

IPAT's Annual Review

Judie Lee, Project Director

IPAT operates and maintains eight essential service components which provided the following services during the program year beginning June 1, 2005, through September 30, 2006.

Direct Consumer Assistance: IPAT's experienced staff responds to individual's requests for AT information through phone conversations, e-mail, mail, videoconferencing, and/or in person. IPAT responded to 2,758 individual consumer assistance requests.

Equipment Loan Library: A large inventory of equipment is available for residents to borrow to try before they buy in their own environment for a period of 6 weeks. IPAT made 376 equipment loans.

Equipment Demonstration Sites: IPAT supports 2 AT demonstration sites, one in Fargo and the other in Bismarck. These sites provide an opportunity for people to have hands-on exploration of AT devices. IPAT used these sites to demonstrate AT equipment to 375 individuals.

Alternative Financial Loan Program: IPAT established an alternative financial loan program. These dollars can only be used for making loans to individuals to purchase assistive technology. Loans range from \$500-\$50,000. The development of this program started in 2003 and to date has made 11 loans for a total of \$165,625.

Assistive Technology Swap 'n Shop: IPAT established a used equipment bulletin board for individuals and entities to buy, sell, swap, or donate used AT. It is housed on the IPAT website or can be accessed through a toll free number. This past program year, 88 devices were exchanged for a saving of \$161,577.

Training and Public Awareness: This past program year IPAT trained 773 people. Public awareness is an ongoing challenge and an integral part of the IPAT program. IPAT set up displays and showcased equipment at 27 exhibits and fairs attended by 3,593 people. IPAT also produces a bi-monthly newsletter, provides toll free numbers for information and assistance, and maintains an accessible website, www.ndipat.org.

Coordination and Collaboration: IPAT serves the state as a no-cost resource by participating on various task forces, committees, and by providing AT expertise to a number of agencies and organizations.

Additional Services: Because the seven critical components just described are in place, IPAT is poised to partner with other organizations for special projects that involve AT. IPAT is also able to provide AT assessments and consultations for individuals who otherwise may have to leave the state for this service or go without. IPAT provided 44 such assessments this past program year.

Momentum for technology has been started and will not be stopped. The need for assistive technology can only be expected to increase as our population ages and demands to be productive and independent. If you or someone you know is interested in AT call 1-800-IPAT (-4728).

4th Annual Assistive Technology Expo

Come learn about assistive technology (AT) and how it can help you or someone you know! The *4th Annual AT Expo* scheduled for April 5, 2007, at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo, North Dakota, will highlight AT devices and services for people of any age and ability to help them live, learn, work and play. People interested in attending may need AT for themselves, a friend, a family member, a student, an employee or a client. Whether you have a child with a learning disability, a parent with memory loss, or need help staying in your own home and getting back to work, this *AT Expo* is for you!

Concurrent assistive technology sessions will be offered the morning of the *AT Expo* and tentatively include: AT in Education-Anne Carlson; Adaptive Equipment Services of ND-Don Olson; Augmentative & Alternative Communication(AAC) Strategies for Success-Tanya Curtis; Hot new picks in AAC and Computer Access-Tanya Curtis; Golden Ideas for Golden Students-Golden Child Resources; Low Tech Applications for Home, School, Work and Play-Adaptation, Inc.; Technology to Create Readers-Technology for Education; Tools for Today to Live without Limits-Judy Siegle; AT: Promoting Success thru Computer Access-Peggy Shireley; and Beyond the Traditional Telephone-Peggy Shireley. Presentation descriptions and speaker bios will be available on request or on the IPAT website: <http://www.ndipat.org/newsevents/default.asp?ID=377>

From 1pm-7pm the *AT Expo* Exhibit Hall will showcase assistive technology in the following areas: communication devices; specialized telephones; medication dispensers; health, safety, and daily living devices; AT for hearing and vision loss; AT for learning and developmental needs; accessible vehicles; computer access software and hardware; environmental controls; recreation and leisure AT; home & work accessibility equipment; and seating, positioning and mobility equipment. A vendor list will be available on request or on the IPAT website: <http://www.ndipat.org/newsevents/default.asp?ID=377>

To attend the concurrent AT sessions the cost is \$20; if registered by March 23, 2007 this fee includes lunch. **Scholarships** are available on a first-come, first-serve basis to individuals with disabilities to cover the admission fee for the

morning presentations.

The afternoon *AT Expo* Exhibit Hall is FREE and open to the public. There is no need to register if you are only attending the afternoon exhibits.

Come for the morning, the afternoon, or the whole day; any way you choose, you will learn a lot about assistive technology!

For further information please contact: Magda Fitterer or Jeannie Krull at 1-800-895-4728. Email: mfitterer@integra.net or jmkrull@integra.net. Forms can be obtained online at: <http://www.ndipat.org/newsevents/default.asp?ID=377> .

CONSUMER CONNECTION

USE DELAYED-ACTION CLOSERS

By Barb McKeever, Certified Accessibility Inspector

Many disabled people face a BIG CHALLENGE when dealing with doors. Most doors fall shut as soon as you let go. You have no time to wheel your wheelchair to a position in which it will hold the door open.

The construction industry has now developed Delayed-Action Closers. They are required by law (ADAAG 4.13.10 and by 404.2.7.1 in ANSI A 117.1-2003) but that doesn't say much. I've seen ONE.

Delayed-Action Closers allow a door to close gradually. They should be used on all interior doors such as public restrooms, offices, etc. I know of people who have gotten trapped in public restrooms for three to four hours because of door problems! That's terrible especially now that there is a way to avoid it.

When the ADA law was originally written it required all interior doors to operate with 5-lbf (force). Exterior doors were supposed to operate with 7-lbf. That requirement was abolished because seven pounds isn't going to hold a door shut in very many climates.

Interior doors were still required to operate with 5lbf. However, any interior door required by law to be a fire-door must have a closer. Any door that has a closer can't be set to operate with five pounds (or less) of force.

Whoever writes the law finally figured this out. Now the ADA Law says, "Any interior door not required by law to be a fire-door must operate with 5lbf." Essentially that requirement is now useless because not many interior doors aren't required to be fire doors.

If you have any specific questions regarding Delayed Actions Closers or other accessibility issues, please feel free to contact me at

barbmckeever@cableone.net or write to Barb McKeever, 2525 Broadway #404, Fargo, ND 58102. I have over 25 years of experience - it is said that experience is the best teacher!

FUNDING NEWS

Writing Effective Funding Requests for Assistive Technology: Part III

(Information adapted from the New Jersey Assistive Technology Advocacy Center-2002)

The structure and content of funding requests for assistive technology (AT) vary from funding source to funding source; however, many elements are similar. Each report should serve several functions:

1. Introduce and establish the writer's credentials. In most cases, the writer is reporting as an expert. The writer can establish his/her credibility by describing: expertise, licenses, education, current job title, and how long they have been doing this type of work.
2. Establish the relationship with the consumer. Is the report based on a one-time consultation or weekly sessions with the individual over several years? A report will be more effective when it clarifies the nature of the relationship.
3. Educate the reader about the individual's disability. The writer should discuss the person's primary and secondary diagnosis, if any, his or her prognosis, and what complications affect them, and how. Since the person is seeking AT which will overcome the effects of a disability, those effects should be described in functional terms.
4. Describe any evaluations to determine need for AT: Often, evaluations have included trials on one or more pieces of equipment, including the one now recommended. The writer should describe any evaluations, which have lead to the current recommendation.
5. State how the device meets the funding source's criteria. The writer must address whether the requested equipment is necessary for education, vocation, medical reasons, and/or to live an independent life.
6. Explain that the recommended device is the fiscally responsible alternative. Remember cost plays a big part in getting the AT one needs. The writer must convince the funding source that they will be spending money wisely.
7. Use the concluding paragraph to restate the main points of the report. All well-written documents end with an effective conclusion; summarizing the preceding information and allowing the writer to briefly restate the case.

For further information regarding report writing including sample reports, please contact Jeannie Krull, at 1-701-365-4728 or toll-free at 1-800-895-4728.

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Color Mouse – a Handheld Video Magnifier

If reading standard print in magazines, textbooks and on labels, or viewing photos and graphs is difficult for you or someone you know, the **Color Mouse** may offer a solution. This assistive technology device is a hand-held video magnifier that connects directly to a television. It is the size of a standard computer mouse and works by having the user glide the device over the desired material while reading the magnified image on the TV screen. It offers display modes in full color, black text, or white text and can move between modes with a simple click of a button. Using a 20" TV, the device magnifies 24X.

The **Color Mouse** currently sells for \$325 through Bierley, www.bierley.com or 1-800-895-0535. It is also available through the IPAT Equipment Loan Library. Please call 1-800-895-4728 to arrange a rental.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 14, 2007

Disability Awareness Day

State Capitol – Great Hall

10 AM – 3 PM

All are welcome – NO Charge

Bismarck, ND

IPAT – 800-865-4728

April 5, 2007

4th Annual Assistive Technology Expo

8 AM – 7 PM

Concurrent Sessions ~ Exhibit Hall

Ramada Plaza Suites

Fargo, ND

IPAT – 800-865-4728

For Your Information...

IPAT's Bismarck Technology Access Center will be moving to a new location on March 1, 2007. Please note the new address, and feel free to stop in and see the new Bismarck TAC offices first hand.

IPAT – Bismarck TAC

400 East Broadway – Suite 612

Bismarck, ND 58501

701-355-4615