

Assistive Technology (AT) in the Workplace

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Kathy's Bio

- **Licensed Occupational Therapist**
- **Certified AT professional**
 - (www.resna.org)
- **Maine CITE Director**
- **Serve on:**
 - **Maine Care Advisory Com**
 - **Maine AT Consortia**
 - **So Me Transition Council**
 - **KVCC OTA Adv Board**



Today's Goals

- **Review laws that impact/support AT**
- **Define AT & explore types of AT that support learning, IL & work productivity**
- **Review AT services - assessment, demo & loan, reuse, funding**
- **AT Resources in Maine & nationally**
- **Q & A**

Laws that Impact AT

- **Rehab Act of 1973/Section 504**
- **IDEA, amended in 2004**
- **AT Act of 1989, amended in 2004**
- **Americans with Disabilities Act 1990**
- **Maine Human Rights Act**
- **Employment First**



What is AT ???

- **AT Devices** are any item, piece of equipment, or product--whether acquired commercially or customized--that will increase, maintain or improve the **functional capabilities** of a person with a disability
- **AT Services** help people learn about their AT **options** and decide if using AT will **benefit** them

***Using AT can maintain, increase,
maximize
learning, communication, safety,
mobility
work productivity, independence...
community participation & inclusion***



AT in Maine



- ***Maine CITE is Maine's State AT Program***
- There are AT Programs in all states
- Visit www.mainecite.org
 - AT Providers and Funding
- There are many AT organizations in Maine
 - the **AT Consortia** meets quarterly

- **“Apps as AT”** page....hundreds of apps to accommodate disability/function
- Recorded webinars on the training page
 - ***mPower! Financing Adaptive Equipment & AT***
 - ***AT for Living Independently***
 - ***AT in Transition***
 - ***AT for Farming: Maine AgrAbility***
 - ***AT for People with Dementia***
 - ***AT for People with Brain Injury***
 - ***** Jun 21, 2018 -- Teaching how to use AT***

AT Program Mission



- **Public Awareness/Information about AT**
- **Statewide coordination to promote AT**
 - *AT in Community Living & Employment*
- **Training on AT**
- **Technical assistance on AT**
 - **with policy makers, consumers & providers, funders**

AT Services in Maine

AT Assessment

Information & Assistance (I&A)

AT Training

AT Device *Demonstration* programs

AT Device *Loan* programs

AT *Recycling/Reuse* programs

AT Financing

AT Providers in Maine

- **ALLTECH-Spurwink** AT assessment/Trg, Demo, Loan, Reuse
- **Bureau of Rehabilitation** IL, education, work supports
- **Alpha One** IL, Driving Evals, *mPower* Loans
- **IRIS Network** AT for Employment
- **Mainely Access** AT Assessment/Trg
- **AgrAbility Maine** AT for Farming
- **Disability Rights Maine** TEP & Deaf/Blind Eq Programs
- **Pine Tree Society** AT- Communication Technology
- **Access4Employment** AT Assessment/consultation

...more providers

- **C.A.R.E.S.**
- **mPower Loan Program**
- **Goodwill AT Services**
- **Maine AT Solutions**
- **Gallant Therapy Services**
- **AT Practitioners (ATPs)**
- **Occupational Therapists**
- **Speech Therapists**
- **Physical Therapists**
- **Rehab Engineers**
- **Manufacturers/Vendors**

AT demo & loan
\$\$\$\$ to buy AT
AT Consultation
AT Consults/Trg
AT/OT services
RESNA certified



Recycling & Reusing AT



• www.getATstuff.com

Buy, Sell, Donate used AT

• www.spurwinkalltech.org

–892 Riverside St, Portland

Resells lightly used AT

tele 207-535-2017

• www.unclehenrys.com

“senior solutions”

• www.alphaonenow.org

AT classified list

• **Local loan “closets”**

churches, towns

AT Demo and Loan Providers

- **Pine Tree Society**
- **Spurwink-ALLTECH**
- **CARES Inc**
- **UMaine Farmington – Spenciner AT Library**

- *Each has an AT Device Inventory linked to the new www.at4maine.org website*

www.at4maine.org

- **Searchable database with over 600 items and growing**
- **Find AT devices that you want for demo or loan**
 - **People with disabilities**
 - **Families and caregivers**
 - **Professionals**
 - **The public**

AT Assessment

- **AT assessment determines if the person will benefit from using AT to accomplish a task & impact function**
- **Provider will evaluate the person's disability, *abilities & function***
- **Assess the person at home, school or @ work**
- ****AT providers are always researching & learning about AT >>> an ongoing process**

- **Does the person use any AT now?**
 - **If not, are they willing to try using AT?**
- **Is the person using services that could be changed by using AT?**
 - **By using AT, will fewer staff hours be needed?**
- **What aspects of function will the AT address?**

- Are there multiple AT device options?
- ***Borrow and use*** the AT before you decide!!
- Use the new device loan site www.at4maine.org
- Involve the person in AT decision making
- How much time will be needed for Training & Practice?
 - How will this be funded?
 - Who will do the training of the new AT?
 - Who needs to be trained along with the user?
- Consider device maintenance issues....ongoing costs (ie: monitoring fees)

Types of AT

- **Vision**
- **Hearing**
- **Speech/communication**
- **Learning, Cognition, Developmental**
- **Mobility, seating, positioning**
- **Daily Living**
- **Environmental adaptations @ home & work**
- **Vehicle Mods & transportation**
- **Computers & related tech**
- **Recreation & Leisure**

Audience question

What AT are your clients using?

AT for Independent Living

- **Communication technology – this is a key life skill**
 - Speech generating devices and apps
- **Community mobility: bus schedule/trip apps**
- **Mobility independence: power assist manual wheelchair, powerchairs, standing wheelchairs**
- **Personal GPS devices**
- **Smart devices with reminders alerts/apps**
- **Medication reminder devices**
- **Smart home devices for controlling the environment**
 - Remote door locks, web cams for safety, motion sensors





AT @ School

- **Smart devices with Note taking apps, organizing apps**
- **Smart pens to record at class or in meetings**
- **Text to speech reader devices**
- **Speech to text apps (ie Ava)**
- **Telepresence: robots in the classroom for remote students to attend and participate**
- **Remote video classroom connections (ie Zoom)**
- **** AT can be key in the student's Transition Planning for success in IL, at college and work***

AT @ School



AT for Work Productivity

- **Accessible work place, Telecommute options**
- **Adapted Keyboards, color contrast, large font**
- **Ergonomic hi/low work station**
- **Screen readers, magnifiers**
- **Voice recognition software, mobile devices, wireless headsets**
- **Apps for managing tasks (ie CanPlan app)**
- **Recording devices at meetings– translate speech to text**





AT/Apps for Wellness

- **Help to relax, manage anxiety and stress**
- **Sleep and health monitoring**
- **Reminders and alerts**

- **Calm**
- **Breath2Relax**
- **Nature Sounds: Relax and Sleep**
- **SAM (self help anxiety management)**
- **MindShift**
- **Pacifica**

Paying for AT



- ***mPower*** Loan Program
- **Maine CARE Buy In Program for working Disabled**
- **Federal Soc Sec Admin**
 - **PASS Plans**
 - **1619B Program**
 - **Ticket to Work**
- **State BRS (3 Divisions) – VR, DBVI, DHHLD**
- **Special Education - *Transition to IL, Work & Living***
 - ***Transition Plans are KEY – involve VR!***
- **Health Insurances - *document medical necessity***
- **Maine Care has 5 Waivers that support AT**
 - **(Sections 18,19,20,21,29)**

National AT Resources

- www.askjan.org
- www.assistivetech.net
- www.Disabilityinfo.gov
- www.usbln.org Business Leadership Network
- www.RESNA.org
- www.atia.org
- www.passonline.org details on PASS program
- www.workrerc.org Rehab Engineering Research Center on Workplace Accommodation

Take Aways.....

- **AT is universal and we all use it -- why not our clients?**
- **AT can impact function and help us be more efficient at work & in life**
- **AT is available & affordable**
- **The AT marketplace is always changing**
- **AT resources in Maine are expanding**
- ***Be resourceful ---- collaboration is key!***

- ***What Else???***

Thank you!!



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