



Minutes

March 2020 PPAIC Meeting

📅 Tue March 17th, 2020

🕒 11:00am - 12:00pm EDT

📍 Teleconference

👥 In Attendance

Thom DeLilla, Janet Good, Whitney Harris, Jennifer Perry-Breen, Isabelle Potts

I. Opening

The March 2020 PPAIC Meeting was opened by Mr. Thom DeLilla.

a. **Verbal Authorization to Begin Recording**

No member presented an issue with the meeting being recorded.

b. **Call to Order**

Mr. DeLilla called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM.

c. **Roll Call**

PPAIC Members in Attendance: Mr. Thom DeLilla, Ms. Isabelle Potts, and Ms. Janet Good

Non-Committee Members in Attendance: Ms. Jennifer Perry-Breen

Staff in Attendance: Ms. Whitney Harris and Mr. Eric Reed

Members of the Public: Ms. Cheri Hofmann and Mr. Jesse Hansen

d. **Establishment of Quorum**

A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Agenda

Mr. DeLilla presented the agenda for the March 2020 PPAIC Meeting.

a. **Category: Standing Item**

b. **Attachments: March 2020 PPAIC Meeting Agenda**

c. **Public Comment on any Agenda Item**

No public comment was made.

d. **Modifications to Agenda**

1. **The Committee will hear any modifications to the agenda under Agenda Item VII.**

No modifications were made to the agenda.

e. **ACTION NEEDED**

Decision: Mr. DeLilla motioned to approve the March 2020 PPAIC Meeting Agenda.

Ms. Isabelle Potts seconded the motion.

The motion passed without dissent.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. DeLilla presented the minutes from the February 2020 PPAIC Meeting.

a. **Category: Standing Item**

b. **Attachments**

1. **February 2020 PPAIC Meeting Minutes**

c. **ACTION NEEDED**

Decision: Mr. DeLilla motioned to approve the February 2020 PPAIC Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Potts seconded the motion.

The motion passed without dissent.

IV. **Presentations of Interagency Representatives**

Mr. DeLilla asked for the Interagency PPAIC members to present what their agency is doing in regards to assistive technology.

a. **Category: Old Business**

b. **Attachments:**

1. **2018-2019 Assistive Technology Report**

[Link to Report](#)

c. **Purpose/Statement**

1. **In the February 2020 PPAIC meeting, the Chair requested more information on the state agencies' role in assistive technology. This is an opportunity for the state representatives on the ATAC to share what programs and services they offer involving assistive technology.**

2. **Agencies Represented on ATAC: Florida Independent Living Council: Thom DeLilla, Division of Blind Services: awaiting confirmation, Department of Education: Janet Good, Agency for Persons with Disabilities: Karen Hagan, Department of Economic Opportunity: Isabelle Potts, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: Milagros Rios.**

Ms. Janet Good gave a brief overview of some information about the Department of

Education and what they do to use collaboration and awareness to build relationships for stronger networks for parents and students. Ms. Good presented the end of the year report for 2018-2019 from the Department of Education (DOE). They currently have over 700 patrons that have access to borrow assistive technology (AT) from their loan library. These individuals are teachers, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, or designated personnel who are from other discretionary projects in the state, which could include the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities and the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource. They have over 7,000 devices in their loan library.

DOE strives to get more data on who is supported through the loan library. They do this through surveys that look to understand who is borrowing and what the impact is for their students. They can see the different types of disability of student that are serviced by the loan library. DOE's goal is to give students the opportunity to access the general curriculum. Every school district has Assistive Technology Specialist, but 20 years ago DOE funded five Regional Local Assistive Technology Specialists that serve the smaller rural districts. These specialists support the implementation of AT in the schools. They categorize their device loans by training and resources and by student. The data on the report breaks down their device loans by district. Students with autism are the highest category of students using these services through DOE.

DOE does a "AT in the Classroom" training that includes 120 pieces of AT that is grounded in curriculum. There are six stations that look into how to integrate AT. They have three full sets of these kits. DOE offers a four day training on environmental communication teaching. This is a train the trainer program that teaches individuals how to use AT for student who are non verbal.

Ms. Pott was the next to describe what the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) does with AT. They don't generally have anything that provides AT support but they do have situations in which they can help individuals gain access to their AT. The first situation is through natural disasters, such as hurricanes. DEO can assist people with repairing or replacing any AT or medical devices that have been damaged due to the hurricanes. This is through a grant with the US Department of Labor. DEO received \$1 million for this grant program and it runs out at the end of September for Hurricane Maria and Irma. They have about a half a million dollars left in that fund.


The second program is Rebuild Florida that is an initiative funded by the Housing and Urban Development agency (HUD). This program allows repair to low income housing that was damaged by the hurricanes. The Hurricane Irma Rebuild Florida project is in full swing and the Hurricane Michael program is just starting. For this program, the only AT or medical devices that can be replaced are those that are fixtures. So they must be affixed to a building or the ground.

Their third program is through their career services that helps individuals who are looking to become employed. The money received by DEO is passed through to 24 local workforce development boards. These boards are independent and decide how they are going to spend their money. They can provide supportive services where they could help with buying AT with their clients. The fourth program with DEO is through Community Action agencies which receive money from DEO. And these agencies can provide AT for the individuals that they serve.

Mr. DeLilla then shared what his role is for the Florida Independent Living Council (FILC). He said that his primary task is to try to coordinate some efforts and make

sure that people are knowledgeable about all of the resources out there and to make sure information gets to the people it is intended to get to. FILC oversees the State Plan for Independent Living, which is a three year plan that addresses the issues that are most important to people who have disabilities around the state. Ms. Whitney Harris added that FILC falls under the Administration for Community Living, which is the same federal agency that FFAST belongs to. Ms. Harris sits on FILC with Mr. DeLilla. Through her work on FILC, Ms. Harris represents youth on the board of the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living and has used these organizations to promote services for youth who have disabilities. FILC has been partnering with the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living on the Florida Youth Leadership Forum. This forum brings together high school students who have disabilities that come together from around the state in July every year. Ms. Potts recommends that DEO or CareerSource Capital Region could present to the youth at the Youth Leadership Forum. Mr. DeLilla recommends committee members check out FILC's website, which has the survey for the State Plan for Independent Living.

d. **Assign Actions as Needed**

Task: Mr. DeLilla requests that Ms. Harris introduce Ms. Potts to Ms. Beth Meyer of the Florida Independent Living Council and Ms. Jane Johnson with the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living.  Whitney Harris 04/21/2020

V. **Old Business**

Mr. DeLilla asked FFAST staff for an update on old business items.

a. **Category: Old Business**

b. **Purpose/Statement**

1. **Update on Medicaid School Concurrence**

Ms. Harris stated that FFAST has not heard back from the remaining regional centers on their view of the Medicaid School Concurrence issue.

2. **Update on FTRI Statute Change**

Ms. Harris stated that there has been no action on this but that she reminded Mr. Eric Reed before this call that this needs to be done.

3. **Items Tabled (until a strategic plan has been created): Revising FFAST Statute 413.407 and creating an Assistive Technology Trust Fund**

c. **Actions Assigned as Needed**

No action items were assigned.

VI. **Task Report**

Mr. DeLilla asked Ms. Harris to update PPAIC on the action item reports.

a. **Category: Standing Item**

b. **Attachments**

1. **Task Report**

c. **Purpose/Statement**

1. **This agenda item is to inform the Committee of actions taken to complete items on the Task Report.**

Ms. Harris read the two items on the task list and stated that they were in progress but had not been completed.

d. **Assign Actions as Needed**

No action items were assigned.

VII. **Agenda Modifications**

a. **From Agenda II d.**

No modifications were made to the agenda.

VIII. **Closing**

Mr. DeLilla closed the March 2020 PPAIC Meeting.

a. **Last Call for Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

b. **Next Meeting**

1. **Date and Time**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 | 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

2. **GoToMeeting Information**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/954709653>

3. **Toll-free number and Access Code**

United States: +1 (571) 317-3117

Access Code: 954-709-653

c. **Adjourn**

Decision: The March PPAIC Meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM.

Ms. Potts motioned to adjourn the March 2020 PPAIC Meeting.

Ms. Good seconded the motion.

The motion passed without dissent.