

MoAT Update

- Could we check into including contact information in the catalog that the Governor's Council on Disability has available on their website?

There is already a link to Missouri Assistive Technology on the GCD website as part of the Missouri Disability Portal. Look at Search the Directory of Resources and select Assistive Technology.

- How many schools have bought new equipment, what types; What would they recommend over others, for any one type of disability?

We're not able to track schools in general, but do track the purchases by schools by type of equipment/disability for the Assistive Technology Reimbursement program. That list is provided in our end of year ATR summary report.

- Listing of AT devices and functionality, purpose is with general cost to buy or to loan it from MOAT.

For a great overview of AT devices by category; photos, brief descriptions, cost and manufacture website link, go to the Missouri Assistive Technology's website at: <http://www.at.mo.gov/etc/catalog.htm>. There is no cost to use the MoAT equipment loan program – we even cover shipping charges.

- Providing demonstration videos of people and how they are using the devices – possibly via train the trainer.

This is a great idea. We have one brief video tour now of our ETC equipment loan program on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAOltGLYYGk>. There is also a MoAT video demonstration of the Powerlink4 environmental control at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hiuh1Mguf0s>. We are currently working on a project to add demonstration links to items in our online catalog.

- Have a Q&A document.

This is a great tool. We have a number of special education AT factsheets and some Q&As on our website at: <http://www.at.mo.gov/pubs/index.html>. If there are suggestions for specific Q&A factsheets, let us know.

- Once a district has used an assistive technology device or have received assistance from MOAT, give them a questionnaire to fill out – what worked; what didn't, etc.

We include a survey/questionnaire with each AT device provided through the equipment loan program and require borrowers to complete it and return it with the device.

- Compare what is used in schools for SWD and what is required for the individual under ADA to assist them in the world of work. How can the students or parents tap into help to make it a smooth transition?

We are developing tools to assist schools with AT transition and continue to be involved with a number of different transition groups and many different transition conferences, workshops, etc.

- Power Up Conference is being held in April, Sp Ed folks are busy that time of the year with IEPs, maybe need to have Power Up in April and/or again right before or after the school year starts.

The planning for the Power Up Conference is an endeavor of many months. We have looked at alternative times of the year for the conference, but April has seemed to work best for the full range of participants. We were at full capacity this year. Currently, we provide both onsite and district training and continue to expand our outreach. We will continue to work to educate schools on how to find it through our newsletters, listserv, twitter and facebook. We will continue to provide onsite district trainings upon request. We are also doing three sessions at the MOCASE Conference in September.

- Medicaid/Medicare piece – MOHealthNet or MSBA or Sheltered Workshops that information could be given to.

We work fairly extensively with HealthNet, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Insurance, Vocational Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, Department of Health and Senior Services, etc. (All serve on the MoAT Advisory Council as well as other agencies). Recently worked with the Department of Mental Health to develop guidelines for their new AT service in their home and community based waiver programs.

- SSOS will it have information included in it re: MOAT.
SSOS?

- Does assistive technology do webinars or pod casts that give instructions.

We offer webinars to districts as an alternative to on-site training to the extent that we can. Many districts prefer face to face trainings.

- Send info through not just sp ed listservs but others that are not just sp ed (homeless, federal programs, etc.).

We are taking advantage of social media as a way to spread the news. We use Twitter and Facebook postings as a catalyst in addition other MoAT listservs. We are able to track and document how our information is disseminated via the web. Work with a number of other federal programs and always looking for ways to reach more targeted audiences.

- Title II funds to pay for the professional development costs.

This is an area we have not yet investigated, but are interested in doing so.

- Centers for Independent Living has a lot of assistive technology in their centers.

They do. Several of the CILs are AT device demonstration sites that are supported by MoAT. For a list of demonstration centers: http://at.mo.gov/device_demo.html

- Seek donations of equipment from manufactures or refurbished items. Tax credits could be realized by donors. Or seek refurbished products from the factories/companies.

This is an area that State AT programs including throughout the nation, including MoAT, have been working on for years with limited success. We have excellent relationships with makers of AT devices. However most AT vendor rarely donate equipment to AT programs, even though substantial purchases are made by the programs. Discounts and the possibility of donations are always discussed with vendors to take advantage of any opportunities.

- Seek monetary grants from private foundations such as Gates Foundation, Hall Family H&R Block.

We have applied for some private foundation grants previously, such at AT&T, and will investigate these also.

- Send MOAT staff to technology conferences to network with manufacture representatives and seek donations.

Staff has traveled to national conferences in the past such as ATIA. We've had restrictions to out-of-state travel over recent years.

- Professional development piece for the teachers – someone designated to be able to provide that support, approached as statewide support.

Our staff offers professional development support to schools throughout Missouri. Over 40 Site based trainings in FY12 and 7 already scheduled for the month of September.

- Districts could apply for grant and then would be able to provide that support.

Not sure what type of grant is referred to.

- Statewide institute to give districts to send people to see all the different technologies and how they are applied to help broaden the perspectives of the teaching professionals across the state.

This is a good idea. We are currently working with the St Louis RPDC in developing AT training for the St Louis region.

- Add information about resources and where to access to the New Directors Institute.

We are more than happy to do so. I believe that there were MoAT packets at the New Directors Institute in 2011.