



# February 2023 Technology Awareness Committee

## Minutes

February 6<sup>th</sup> 2023  
2:00-3:00 p.m. EST

### 1. Opening

Mr. Brian Nerland opened the meeting. No member presented an issue with being recorded. The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm.

Members Present: Mr. Brian Nerland, Ms. Kailey Medlock, Ms. Lesa Kretschmer, Ms. Angel Perez, Ms. Mary Jarrett.

Staff Present: Ms. Whitney Doyle, Mr. Eric Reed Ms. Hannah Brock

Members of the Public: None

### 2. Approval of Agenda

No members of the public commented. No modifications were made to the agenda. Ms. Lesa Kretschmer made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Kailey Medlock seconded the motion. The agenda was approved without any objection.

### 3. Approval of the Minutes

No modifications were made to the January 2023 Technology Awareness Committee Meeting Minutes. Ms. Medlock made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Kretschmer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without any objection.

### 4. AT Webinar/Training Videos YouTube Metrics Discussion

Ms. Hannah Brock presented the YouTube metrics to the committee. This conversation stemmed from VR concluding that YouTube views do not count as trainings. She shared the metrics. The videos created by an RDC are counted toward their deliverables. She adds that we can use the videos as trainings if we can get more demographic information by adding a short survey at the end of each



video. The headquarter staff time this would take to create and edit video is very high. Another option would be to contract it out. The committee discussed the cost of making this worthwhile. Ms. Medlock would like quotes for content editing.

#### 5. Action Items

For this year this Committee has one strategic goal; to have a statewide presence as the primary resource for assistive technology.

Mr. Nerland reviews the strategic goal for this committee.

#### 6. Closing

Next Meeting – Monday, March 6, 2023, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

No public comment was made. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.



# Technology Awareness Committee

Strategic Plan 2020 – Goal Tracking Year 3

Strategic Issue 1, Objective 3 - By September 30, 2023, have a statewide presence as the primary resource for Assistive Technology.

Strategy: Utilize a network of people, ATAC members, partners, center staff, etc. that are knowledgeable on FAAST services to position FAAST as AT resource leader.

- Due: 9/30/2023
- Staff Assigned: Whitney Doyle

Actions:

- IN PROGRESS - Strategy 3-5: Create digital one-page marketing “flyers” to promote FAAST, financial loan program, and specific devices that gear towards transition aged students (in collaboration with Interagency Committee).
  - RRC/AT Reutilization Program
  - Financial Loan Program (brochure, posters/decals, hearing-specific materials, name change?)
  - AT Transition Material (from Interagency Committee)
  - Disaster Preparedness Material (webpage?)
  - Accessible Voting Material (webpage?)
    - 1/04/2023 TAC discussed plan for marketing materials. Goal is to complete these items by the end of FY23.





## Florida's Assistive Technology Financial Loan Program

### What is FAAST?

The Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the state's Assistive Technology program, providing numerous AT-related services to individuals with disabilities statewide, including a financial loan program.

### What is the FAAST Financial Loan Program?

FAAST has created a hearing aid loan program to help you serve more clients with better interest rates, and easy-to-understand terms, with a personal touch others don't provide. The program is open to all Floridians who need assistance with any products or services your office provides.

### Why Refer Clients to the Program?

- Low, fixed interest rate. No surprise interest payments or unexpected payment increases.
- Serve more clients through underwriting criteria that is more flexible than other programs
- Personal relationships with our borrowers, we offer support through the entire loan term.

### Program Details

- Online or paper application
- No Income requirements
- Not a last resort program
- Terms to meet clients payment needs
- Same-day approvals for qualified borrowers
- Personal connection with your office

## Give Your Clients a New Option and Start Using the FAAST Loan Program Today

Scan the code for the application



Eric Reed, Program Director  
[ereed@faast.org](mailto:ereed@faast.org)  
850-487-3278, ext 104

## FRONT

[Title] Reuse | Refurbish | Exchange | Donate

Looking for durable medical equipment or assistive technology devices at low or no cost? Organizations around the state accept donated devices, then clean, repair, and refurbish the items to go back into the community at no cost to individuals who needs an assistive device.

Visit the FAAST Classified Ads to see what devices are available in your area.

[add link to Classifieds]

Devices and equipment can be posted by individuals or organization to be donated or sold in their communities. Have a device you'd like to donate? Post it on the FAAST Classifieds or contact your local FAAST reuse partner today!

**Commented [WD1]:** Maybe adding the three arrow/triangle recycling symbol?

## BACK

What types of devices are reused?

- Manual and powered wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Hospital beds

**Commented [WD2]:** Let's provide a list of the top 8 or so items reused from NATADS

FAAST provides grants to local organizations to recycle, refurbish, and exchange devices and equipment. To locate your nearest FAAST supported recycling location, please call us Toll-Free at 1-844-353-2278 or visit our website using the QR code below.

**Commented [WD3]:** Not sure about this language

FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR ASSISTIVE SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY

**Commented [WD4]:** Can be removed if needed for space

info@FAAST.org | FAAST.org  
Toll-Free 1-844-FL-FAAST (353-2278)  
TTY: (877) 506-2723  
Fax: (850) 575-4216



# FAAST Events List

FY 2023

## Upcoming Events (6)

### Make m Smile

- 5/6/2023 in Orlando, FL
- Hosted by Nathaniel's Hope
- Exhibiting: ARDC

### Florida Prosperity Partnership Annual Training Conference

- 5/31-6/02/2023 in Orlando FL
- Hosted by Florida Prosperity Partnership
- Attending / Presenting: Eric Reed

### The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Café

- 6/09-11/2023 in Orlando, FL
- Hosted by The Family Café
- Exhibiting (2 booths): Hannah Brock, Eric Reed, Marquesas Blimes, and Tim McCann
- Two presentations

### 2023 FLASHA Annual Convention

- 7/13-16/2023 in Orlando, FL
- Hosted by Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists
- Exhibiting- Eric Reed, TBD

### The 15<sup>th</sup> International CHARGE Syndrome Conference

- 7/20-23/2023 in Orlando, FL
- Hosted by The Charge Syndrome Foundation
- Exhibiting- Tim McCann, TBD

### Florida Academy of Audiology Annual Convention

- 8/2-4/2023 in Orlando, FL
- Hosted by Florida Academy of Audiology
- Exhibiting- Eric Reed





## Potential Events (1)

### Florida Conference on Aging 2023

- 8/7-9/2023 in Orlando, FL
- Hosted by Florida Council on Aging
- Presentation and Exhibiting- TBD

## Past Events (13)

### Rotary Club of Tallahassee Northside

- 10/06/2022 in Tallahassee, FL
- Hosted by Rotary Club of Tallahassee Northside
- Presenting: FFAST Information and Services by Whitney Doyle

### Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) Annual Conference

- 10/13-10/16/2022 in Altamonte Springs, Florida
- Hosted by the SERID
- Exhibiting: Tim McCann and NERDC staff

### Florida Partners in Policy Making

- 10/22/2022 in Orlando (FAAST presenting virtually)
- Hosted by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
- Presenting: What is FFAST by Marquesas Blimes

### The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Exceptional Employer Awards Expo

- 10/24/2022 in Tallahassee, FL
- Hosted by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Exhibiting: Whitney Doyle, Tim McCann, and Marquesas Blimes

### Florida Rehabilitation Council Meeting

- 10/25/2022 in Tampa (FAAST presenting virtually)
- Hosted by the Florida Rehabilitation Council
- Presenting: FFAST Information and Services by Whitney Doyle

### Florida Occupational Therapy Association 2022 Annual Conference

- 11/5-11/6/2022 in Clearwater, Florida
- Hosted by FOTA





- Exhibiting: Whitney Doyle and Tim McCann

#### The O&P Check-in: An SPS Podcast

- 11/2022 Virtual podcast recording
- Hosted by SPS
- Presenting: AT Act and FAAST Services by Whitney Doyle
- Live December 2022

#### Audio ABLE Podcast

- 11/2022 Virtual podcast recording
- Hosted by ABLE United
- Presenting: FAAST Services by Whitney Doyle
- Live December 2022

#### FAVI Advisory Board Meeting

- 12/09/2022 held virtually.
- Hosted by the Florida and Virgin Islands DeafBlind Collaborative
- Presenting: FAAST Services and Locations by Whitney Doyle

#### Florida DeafBlind Association State Meeting 2023

- 2/25/2023 in Gainesville, FL
- Hosted by the Florida DeafBlind Association
- Exhibiting: Tim McCann

#### Developmental Disability Awareness Day 2023

- 3/14/2023 in FL Capitol, 2<sup>nd</sup> FL Rotunda
- Hosted by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
- Exhibiting: Tim McCann & Marquesas Blimes

#### SportsAbility Expo

- 3/23-25/2023 in Tallahassee, FL
- Hosted by SportsAbility Alliance
- Exhibiting: Marquesas Blimes and Tim McCann

#### Florida Children's Week

- 3/28/2023 in Tallahassee FL



- Hosted by The Children's Forum
- Exhibiting (1 booth): Marquesas Blimes & Tim McCann

## What does the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST) do?

The mission of FAAST is to improve the quality of life for Floridians with disabilities by increasing access to assistive technology through empowerment and collaboration.

### Who can benefit from our services?

- Individuals with disabilities of all ages
- Family members, guardians, and authorized representatives
- Representatives of:
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Health, Allied Health, and Rehabilitation
  - Community Living
  - Technology

### What is assistive technology?

Assistive technology (A.T.) is any device, item, gadget, tool, hardware, or software that an individual who has a disability would use to perform tasks or activities independently. The term “assistive technology” actually applies to everything from post-it notes to mobility devices, as long as it assists the individual.

### Contact a Local Center:

To locate your nearest Regional Demonstration or Reuse Center, please call us Toll-Free at 1-844-353-2278 or visit our website using the QR code below.



## FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR ASSISTIVE SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY

[info@FAASTinc.org](mailto:info@FAASTinc.org) | [FAAST.org](http://FAAST.org)  
#Here2Help

820 E Park Ave, D-200  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
Toll-Free 1-844-FL-FAAST (353-2278)  
TTY: (877) 506-2723  
Fax: (850) 575-4216



Services Provided at NO Cost

Visit [FAAST.org](http://FAAST.org) to Learn More



## **FAAST Programs and Services:**

### **Public Awareness and Training:**

FAAST provides assistive technology awareness presentations and detailed training on assistive technology devices and services to keep Floridians up-to-date on the resources available.

**Information and Assistance:** FAAST can answer questions related to assistive technology devices & services.

### **Device Demonstrations:**

FAAST provides assistive technology device comparisons to help Floridians make informed decisions. The opportunity to compare devices ensures that the proper devices are chosen for individuals.

### **Short-Term Device Loans:**

FAAST has a variety of assistive technology devices that can be borrowed at no cost to the individual. These short-term loans help individuals decide the most appropriate device to purchase and can also be used as short-term accommodations.

### **Device Reuse/Reutilization:**

FAAST recycles used assistive technology devices and durable medical equipment to get these items out of closets and into the community.

## **Financial Loans:**

FAAST has an alternative financing program that gives individuals who have disabilities the option to purchase assistive technology devices and services through low-interest rate financial loans.

### **How to receive FAAST services:**

**Regional Demonstration Centers:** FAAST Regional Demonstration Centers (R.D.C.)

are a great resource and provide a number of assistive technology services to specific regions of Florida. R.D.C.s provides assistive technology training, device demonstrations, short-term device loans, and provides information and assistance activities.

### **Regional Reuse Centers:**

FAAST Regional Reuse Centers (R.R.C.) support assistive technology through durable medical equipment recycling and refurbishment. The R.R.C.s accept used equipment donations then clean, repair, and refurbish the items to go back into the community at no cost to individuals who need an assistive device.

## **What types of devices are available from FAAST?**

Our A.T. devices assist individuals with many activities including:

- Vision
- Hearing
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition, and Development
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications & Transportation
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports, Leisure



**FAAST.org**

TAC Committee  
Strategic Plan Tracking

<b>Category</b>	<b>Complete?</b>	<b>Digital Needed?</b>	<b>Printable Needed?</b>	<b>Website Update Needed?</b>	<b>Website Page Needed?</b>
-----------------	------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

**ReUse**  
**Financial Loan**  
**AT Transition (IA committee)**  
**Disaster Preparedness**  
**Accessible Voting**



## Notes