

IPAT Recognizes Those Making a Difference in AT Delivery

Judie Lee, IPAT Executive Director

The 6th Annual AT Expo was held on April 30, 2009, in Fargo, North Dakota. Over 500 people attended the event, taking advantage of the opportunity to explore the assistive technology (AT) devices and services made possible by the 60-plus vendors and a dozen presenters. There were three NEW happenings at the Expo this year, a special pre-conference session on home modifications, a number of drawings for gently used equipment, and the recognition of two special parties who have selflessly made a difference in the delivery of AT.

It is the third of the NEW happenings that will be the focus of this article. IPAT has been very fortunate to have had the unwavering support from both a business and an individual in the Bismarck community in helping people get the AT they need. These two parties were recognized by IPAT during the Mayor's Committee Luncheon, which is held in conjunction with the Expo.

The first award was presented to Brent Weisgram; Sales Manager in Fargo, representing Cross Country Courier (CCC), a North Dakota owned and operated trucking company. CCC has been willing to find room on their trucks for AT equipment from IPAT's AT Swap 'n Shop and have generously delivered AT equipment throughout the state at no charge.

IPAT and CCC formed a partnership in the fall of 2007, and since that time CCC has shipped over 245 items; representing a total savings to consumers close to \$12,000 – how awesome! They are providing a needed service across the whole state and ask nothing in return. Every time I see one of their trucks on the road I wave, maybe you could do the same. Thank you CCC.

The second award was presented to Bob Puyear, who was participating virtually in the luncheon at IPAT's Bismarck office. Bob has given 1000's of hours of his time and skills to help make AT more accessible to those that need it. As an AT user himself, he recognizes the importance of AT and what it allows him to do. He has been a member of IPAT's Consumer Advisory Council for many years, and is diligent, sometimes even relentless in advocating for the AT needs he sees for children, for people trying to go back to work, and especially for individuals wanting to remain in their own home. Bob designed IPAT's first website, has attended hundred's of meetings, encouraged all when things were difficult, and has always helped IPAT stay focused on what is most important - appropriate AT services for people with disabilities. In grateful recognition of his exceptional contributions, thank you Bob Puyear.

Accommodating Home Remodeling 101 Reviewed

IPAT sponsored a full-day informational session specific to home remodeling on April 29, 2009 in Fargo, North Dakota. The workshop was held in conjunction with the 6th Annual AT Expo, and the selected topic resulted from consumer feedback identifying home accommodation information as a statewide need. It was IPAT's good fortune to engage Diane Sprague, the director of the Lifetime Home Project, based in Minneapolis, MN to lead the workshop.

Participants received a plethora of information - including the history of the accessibility movement, familiarization with terminology used in home remodeling, ideas on how to assess a home environment, home features to include for all persons, accessibility options by room and/or task, and funding resources. The information was augmented with the real-life stories and experiences that Diane has had in her 30+ years of home remodeling; including a walk down the "Ramp Hall of Shame," capturing the range of ramps constructed in MN via slide show.

Diane's information was well-received and workshop participants noted that they now have a place to start when looking at their home remodeling needs. If you are interested in more information on this topic, contact IPAT at 1-800-895-4728.



IPAT IS CONNECTING THERAPISTS & INDIVIDUALS TO AT-VIRTUALLY!

How do you evaluate someone who needs assistive technology (AT) and lives across the state when you do not have the funds, time in your schedule to travel, or the AT to do the assessment? Call IPAT! That is what MeritCare's Speech-Language Pathologist, Karen Fowler, and

Occupational Therapist, Sue Hanson, did to extend their services.

With the help of the IPAT Technology Access Center staff in Bismarck and Fargo, Karen and Sue were able to connect with their client from north-central ND and her therapist from Bismarck via IPAT's video conferencing system. Through video, they were able to provide an evaluation with hands-on access to the latest AT to determine which communication device would be best for their client. This virtual connection was also used to provide training for the therapist in Bismarck, who was not as familiar with this area of assistive technology, so she could continue to support the communication needs of her client in Bismarck.

One of the therapists commented: "I think IPAT offers such a wide range of resources in ND for AT services. The services they provide to therapists in terms of demonstrations, videoconference services for long distance assessments, and strong knowledge base of little known services statewide, can make therapists job a lot easier."

If you are a therapist and/or AT provider, but do not have access to, or have knowledge about the range of AT to complete an evaluation, or if a client lives a great distance away, contact IPAT to virtually bridge those gaps. Find out how you can use IPAT's AT Centers, equipment, and expertise virtually to conduct an AT assessment and/or demonstration - for more information, contact a coordinator in Fargo-1-800-895-4728 or Bismarck-1-888-540-4728.

CONSUMER CONNECTION

A Note of Thanks

March 1, 2009

I want to thank you so much for all your help with the rental of the hearing assistive equipment and then later in obtaining assistive hearing devices for my mother Muriel and step-father Lowell Boyum. Peggy Shireley and Scott Weissman at the Bismarck IPAT office were so kind and helpful in my visits to the Bismarck office.

The new Comfort Duette with TV kit arrived on February 18th and the Clarity Amplified Telephone arrived on February 26th. The hearing needs differ for my mother and step-father, and this new equipment will be of great benefit to them. My mother has difficulty hearing conversations in room settings and in hearing the TV, so the Comfort Duette will be very helpful for her. My step-father has difficulty hearing on the telephone, so the amplified telephone will be very helpful for him. I feel this equipment is very suitable for their individual needs.

The assisted hearing equipment I rented from IPAT was delivered to the UPS store in Bismarck to ship back to the Fargo office. Thank you for the extensions of time for the rented equipment, and then in helping to acquire the assistive hearing equipment for my mother and step-father.

In gratitude on behalf of the family of Muriel and Lowell Boyum,

Wanda Melchert
Golden Valley, ND



Comfort Duette



Amplified Phone by Clarity

FUNDING NEWS

Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grant

The *Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grant* (MFP) is a program developed by the federal Department of Health and Human Services - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that provides participating states with funding that is used to assist people to leave public institutions [nursing facilities (NF) or intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation (ICF/MR)] and move to their own home in the community. Qualified residence options for transitioning include: an individual's home or a family home; a shared home, where no more than three other (four total) unrelated individuals reside; an adult foster care home (AFCH) where no more than three other (four total) unrelated individuals reside; or, an apartment, including those in HUD subsidized housing or congregate housing complexes.

The MFP Program is limited to persons residing in NFs or ICFs/MR who are Medicaid eligible, who have resided in an institutional setting for at least six months, and who meet various other specific requirements.

The MFP Program can assist individuals interested in leaving a NF or ICF/MR by providing: information to help them make an informed choice regarding transition and participation in the MFP Program; access to transition services and assistance from a transition coordinator through North Dakota Centers for Independent Living; payment for some one-time moving costs or activities; (rental

deposits, furniture, household supplies); and, post-discharge follow-up to ensure the move is satisfactory and the individual's needs are being met. The supplemental services that assist with payment for one-time transition costs will cover these items: health and safety technology; home modifications; adaptive equipment; assistive technology devices; one-time modifications for a vehicle owned by the individual; home/apartment furnishings-linens, dishes, small appliances, furniture; and, security and utility deposits.

If you, or someone you care about, lives in a nursing facility or an ICF/MR and would like to learn more about their options available to return to the community please contact your local Center for Independent Living, your local Human Service Center, or Jake Reuter (MFP Program Administrator) at 701-328-4090.

Equipment Spotlight

One 2 One Mate-Student Mate



The One 2 One Mate-Student Mate is an educational tool to help students succeed. Features of the Student Mate include a full size keyboard with a seven inch color touch screen. The Student Mate comes pre-installed with a MS Word compatible word processor and spreadsheet. Other productivity software includes a typing tutor and drawing application to be used with the available stylus. The Student Mate can be navigated with the touch screen, keyboard, or mouse, via available USB ports. Other features include wifi for accessing the internet and an optional text to speech engine. For a detailed demonstration you can visit the One 2 One Mate website at: www.one2onemate.com/learn/videos.html

For more information on this device please contact the manufacturer at: 1-888-746-4121 or visit their website at www.one2onemate.com. If you would like to rent this item from the IPAT loan library, please call 1-800-895-4728 or email: ipatinfo@ndipat.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 20, 2009

2nd Annual Autism Walk
Horizon Middle School – Bismarck, ND

June 25, 2009

Recreation and Disability Summit
Grand International Inn – Minot, ND
Contact: Chad DeCoteau 1-800-223-1737

July 6-10, 2009

NDSU Summer Mentorship for Prospective Students with Disabilities
www.ndsu.edu/ndsu.gajan/pswd.html

July 24, 2009

“An Address for All”
Planning Meeting for Unmet Housing Needs in ND
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Ramkota – Bismarck, ND
Contact: Tom Alexander 1-800-233-1737

August 6, 2009

Youth Leadership Forum
Wahpeton, ND
Contact: Freedom Resource Center 800-450-0459