Rocket Scientist
Not Required

Strengthening Your Service Delivery
by Offering Assistive Technology
Welcome!

Part I: Our Story
-Funding of our Lab / Staffing / Stepping out of Your Comfort Zone

Part II: New Strategic Partners
-GA Tech / FODAC / CIL

Part III: Other Funding Streams for Assistive Technology
- Project Independence / GA Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing / Brain Injury Trust Fund / Fragile Kids Foundation

Part IV: Changes in How We Serve People
- Better I & R / Higher Call Satisfaction / Better Outreach Decreased Placement on Waiting List

Part V: Forms and Handouts
So What Is Assistive Technology

• Assistive Technology is an item or a piece of equipment that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life, including at school, at work, at home and in the community.
Part I – Our Story
April 2013
Finished Product – December 2014!
How Did We Get The Money To Create Our AT Lab?????

• Original Grant of $17,000

• Summary of Spending
  – FY 2013 ($8,000) Initial Year
  – FY 2014 ($5,000)
  – FY 2015 ($4,000)
  – FY 2016 and 2017 ($4,000)
    • Added 2 mobile units
      – Suit Case
      – Tote with most popular items
Staff Restraints

Delegate when you can!
- Our Regional Commission Administrative Assistant helps with data entry
- IT helps with equipment set up & delivery

Start Slow/Know Your Limits!

Don’t try to be the expert on EVERYTHING....
- Point People to The Experts!
Low Tech Girl................
Living in a High Tech World

• Be curious. Surf the net for new equipment
  – Google search for “adaptive eating equipment”
• Don’t let technology scare you
• Encourage Reverse Mentorship: Help from Children /grandchildren
  neighbors/ friends
Don’t expect perfection of Yourself or your staff
Part II – New Strategic Partners
Strengthening Service Delivery
to the Disability Community

Georgia Tech
FODAC
Center for Independent Living
Georgia’s Assistive Technology Program
Tools for Life

Individual Consults as Needed
Specialized Training for Staff
Website Information
  app finder
  webinars
Ideas Conference
Recording of Demonstrations
GA Tech/Tools for Life Partners

How to acquire assistive technology...

Dollars and Sense is your resource for funding, advocacy and organizations that provide assistive technology throughout the state of Georgia. Also, share with us organizations you’ve used, so others can benefit.

www.gatfl.gatech.edu/ds

DOLLARS & SENSE
NAVIGATING THE AT FUNDING STREAM

Assistive Technology
is vital to ensure that people with disabilities can live, work and play in the communities they choose.

FODAC provides free to low cost durable medical equipment, medical supplies, home and vehicle modifications to people with disabilities in Georgia. They also have a low cost refurbished computer service.

1-866-977-1204
www.gatfl.gatech.edu/ds

FODAC

Credit-Able provides small, low interest loans to Georgians with disabilities for the purpose of acquiring assistive technology or modifications to a home or vehicle. They can also provide funding resources in the area.

404-385-7029
www.gatfl.gatech.edu/ds

Credit-Able

gTRADE is your online swap meet! Have an old piece of equipment you’re not using? Place it on gTRADE for a fair price, or for free! Looking for an affordable item? Check out gTRADE to buy or sell assistive technology!

www.gtradeonline.org

gTRADE
Georgia’s Assistive Technology Equipment Exchange Program
Do you know someone in need of medical equipment or someone who has medical equipment they would like to donate?
Coastal AAA contracts with our local CIL who then provides us someone in the lab on a routine basis. ($10,000 per year – in the lab 1x per week).

- Lines up and conducts all tours
- Helped to give us support with helping younger clients / home and vehicle modification information
- Helped with marketing
Part III: Other Key Agencies with Funding Streams

• Vocational Rehab: Project Independence
• Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
• Brain Injury Trust Fund
• Fragile Kids Foundation (Metro Atlanta)
Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- State Lending Program (paid for by land line telephone bill add on).
- Federal program for Deaf and Blind (covers individuals who are both deaf and blind)
- If you meet the qualifications...it can fund everything from iPads to advanced AAC devices (Augmented and Assisted communication devices)

404-297-9461/1-888-297-9461
Project Independence (Vocational Rehab): Georgia Vision Program for Seniors

This vision program for seniors 55 and older is administered by the Georgia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and provides services that can help older Georgian’s remain independent. Services may include:

• Comprehensive low vision evaluations by qualified professionals to assess your needs
• Skills training in your home community by certified rehabilitation specialists
• Mobility training by certified instructors
• Support groups that offer opportunities to learn from and interact with peers
• Assistive devices such as talking watches, big button phones and Magnifiers

Call 844-367-4872 or go to http://www.silcga.org/project-independence-georgia-vision-program-for-seniors/ to find the agency in your area
If you have been a resident of Georgia for one year and have suffered a traumatic brain injury you may be eligible to apply for a grant from the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission. A grant from the Trust Fund is not intended to be a permanent source of funding for an individual and is not an entitlement. Applicant grant requests for funding should be directly related to the traumatic brain injury.
Fragile Kids Foundation

For over 25 years, the Fragile Kids Foundation has worked to enhance the quality of life and well-being of children with support, supplies and prescribed medical equipment not covered by Georgia Medicaid or private insurance for Georgia’s medically fragile children living with chronic illnesses, genetic and traumatic disorders and orthopedic and neuromuscular challenges.
Other Good Resources

• Ablenet University – Hundreds of FREE Recorded Webinars. Don’t try to be an expert in all of this......Point people in the right direction and encourage them to explore on their own, what is right for them. https://www.ablenetinc.com/emails/Newsletters_2014/AN-Univ-Sept15-2014.html

• Center on Technology and Disability – get on email list (www.ctdinstute.org)

• IDEAS Conference:  http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu  FREE conference the 1st weekend in June-St. Simons Island
Part IV – Changing How We Serve People

• Better I and R / Higher Call Satisfaction
• AT instead of Tier I / in Conjunction with Tier II (those triaged out)
• Better Outreach
Better I&R– Ability Solutions Handouts

Follow up by sending Fact Sheets with pictures and estimate prices of items that might work

• Eating
• Homemaking
• Bathing
• Toileting / Incontinence
• Automobile
• Telepresence
• Medication Management
Using Older American Act funding (3-B) to assist 60+ population with AT

- Has helped us to serve people without putting them on the waiting list.
- Started by giving away bathing equipment
  - Have individuals work with their Doctors to get an PT evaluation. Work with those providers
  - Check to see if you can partner with a home health agency who might deliver for you
    (takes some oversight / well worth it / may look into privately paying a PT to go in and do safety evaluations)
- Expanded to homemaking devices
AT Versus Traditional Services
Under HCBS – Cost Savings

FY 2017

14 Transfer Benches @ $60 each = $840
6 Bath Chairs @ @40 each = $240
24 Tub Safety Bars @ $30 each = $720
21 No Contract Alert Systems @ $70= $1,470

41 Total Consumers Total= $3,270

(11 received Emergency Response Only)
What Else have We’ve Learned????????

People will pay to have their independence!

FY 2017 - Added a component where we purchased Items and have them available in the lab for a Suggested Donation
Enhanced Outreach

- DBHDD Partners
- School System
- Senior Center Presentations
- Presentations at Housing Units
- Presentations at Civic Organizations
- Hospitals
- Family Connections Meetings
- Mayors Committee
- Support Groups (Stroke/Alzheimer’s/etc.)

Questions about funding of items opens up conversations about explanations about....HCBS/CCSP
Doing A Better Job Serving Everyone...
Under 60 and Over 60!
Happier Callers

= Happier Counselors!
Contact Information

Peggy Luukkonen, ADRC Program Manager
Coastal Georgia Area Agency on Aging
912-437-0861 pluukkonen@crc.ga.gov
800-580-6860