



# April 2022 Public Policy and Advocacy Committee

## Minutes

April 11th, 2022

3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

### 1. Opening

Mr. Enrique Escallon opened the meeting. No member presented an issue with being recorded. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

Members Present: Dr. Betsy Burgos, Mr. Brian Nerland, Mr. Enrique Escallon

Staff Present: Ms. Whitney Doyle

Members of the Public: Ms. Kristi Warren

### 2. Approval of Agenda

No members of the public commented. No modifications were made to the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented by acclimation without any objection.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

No members of the public commented. No modifications were made to the minutes. The March 2022 Public Policy and Advocacy Meeting Minutes were approved as presented by acclimation without any objection.

### 4. 2022 Dr. Frederick Haynes Legislator of the Year Awards | Whitney Doyle

Ms. Whitney Doyle reviewed the history of the legislator of the year award. Mr. Escallon was a member of the ATAC during the inception of the legislator of the year award. He explains there was a selection committee, and the selection was based on the who sponsored a FAAST legislative priority. Ms. Doyle recommends Sen. Pizzo and both Reps. Tant and Salzman. The committee agrees by acclimation without objection. The committee would like to Ms. Doyle to send the ATAC the legislator email address so the ATAC can send thank you notes.



#### 5. Discuss Potential 2023 Legislative Priorities

Mr. Escallon explains that most likely our legislative priorities for 2023 will be federal. He recommends inviting legislative candidates to their local RDC's before the primary elections.

#### 6. Action Items

The Committee is on track with the 2020 strategic plan year 2.

#### 7. Closing

Next Meeting- May 9th, 2022, at 3:00 pm. No other public comment. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.



## FAAST FY23 Proposed Legislative Priorities

### State – \$305,585 General Revenue funding request

- Continues FY22 state funding request from \$444,415 to \$750,000
- This funding will be used to expand/increase funding for the assistive technology programs.

### Federal – Assistive Technology Act Reauthorization

- 17 years since the AT Act was last authorized.
- Senate:
  - The Senate introduced a reauthorization bill and it was passed out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in August of 2021 – S. 2401, *The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Assistive Technology Act*.
  - **Ask:** Request the Senate to take up this bill for consideration and pass it this legislative session.
- House:
  - Explain there is a bill reauthorizing the Assistive Technology Act in the Senate – S. 2401, *The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Assistive Technology Act*.
  - **Ask:** Request the House to introduce a mirror/companion bill to S. 2401, move it forward and pass it.

### Federal – Fully Fund State AT Act Programs

- Using the ATAP Return on Investment Document, the AT Act is a federal investment of \$29.5 million for the State AT Grantees, this investment yields over \$65.08 million in benefits and savings (in FY2021).
- The AT Act is facing a reauthorization and in addition to sincerely needing additional funding, it is imperative the programs' actual funding levels increase as they are essential when determining the authorization levels in the updated – reauthorized - AT Act.
  - Therefore, we are asking to increase the overall allocation so the starting point for the updated authorized level, at minimum,



mirrors the rate of inflation over the past 17 years (which is how long it has been since it was last reauthorized) and also allows for programs to address the full range of needs at the state level.



# Public Policy and Advocacy Committee

## Strategic Plan 2020 – Goal Tracking Year 2

Strategic Issue 2, Objective 6 - By September 30, 2021, September 30, 2022, and September 30, 2023, create annual legislative priorities to implement within the strategic plan.

Strategy 6-1: Legislative priorities drafted and approved by PPAC

- Due: By June 2022, FY 2023 Legislative Priorities will be approved by ATAC.
- Staff Assigned: Whitney Doyle

Actions:

- IN PROGRESS Determine appropriate legislative priorities for FY23.
  - 3/21/2022 Draft priorities for next session
  - 4/11/2022 Continued review of draft priorities by PPAC
- NOT STARTED Send priorities to be reviewed by VR/DOE.
- NOT STARTED Create plan to bring awareness to priorities.

Strategic Issue 2, Objective 9 - By September 30, 2022, FFAST will research and establish an updated service delivery model for Regional Reuse Centers.

Strategy: Report findings from service delivery model research to FL legislators to develop or support legislative priorities.

- Due: 9/30/2022
- Staff Assigned: Whitney Doyle & Hannah Brock

Actions:

- IN PROGRESS Service Delivery Committee results to be presented to PPAC.
  - 4/11/2022 Service Delivery Committee still drafting Reuse program evaluation and proposed new model
- NOT STARTED Incorporate results into monthly legislator messaging.