

Assistive Technology (AT) Resources for Case Managers in Maine

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Kathy Adams OTL, ATP
Maine CITE, Director

Christine Martin MS, OTR/L, CBIS
Maine Center for Integrated Rehab

Objectives

- Review & Define AT
- How AT can be essential in achieving learning, living, working, safety, productivity & independence
- Review AT services/providers in ME
- Review the Role of Case Managers
- Funding AT
- Questions

Maine CITE

- Maine's State AT Act Program
- Created/funded thru Federal AT Act
- Promotes AT through information, education, technical assistance, services
- Collaborate with many Maine AT providers, organizations, and policy makers
- Visit: mainecite.org
- Webinars, AT App lists, Provider & funding info

What is AT?

- AT Devices are any item, piece of equipment, product or system--whether acquired commercially or customized--that will impact the capabilities of a person with a disability

AT can be Low Tech to High Tech

- AT Services help a person learn about their AT options and decide if the AT will benefit them

Technology is Universal in Our Lives

- Using AT can maintain, increase, maximize:
 - learning, safety, function, mobility, success, self-determination, productivity, independence, participation, social connections and inclusion.

AT Services include

- AT Assessment
- Device Demonstrations - learn how AT works
- Device Loans – borrow, “try before you buy”

- AT Reuse
- Alternative Financing - loans money
- Information & Assistance
- Training, workshops, webinars & in-services

AT Reuse & Exchange

- Visit getATstuff.com to buy, sell, donate used AT/equipment
- AT Reuse program @ Spurwink ALLTECH, Airport Mall, Bangor Maine, 207-947-9180

AT Providers

- Spurwink ALLTECH - AT assessment/training, demo, loan, reuse
- Bureau of Rehabilitation – Independent living, education, work
- Alpha One – Independent living, AT, Driving assessments, mPower Loans
- IRIS Network - AT for Employment
- Mainely Access - AT Assessment, training
- AgrAbility Maine - AT for farming
- Disability Rights Maine – Telephone Equipment Program for Deaf/Blind.
- Pine Tree Society – AT for Communications disorders
- C.A.R.E.S. - AT demo, loan
- mPower Loan Program - money to buy AT
- Maine Center for Integrated Rehab - AT Services
- Goodwill NNE - AT Services
- Gallant Therapy Services - OT services
- AT Practitioners (ATPs) - RESNA certified
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Manufacturers/vendors

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

AT Assessment

- Analyze the person's disability, abilities & function
- Determine if the person could benefit from AT to accomplish a task & impact their function

- Assess the person @ home, school, community or work

*AT providers are always researching & learning about AT. Collaboration is key!

More about AT Assessment

- What AT is the person using now?
- Is the person willing to use AT?
- What are the person's goals for using AT?
- What aspects of function will the AT address?
- Are there multiple AT device options?
- Borrow/use the AT before you decide!!
- Involve the person in the AT decision making
- Increase Self determination

Learn how to Use the AT

- How much time is needed for AT Training?
- Who will do the training of the new AT?
- Who needs to be trained along with the user? (Staff, family, friends, co-workers...).
- Also, Consider AT maintenance issues & ongoing costs (i.e.: monitoring fees)

Using the AT

- Identify the Outcomes of AT use:
 - Increased Safety at home or in the community, fewer staff hours, better work productivity, earning wages, improved health
- Note: AT needs change, often due to changes in health, function and the aging process. Reassess their AT needs.

Funding: Access to AT

- This is the key issue for the consumer & family!
- Professionals need to know about funding
- Funding decisions are based on need & eligibility
- Learn about the eligibility & documentation requirements of funders
- Do your homework...

Paying for AT

- mPower Loan/Financing Program - mpowerloans.org
- The Digital Credit Union - dcu.org
- Alpha One – Independent Living Grants & mPower Loans - alphaonenow.org
- Robbie Foundation – AT for children - robbiefoundation.com

Funding

- Maine CARE supports people living in the community: shifts funding to community based services away from more costly institutional care.
 - Five Waivers funding AT used in the community to increase safety & independence

- Funding for home based remote monitoring
- Support training on how to use AT
- Homeward Bound Program -- people can leave NFs to go back home

Maine Care Policy

- ME Medicaid Waiver programs support AT
 - Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 29
- DME - Section 60 (AAC devices & hearing aids)
- OT - Section 68
- PT - Section 85
- ST - Section 109
- Sects 68 & 85 being combined

Maine CARE HCBS Waivers

- Section 18: Home and Community-Based Services for Adults with Brain Injury
- Section 19: HCBS for the Elderly and for Adults with Disabilities
- Section 20: HCBS for Adults with Other Related Conditions (ORC)
- Section 21: HCBS for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autistic Disorder
- Section 29: Support Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autistic Disorder

Waiver Resource Contacts

- Section 18 - derek.fales@maine.gov
- Section 19 - vacant; contact Nicole Rooney
- Section 20 - derek.fales@maine.gov
- Section 21 - emily.kalafarski@maine.gov
- Section 29 - emily.kalafarski@maine.gov

Maine Home and Community Based Waivers, AT Comparison Chart

By Kelley McTague, COTA/L, ATP Kelley.mctague@goodwillnne.org (Revised Feb 2016)

mainecite.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/ATWaiverChart-Feb2016.pdf

Therapists, expand your practice and provide AT services

- Enroll as a Maine Care provider in the waivers!
- Contact Maine Care Provider Relations/Enrollment
- maine.gov/dhhs/

Pictures/Examples of AT

- In this part of the presentation, images of many AT devices are shown.

Case Mangers Role in AT

- Where to start?
- Clients don't know what they don't know.

As a Case Manager you don't need to know what they need, just that they struggle with certain aspects of daily living and might benefit from "something."

Step 1: Start the conversation

- How can AT help them?
- What are the client's goals?
- AT doesn't always mean high tech, complex and/or hard to learn
- No commitment assessments!

Step 2: Identify providers and resources

- Client chooses a provider
- Vendor calls, interviews, meet & greets
- Funding options

Step 3: Make the referral

- Authorization/ approval prior to AT services
- Case Manager generates a referral and sends to the provider

Referrals should include

- Name, address, phone
- Billing information
- Client's diagnosis and brief medical history
- Current services/ needs
- Clients goals, strengths and current barriers
- Why the client is seeking out AT (general or specific)
- Any other information you feel would be pertinent for the assessor and your client

Step 4: Assessment is completed

- Participate in assessment if desired/ asked
- Help to schedule
- Whatever the Case Manager can do to facilitate the assessment is helpful!

Step 5: Review Recommendations

- Review AT report of recommendations
- Case Managers initiate next steps to get the recommended equipment/AT devices

Step 6: Trials, Decision Making, Funding, Purchasing

- Support clients in making an informed decision!
 - AT Trials
 - Brand exploration
- Training needs
- Seek approval

Step 7: Implementation & Follow Up

- Ensure AT is received
- Set up and training coordination
- Regular follow up!
 - Is the AT being used?

- Is the AT helping?

Since AT is always changing...

- AT services are not a “one-time thing”
- If the AT is not working as well or in the manner as it was expected or if any new challenges arise contact your AT provider and start back at Step 1

AT Resources

- mainecite.org
- maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/ch101.htm
- resna.org
- ctdinstitute.org - Center Tech & Disability
- wheelchairnet.org
- abledata.com - AT product database
- assistivetech.net
- afb.org

More Resources

- fullcircleamerica.com
- atia.org
- Askjan.org - Job Accommodation Network
- usbln.org - Business Leadership Network
- passonline.org - Soc Security -- PASS program
- workrerc.org
- passitoncenter.org - lists AT Reuse programs

Take Aways

- Technology is universal in our lives, why not our clients?
- AT is attainable, affordable, changing
- AT can impact function & independence
- Maine has AT funding and resources
- Collaboration is the name of the game in AT

Thank You

christine.martin@rescare.com

kadams@mainecite.org