Welcome to the Individual and Family Support Program's September 2024 Regional Council Expo!

Enhancing Independence through Assistive Technology (AT)

Featuring a presentation from the **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY NETWORK**
Virginia Department of Education's - Training And Technical Assistance Centers
https://atnetwork.ttaconline.org/

If you need closed captioning, please check the chat box for the link!

Agenda

My Life, My Community

- **Welcome & Ground Rules**

- **Presentation: Enhancing Independence through Assistive Technology (AT)** – Assistive Technology Network of Virginia

- **Panel Discussion**

- **Closing**

- **Explore the Expo!**

** If you need closed captioning, please check the chat box for the link! **

** If you need technical assistance, email **IFSPCommunity@dbhds.virginia.gov**! **

Ground Rules

- **Today's main session is being recorded and will be posted to YouTube.**

- **Please be respectful of our presenter, panelists, and other attendees.**

- **Please place your questions in the chat!**
  - The chat is not private. Please try not to share identifiable information.
  - Please identify your region when you are asking your question.
  - If you cannot use the chat box, please email **IFSPCommunity@dbhds.virginia.gov** and we will get your question to someone who can answer it after the event.
  - If you have a question that is not related to this topic, you can email **IFSPSupport@dbhds.virginia.gov**.

- **This meeting is hosted by the IFSP's Regional Councils.** If you have questions about IFSP-Funding, please visit the My Life, My Community website's Funding page: **https://mylifemycommunityvirginia.org/ifsp-funding**

- **Remember that this event is public, so please refrain from sharing personal information.**

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Sharon Jones

**VDOE Statewide AT and
Distance Education Coordinator**
Training and Technical Assistance
Center (T/TAC) at VCU

Matt Newton

**Coordinator of Assistive
and Instructional Technology**
Virginia Tech School of Education,
Training and Technical Assistance Center
(T/TAC)

Enhancing Independence through Assistive Technology (AT) Expo

Sponsored by the Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) Regional Councils and the VDOE Assistive Technology Network

Panel Presentation

Introductions and Questions

Kaili and Stephanie Webster

Kaili - Tell us about your device and some of the things you are able to do with it? How does it assist you in a typical day?

Stephanie and Kaili - Can you show us a little bit of how the device works?

Kaili - What other assistive technology do you use regularly and how does it help you?

Kaili - Can you tell us about getting your first communication device? What was it like learning to use it, and who supported you?

Stephanie - What was it like for you as a parent when Kaili started using her communication device? What advice do you have for families as they begin the AT journey with their children?

 Kaili and Stephanie   - Do you have any stories you could share about how AT has influenced Kaili's ability to be more independent and advocate for herself?

Nickie Brandenburg
Center for Family Involvement (CFI)
Partnership for People with Disabilities

- What is the Center for Family Involvement (CFI)?
- What CFI services might benefit our group today related to AT?
- What are some effective communication strategies families can use when working with schools in identifying assistive technology and usng it?
- What should families do when they disagree with a school decision?
- How can families integrate AT into family life?

Eldherhood & Aging Families

Blind & Visually Impaired

Rural Community Specialist

Deaf & Hard of Hearing

1-3-6 FAMILY EDUCATOR PROGRAM

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VCU
Virginia Commonwealth University

Partnership for People with Disabilities
Linking people. Changing lives.

Mental Health Specialist

Meghan Hyatt
Program Specialist, VDOE Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) at VCU

- What is T/TAC?
- How are families supported by T/TAC as part of the IEP team?
- What recommendations do you have about how students can get the AT they need?
- What AT is available that does not require Internet services?
- What are some of the greatest challenges students and families have with AT?
- What is self-determination? What role does self-determination play in assistive technology? How can we teach students how to advocate for their AT needs?
- How can we support youth as they graduate and transition into adult services?

Lauren Whitlock
SLP and Program Specialist, VDOE Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) at VCU

- When should families begin to look at the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)?
- What is the process for identifying the right AAC?
- How frequently should the team re-evaluate whether a new AAC system is needed?
- How can families support the use of AAC in school?
- How can families integrate the use of AAC in their home and community?

Brittany Howard
Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH)

- What is the Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing?
- What services are provided to students and families and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing?
- What are some common AT tools for students and adults who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind? For those who do not use ASL, what are other recommended communication strategies?
- What are some AT tools that are needed for young adults who are transitioning out of school and for adult employment ?
- How can AT enhance independent living for students and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing?
- Who provides training for students and adults to use these tools?
- What are 1-2 of the challenges you have seen with students and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing?

Matt Luther
Dept for Aging and Rehabilitation Services (DARS)

- How does DARS support individuals with their assistive technology needs?
- Do you have any recommendations for students and families to prepare for the transition out of school?
- Are students able to keep the AT they used in school? If not, how can they get the AT they need?
- How can DARS support individuals and families with funding?
- How and when do students and families connect with DARS?
- How and what AT will enhance independent living?
- How can families get access to internet services and an iPad to facilitate telehealth appointments and therapies?

Final Question

Kaili and Stephanie - What would you like people - families, teachers, and the community – to know about AAC and individuals who use communication devices?

Others - What would you like people (families, teachers and the community) to know about AT and how to support individuals who use AT?

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To our IFSP Council cohost:

Shawn Kirk

To our Hamilton Relay captioner:

Christine Breinz

To our main session speaker and panelists:

Sharon Jones
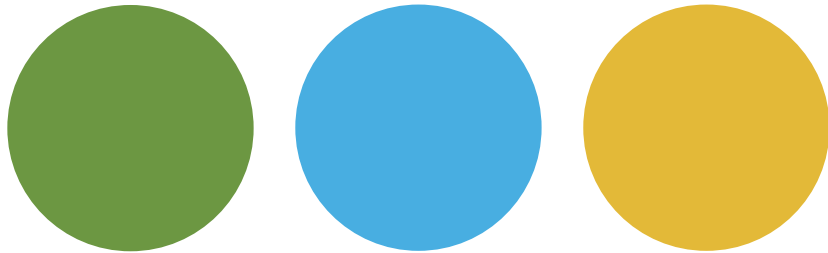**Matt Newton**

Kaili Webster
Stephanie Webster
Nickie Brandenburger
Meghan Hyatt
Lauren Whitlock
Brittany Howard
Matt Luther

To our hosts: **Blue Ridge Community College**

DBHDS >>

My Life, My Community

Let us know what you think!

- Please scan the QR code to fill out the Satisfaction Survey!

- You can also click the link that is being shared in the chat.

THANK YOU!

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