Assistive Technology & Developmental Disabilities

A Regional Center Perspective
NASDDDS

June 7, 2012
Sacramento, California
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Assistive Technology Consultant

- Assistive Technology Consultant
- California Assistive Technology Network (2006-09) Director and Manager
- Center for Accessible Technology (2010-11) Curriculum Development
- FDLRC Assistive Technology Project (1998-2005) Founding Director
- Development Advisor, ADAPT; Mumbai (2012–)
- Parent
Presenters

Rose Chacana

*Director, Koch-Young Resource Center; Lanterman Regional Center*

- FDLRC Assistive Technology Program, Director (2006-present)
- Los Angeles Assistive Technology Collaborative, Chairperson
- Early Intervention, Regional Manager, FDLRC (2003-2006)
- Early Intervention Service Coordinator, FDLRC (1998-2001)
- Parent
A SHARED EXPERIENCE

Vision • Commitment • Partnership • Flexibility
## Timeline: Identify Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Need</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Increased requests from families for AT information, referrals, consultations and service delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Recognition of AT needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families and the lack of AT resources and referrals within the Lanterman Regional Center catchment area</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Community meetings held for Lanterman Regional Center families and consumers to provide input regarding AT needs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Timeline: Getting Started

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1998</th>
<th>PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Performance incentive funds utilized for AT consultation services from the Center for Applied Rehabilitation Technology (CART) and the Computer Access Center (CAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$30K award from Union Bank to develop an on-site AT program as part of Lanterman’s Koch-Young Family Resource Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Assistive Technology Task Force establishes a family- and person-centered AT service delivery model</td>
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### Timeline: Capacity & Partnership Building

1998 – 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTNERSHIPS</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Computer Lab</strong></td>
<td>• E-Tree, Inc. donation for a ten-networked computer lab;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Joe Fitzpatrick, parent)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instruction</strong></td>
<td>• LAUSD District Division of Adult Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>University Centers for Excellence in DD</strong></td>
<td>• USC UCEDD Tech for Tots project—a professional development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>program for children and their families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Technology Centers</strong></td>
<td>• Tom Bradley Youth &amp; Family Center and its DigiKids &amp; Teens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusive summer enrichment program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communication &amp; Language Development</strong></td>
<td>• Craneleith Foundation awards grant to develop Language,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communication and Technology Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Inclusion (Circle of Support)</strong></td>
<td>• California Consumer Protection Foundation grant to foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusion and partnerships with local community technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>centers and organizations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Timeline: Evolution of Service Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005 – 2012</th>
<th>SERVICE PROVISION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>• AT services contracted with outside UCEED at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and program evolves into a more traditional clinical service delivery model</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>• RFP for comprehensive AT services program, resulting in contract with Assistive Technology Exchange Center (ATEC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>• California Consumer Protection Foundation grant to increase AT education and awareness with community partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>• First Los Angeles AT Collaborative invitational meeting in 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>• LAATC members include: Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena school districts, California Children’s Services, L.A. County Public Health, ATEC- Goodwill, AT Network, Junior Blind Foundation, Independent Living Centers, Lanterman Regional Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LRC ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Evolving vision and mission
Goals

1. Facilitate staff development to build internal support for the ATP
2. Maintain partnerships with local school districts, funding sources, and community partners to build external support for ATP
3. Conduct educational workshops and webinars to raise awareness about AT on-site and online
4. Expand the collection of assistive and augmentative communication devices, equipment and software in the lending library
AT Service Delivery & Process

- AT Evaluations
- AT Trials
- AT Lending Library
- Procurement
- Training
- Follow-up
- Users Group
Focus Areas

Assessment
- Identification of needs
- Matching needs and preferences with appropriate assistive technology

Communication
- Low- to high-tech
- Augmentative Alternate Communication (AAC)

Transition
- Higher education
- Work or vocational training
- Independent Living Skills
AAC Users Group

Monthly AAC Users Group provides opportunities to share experiences and communication strategies, including:

• Personal stories
• E-mail and telecommunication
• Trouble-shooting
• Pros and cons of using a communication device
Technology Evolves As Needs Change

Technology changes
- Technology constantly changing
- Upgrades and Interoperability
- Some AT becomes obsolete

Users needs change
- Technical skills and abilities
- Personal goals
- Environment and settings
  - Home
  - School
  - Work
  - Community
Circle of Support

• Provides an informal and ongoing level of training and technical assistance

• Encourages skill development, self-reliance, confidence and advocacy

• Includes family, friends, AT vendors and service providers.
AT Abandonment

Rate of abandonment reported as high as 75%*

- Not well matched to the individual need
- Little or no training provided
- Families not accepting
- School or workplace not accepting
- Primary factor is the failure to consider user opinions and preferences in selection

*Living in the State of Stuck: How Technology Impacts the Lives of People with Disabilities; Scherer, M. J. (1996).*
LAAT COLLABORATIVE

Sharing resources, information and referrals
LAAT Collaborative

Mission

• To assist the local community in understanding and accessing the supports and services of various agencies to obtain assistive technology for individuals with disabilities to increase independence across their lifespan.

Membership

• Over 20 representatives from the county-wide AT community including school districts, government agencies, AT and healthcare professionals, teachers, and community-based organizations.
LAATC Collaborative Partners

- Opportunities for community partners to discuss issues, concerns and upcoming trends
- Review policy and procedures among community partners
- Review referral process and provision of services among school districts, agencies, and community-based organizations
THE BARRIERS
Access, attitudes, expectations
Barriers to Assistive Technology

Relevance
• Many people do not recognize the benefits of AT
• Vast number of available AT products is often overwhelming

Accessibility
• An estimated 70% of population unaware of AT and available AT services
• Public access to opportunities and resources are limited or do not exist
• Lack of resources; Medical Necessity (Health Care requirements)
• Lack of AT specialists in the field of OT, Speech, Rehabilitation

Funding
• Affordability is a primary barrier for people with disabilities
• Ongoing expenses of maintaining and upgrading AT are hidden costs and barriers
Barriers to Assistive Technology

Expectations
• Low-expectations at home, in school, at the workplace, and in the community
• Managing parental expectations and preconceived notions (e.g., iPad)

AT & Digital Literacy
• Lack of awareness and training for AT and digital literacy skills
• Lack of on-going training beyond core competency levels

Interoperability
• Compatibility between assistive and mainstream technologies
THE POSSIBILITIES

Creating opportunities and enhancing quality of life
It’s Always An Adventure

Mara Sullivan
Work Inc. 2009 Consumer of the Year
Broadband Access & Adoption

The Mehta Family

Burbank to Mumbai
Gate Opener

Zebreda Dunham
Zebreda Makes It Work!
Virtual Inclusion

Rodney Richard III
THE FUTURE

Today’s vision, tomorrow’s reality
California Telehealth Broadband Grant

UCP L.A. Independent Living Apartments eHealth Proposal

With high-speed Internet access, residents would become better informed consumers of healthcare. The grant proposal included:

• Basic digital literacy skill development
• Use of email and mobile technologies to enhance communication with healthcare professionals and service coordinators
• Online access to information regarding medication, consultations, personal medical records and online chat and support group communities

Disability eHealth Network
RESOURCES

National • Regional • Local
Resources

• **Koch-Young Resource Center**  
  Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center  
  3303 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 700  
  Los Angeles, CA 90010  
  213-383-1300  
  kyr@lanterman.org  
  www.lanterman.org  
  www.lanterman.org/assistive_technology

• **Assistive Technology Exchange Center (ATEC)**  
  1601 East St. Andrew Place  
  Santa Ana, CA 92705  
  (714) 361-6200  
  atec@ocgoodwill.org  
  www.atec-oc.org

• **AT Network**  
  800-390-2699  
  800-900-0706 TTY  
  www.atnet.org

• **Family Center on Technology & Disability**  
  1825 Connecticut Ave.  
  Washington, DC 20009  
  202-884-8068  
  www.fctd.info

• **AbleData**  
  Comprehensive online database of assistive technology products and rehabilitation equipment  
  www.abledata.com
QUESTIONS & COMMENTS
For more information about the Lanterman Regional Center Assistive Technology Program please visit our exhibit booth.

Thank you!