for SJCI and is assisting Larry M with loans recently. He reported on the investments and activities of both financial loan programs. Access Loan NM currently has $1,647,000 out in loans at this time. SEED Loan program has not approved a new loan since January 2019, but that council has been updating their Policy and Procedures and lending institution agreement.

There was discussion between all council members regarding the AT Community Fund (the last resort fund in our federal plan). Larry M found that there is actually $503.34 remaining in the fund. This is due to the last approved individual was unable to secure the other funding, so the $500 was returned from the vendor. Tracy A noted that there was confusion of how our state agency works together with SJCI non-profit for the $1000 contribution from Kiwanis. That contribution has been cancelled due to that. Members of the designated committee to explore options to replenish funds reported their discussions. The council recognizes the value of the AT Community Fund for New Mexicans with disabilities and it makes sense to remove this from the NMTAP state plan. Robin G moved that NMTAP no longer includes the AT Community Fund in the state plan and allows SJCI continues to maintain it. German B seconded and the council approved unanimously. Tracy A agrees not to include the AT Community Fund in the NMTAP state plan due March 31, 2020. The council members stated that reports on progression by SJCI will be appreciated.

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

Anthony M reported that there was 283 refurbished items given to 136 individuals with disabilities in February 2020. These included 15 computers, mostly daily living items and one wheelchair with sand tires. The value of these items is $47,889. They recently changed the satisfaction survey form to obtain a more accurate results. Most consumers are they are highly satisfied with the services and equipment. The staff learns about the equipment they receive and consult therapists as needed to make sure things are fitted properly. Anthony M also shared the personal story of a consumer in which independence and ability to participate was greatly increased.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

AT Community Fund committee members shared their report earlier.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Robin G stated that DRNM wants to increase community involvement and awareness of AT that is available. This will include collaboration with NMTAP. Eli F, who works at CYFD, said that collaboration is also a focus for them and welcomes sharing information about AT available for children and parents. Anthony A noted that a collaborative meeting regarding the Coronavirus was being held next week with many agencies involved.

**ADJOURN:**

The next NMTAP Advisory Council meeting was scheduled for June 8, 2020 in Silver City and a place to be determined. Bill N adjourned the meeting at 3:26 pm.

***Minutes Approved by Council members 6.22.2020***