



## Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

### Minutes of the Meeting - May 22, 2014

**Members Present:** Mary Hiland, Cynthie Macintosh, Wayne Cocchi, Dave Cameron, Jennifer Flynn, Patricia Kovacs, Ann Christopher, Tiffany McClain, Kay Grier, Kathy Blair, Elizabeth Sammons, Enjie Hall

**Members Absent:** Karen Kostelac\*, Jennifer Flynn\*, Sue Willis\*, Scott Lissner\*, Marlene Stewart\*, Rae Nutter, Brent Simonds, (\* denotes Excused)

**Provisional Members:** Rajai Saleh, Katie Frederick, Ann Gazelle\*

**Staff:** Rick Isbell (absent)

**Ex-officio:** James O'Neil (COTA), Bill Stepp (COTA) Justin Henderson (COTA)

**Guests:** **Abdirahim Abdi (OSU/Disability Services), John Nosse, Jim Christian (City of Columbus),** Geri Cooper (MOBILE), Paul Walker,

Mary Hiland called the meeting to order at 1:00.

Member introductions.

**April Minutes.** Moved by Kathy, seconded by Tiffany. Approved.

**Guest Speaker.** Abdirahim Abdi, ATTC Coordinator/Client Engineer, Office of Student Life/Disability Services (contact info: [abdi.33@osu.edu](mailto:abdi.33@osu.edu))

Abdi trains students with disabilities how to use a variety of assistive technologies. He also serves on a variety of committees at OSU, locally and statewide as well. He showed a video explaining the types of supports services that OSU's Disability Services offers to students. More info is available at [www.ods.osu.edu](http://www.ods.osu.edu) (phone: 614-292-3307). The web site has a tech tab that provides updated resources and locations of technology on campus. ACT Wiki is also available. OSU does not support Macs yet. They will also be offering online videos on how to use assistive technology. ODS staff can also provide individual training. Patricia asked about support for outside web sites. He said that Ken Petri, at OSU, might be able to help with this.

Abdi then demonstrated a variety of assistive technologies, including an explanation and demo of the accessibility features available on the iPad/iOS system (which has much better accessibility features than Android products). Other technology included

Evernote (note taking), iBooks (reading books), Notability, Zoomtext (speech and screen reader for people who are low vision/blind) and Read & Write Gold (more specific to those with learning disabilities, but also works well with Zoomtext). He also mentioned a free text to speech application called Balabolka (you can google for reviews/description and download sites).

Another tech item he demonstrated was the Livescribe Smart pen ([www.livescribe.com](http://www.livescribe.com)). This device can be used for note taking. Some of the functions are LED display, microphone, speakers, an infrared camera, check battery, calculator and tell time. It records everything you say/hear and write, which can then be downloaded to your computer. You do have to also use a Livescribe notebook for it to function properly. The new Sky Wifi pen from Livescribe is also out now.

**Old Business.** Paul updated us on his clinical trial back in April. The procedure and his recovery were fine. His retina and optic nerve area are looking better and he was able to read a line lower (and now 2 lines lower) on the eye chart before the procedure. Still has glare and foginess but improved detail. He will keep us update.

Kay talked about the disability parade that was held in April. The event was fun, a number of vendors/organizations had booths. The event also included a one mile walk and a performance of a play. There was some difficulty with parking nearby.

Kay also discussed the upcoming Functional Needs Summit scheduled for May 29. It has been very hard to register online for this event.

Kay also thanked everyone for their well wishes after her emergency surgery.

**Meeting topics:**

Airport - (Action Item) Elizabeth is talking to a representative from the Columbus International Airport and hopes to talk more with them next week

Malls - (Action Item) Dave still needs to get in touch with someone from Easton.

Reverse 911 - no discussion

**NOTE: ALL remaining meetings for 2014 will be held at the State Library of Ohio.**

Rajai's told us her materials have been forwarded for membership and she should be getting a letter soon.

**New Business.** Elizabeth reported that OODA (RSC) does not have a wait list for the first time in a long time. If a consumer chooses to request service eligibility the process should begin right away.

Tricia talk about the roundabouts study that was held this week. She went yesterday with a friend and observed the process of how well a person can determine when it is safe to cross. The Access Board is funding the study and a group called Accessible Design is conducting the study.

**COTA.** New VP of Operations began one month ago. Cbus is averaging about 17 riders per hour. COTA Review is hosting their second round of public meetings about their routes in early June.

**Announcements.** None.

**Individual Concerns.** Katie talked about some issues with Mainstream messing up some of her rides. She will send info to Bill Stepp.

John Nosse asked if anyone has used the new accessible Yellow Cabs that are available now. Ann Christopher said that the drivers have to get very close to her to strap her wheelchair in and put on her seat belt, and some drivers seem to be uncomfortable with this. Katie has also had an issue with her dog and the drivers.

Katie also mentioned the other new transportation options in Columbus, Columbus Lyft and UBER. You can schedule rides with iPhone apps and the drivers (hired by these companies) drive their own personal cars to transport you. This could prove difficult for someone who needs accessible transportation.

**Next Meeting.** June 26, 2014 at the **State Library of Ohio**, 274 E. First Avenue, 614-644-7061.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:03 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Wayne Cocchi, Secretary