



University of Guam
Guam System for Assistive Technology
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 3:30-5:00pm
House 19 Deans Circle, UOG



<input type="checkbox"/> Rudy Ignacio, Chairperson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tavita Faasuamalie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carla Torres (GSAT)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Maka, Vice-Chairperson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lou Mesa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Cruz (GLSC)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josephine Cortez, Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Fuppul	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roseanne Ada (GDDC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Vedalema Valencia, Member At Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Ogo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Servino (DVR/ DISID)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Johnson, Member At Large	<input type="checkbox"/> Roy Rosario	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Ulloa (GDOE)
<input type="checkbox"/> _____, Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evelyn Duenas	<input type="checkbox"/> Tilda Meno (AHRD/ WIA)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeannie Hollis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirsten Bamba (ASL Interpreter)

Minutes of the Meeting

I. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 3:37p.m. Attendance was noted. The council took a moment to remember Bill Fuppul. Carla read Rudy's message to the Council indicating his need for a leave of absence to tend to his sick father. His position as Chair would not be terminated but asked Dawn if she would be acting Chairperson until further notice. Dawn accepted. CEDDERS pocket calendars were disseminated.

II. Review & Approval of Minutes: October 21, 2014

Minutes from the October 21, 2014 was reviewed for approval. Lou Mesa made a motion to approve the minutes. Lisa Ogo seconded the motion. Approved by acclamation.

III. Old Business

- A. **House 20 updates:** Carla informed the Council the status of House 20. Repainting and rewiring needs to get done.
- B. **Election of Member-at-Large:** Lisa Ogo nominates Tavita Faasuamalie for the Member-at- Large position. Tavita accepts the nomination. Dawn moves to close the nomination. Without having any other nominations, Tavita is elected Member-at-Large.

IV. New Business

- A. **Rights of students with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities to effective communication (IDEA vs. ADA Title II)** Fact sheet disseminated. This joint guidance from DOE and DOJ has very significant implications for AT access for students in PK-12 educational settings. There is a clear directive for schools to understand the ADA's "effective communication" access requirement and how that can be different from FAPE under IDEA/Section 504. In AT terms, effective communication can require a technology support instead of a human support because the technology support allows a student to perform tasks independently which gets them "effective communication" as is required by the ADA. It also could require CART services instead of a peer taking notes for the student – "effective communication" can be a higher standard than the "appropriate" in FAPE.



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- B. **Text 911** – On December 30, 2014, the FCC announced certification and registration instructions for 911 Call Centers that request text-to-911 services. This information was forwarded to the Council and various stakeholders. Carla contacted the Guam Fire Department to see if text 911 was available on Guam. According to Phil Camacho at GFD, their current system is so outdated it isn't capable. They are trying to procure a new system but have had issues with getting the bid package released. In the meantime, Docomo was to loan GFD 2 cell phones that could be used to text for emergency response. He was uncertain when these updates would be implemented.
- C. **Video remote interpreting/ PNC news report.** Kirsten shared that she and 2 others, including Barbara Johnson appeared on PNC news. They spoke about how an individual who was deaf had passed away at GMH and was not provided an interpreter. The question raised is could he have had better care, a better outcome even if he was afforded an interpreter? (Council watched the PNC news clip). Recently, Kirsten received a text from a deaf individual requesting that she follow her to the police station to serve as an interpreter as the Guam Police Department have interpreters too. GSAT conducted a demonstration of video remote interpreting services (VRI) for the community in July in an effort to get agencies to see how interpreters can be made available despite having access to ones locally. Nicole Cruz informed the Council that their office (Guam Legal Services-Disability Law Center) can't advocate for anybody, unless they have a client to file a complaint. Carla suggested that Kirsten encourage individuals who are deaf/ hard of hearing seek Guam Legal's services as their rights are being violated. In 2011 Carla helped facilitate a stakeholders group discussion on emergency response to individuals with disabilities which included key people like the Attorney General and Chief of Police. The purpose was to raise community awareness and to seek solutions to these issues. In 2012, General Orders were implemented. However, they have proven to be ineffective. Paula suggested interpreters with business licenses go to the hospital. The hospital can establish a position and it could be a contract. Evelyn asked the council if anyone knew of GMH's compliance officer. Ben will ask June Perez about GMH's ADA Coordinator as this person should see that GMH is in compliance with the ADA. Carla and Ben discussed how the Department of Administration (DOA) could establish a general account, have an open purchase order for all gov Guam agencies to procure remote interpreting services.
- D. **State Plan 2015.** Carla said there isn't opportunity for the council to provide input on the State Plan goals as those have been preselected. (goal table projected on the screen). AT programs are "graded" by whether or not individuals were able to make decisions about AT after receiving device demonstrations or loans.

V. Reports:

- A. **Quarterly Data (attached)**
- B. **2015 Conference/ Fair Committee.** The morning of the conference will be a plenary session. Keynote speaker will be a woman who moved back to Guam after being shot in Seattle and becoming quadriplegic. She will also share how assistive technology is necessary in her life and how she has even improvised to make her own AT. In the afternoon, there will be 4 different AT make-it workshops. Each participant will choose one. If participants don't have the need to take the AT they made home, it can be donated to DOE or Early Intervention. Conference is set for 120 people. Workshops will be capped at 30 people. Participants will come back together at



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the end of the workshop to share what they made and their experiences. Carla said that the Conference will show how AT can be simple, inexpensive, and created from household items. GSAT will be sending invites this Friday to vendors for the Fair with a due date of February 27. First newspaper ads will run on March 5. Jack will place the fair and conference flyer on the GDOE website; Ben on DOA's community calendar. Conference registration will run from March 5-20. Conference will be at the Pacific Star- it's cheaper and breakout rooms aren't available at the Westin for March 27. GSAT Fair is on March 7 at Micronesia Mall at no cost again. Maria Bontogan, an individual who is blind, will be playing the accordion and the piano and GCC ASL classes are going to perform signed songs. Barbara Johnson is requesting a spot at the Fair for students to do children's stories and put up a deaf awareness display. Carla will send a vendor application to Barbara. Lisa Ogo asked how can council members can help with the make it workshops. Carla will ask Paula about support from DOE SPED staff. GSAT will buy all materials but hopes DOE SpEd staff can help facilitate some workshops. GSAT members can help pass out materials and talk about benefits of the AT. Lisa volunteered to talk about the iPhone and learning Braille. Paula mentioned that Jack and Nicole (DOE AT teachers) have talked about doing lower tech AT. Carla will lead the switch and battery interrupters workshop. Nicole mentioned doing different adapted books and Jack talked about eye gaze boards. Carla added there is only an hour and half for the workshops. Carla announced that before the fiscal year ends, Carla wants to conduct transition training for adults in community living and students that are transitioning out high school and are not on an employment track.

VI. Open Discussion/ Announcements

- A. **Autism Fair** –may take place on April 4, and not April 11, as previously announced.
- B. **Developmental Disabilities Awareness month**- A Celebrity Bagging event is being planned by Carla and Evie from DISID.
- C. **SinA General Membership Meeting**- to be held this Saturday at Coast 360 in Maite from 9:30a.m.-12:00nn. Lou Mesa mentions that ACT is also having their meeting and election this Saturday.
- D. **ABLE Act**. Lou announced that the ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act has just been signed into law. This new law will allow people with disabilities, to open a special account, where they can save up to 100,000 without risking eligibility for social security and other government programs. Individuals can keep their Medicare coverage. Interest on the savings will be tax-free. Funds can be used to pay education, healthcare, housing, and other expenses. Eligible members must have a condition that occurred before the age of 26.
- E. **Mini Deaf Expo** on March 21st. Kirsten is inviting people to put out a display during the Expo, which will be held at GCC. She will be sending formal invitations to the Council. She added that May is Deaf Awareness month.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:57PM. Next Meeting: April 21, 2015, 3:30-5:00PM