Assistive Technology: A Resource for Long-Term Care Options Counseling

Long-Term Care Options Counseling Tool Kit:

A PROFESSIONAL’S GUIDE
Webcast: Assistive Technology: A Resource for Long-Term Care Options Counseling

Competency/skill - Provide helpful information and resources in the area of assistive technology

Objectives:

1. Define assistive technology.
2. Describe resources that can help promote safety in the home.
3. Provide information on where consumers can locate helpful information and support.
4. Describe common issues and strategies for helping consumers deal with these issues.
5. Identify devices that are used to support individuals with sensory disabilities.

Sample discussion questions:

1. During the webcast Ralph Pelky and Holly Laux-O’Higgins described the WisTech program. What are key features of the program and how can people access it?
2. What is durable medical equipment and how do people access it?
3. People may need financial assistance to purchase assistive technology, discuss what WisLoan can do to help?
4. What agencies may be helpful for people who could benefit from assistive technology?
Assistive Technology:

A Resource
For Long Term Care
Options Counseling

Assistive Technology (AT)

• Definition: Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially or off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.
WisTech

- Wisconsin’s Assistive Technology program
- Funded under Federal AT Act
- Device Loan program
- Device Demonstrations
- Equipment Reutilization
- Alternative Financing (WisLoan)

Devices for Sensory Disabilities

- Visual magnifiers, closed circuit TVs, talking devices, audio text materials
- Computer access devices/software
  - Large display, voice output, voice recognition
- Hearing aids, Assistive Listening Devices
  - Most effective when assessment is done by audiologist
Devices for Safety

- (When Individual can initiate their own response)
  - Calling for help via phone
  - Automatic dialing
  - Voice activated calls
  - Cell phones with programmed numbers

Safety

- Lifeline type services
- Personal emergency response phone
- Other monitoring
  - Listening devices
  - Wireless doorbell
  - Video camera
Monitoring

- To keep track of movements, personal space issues.
- Wanderguard type devices
- Monitors for movement, standing up, etc.
- Global positioning devices

Privacy

- Phones
  - Caller ID
  - Call Blocking of Certain numbers
  - Contact PSC for Annoyance Call Bureau
- Doors and Security
  - Security systems
  - Keyless door locks
  - Peep holes
  - Phone Video at entry
Durable Medical Equipment - DME

- Includes Assistive Technology that is “Medically Necessary”
- Policy Limitations by program
- Medical Necessity differs by state, federal, private providers

Who Supplies DME?

- Medical Equipment Vendors, Pharmacies, Rehab Clinics, Hospital Outpatient
  - Usually requires Prior Authorization (PA)
  - Most items can be obtained without PA for Rental (60 days)
- Consider used equipment (Wheelchair Recycling Program)
Other Resources

• Independent Living Centers
• Catalogs, on-line resources
• TEPP funding to access phone services
• WisLoan to obtain financing for purchase of equipment

Independent Living Centers

• Provide individual assistance regarding selecting, trying-out many AT devices
• Direct consumers to manufacturers and funding sources
• 8 ILCs are located throughout the state
  – http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/physical/ILCs.htm
Wheelchair Recycling Program

http://www.wrp.org/

- Recycled, repaired, and cleaned DME for purchase.
- Wheelchairs, hospital beds, lifts, bath equipment.
- An option for persons who are not covered by Medicaid/Medicare or desire back-up equipment.
- Lower cost for institutional equipment.

WisLoan as a Funding Option

- Wisconsin’s Alternative Financing Program
- Helping people with disabilities to purchase assistive technology (AT)
How Loan Board Decides

- Application is anonymous
- Credit history
- Credit score
- Monthly income/expenses
- Does the requested item meet AT definition?
- Is it likely that the consumer will pay back the loan?

Loan Process

- Consumer contacts their ILC
- Meet with ILC staff, discuss AT and make application
- Application is reviewed at monthly WisLoan Board meeting
- Decision – approve, deny, ask for more info
WisLoan – What does our experience Indicate?

• Applicants – Persons with Disabilities
  – Live on low incomes
  – willing to take on unrealistic financial obligations to get what they want.
• Misinformation, limited choices, lack of information, resources regarding available technologies and funding
• Serious need for financial literacy and credit/fraud abuse information to avoid costly financial alternatives
• Greatest AT need is for personal transportation due to disability and lack of options.

AT Requested

• Vehicles or Vehicle Modifications 54%
• Home Modifications 13%
• Hearing Aids 11%
• Computers 6%
• Other items...visual aid, chair lift, daily living aids, etc.
Helpful Information

- WisLoan website
  [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wischniech/wisloan.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wischniech/wisloan.htm)
- WI Department of Financial Institutions
- UW Extension Family Living – Financial management
  [http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/economics/management.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/economics/management.cfm)

Contact Information

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- Ralph Pelkey
  WisTech AT Specialist
- (608) 267-9091
- [pelkerj@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:pelkerj@dhfs.state.wi.us)
| **WisTech** 608-267-9091 | **Wisconsin Assistive Technology Program**
http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/index.htm |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|

**Assistive Technology Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>URL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AbleData</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abledata.com">http://www.abledata.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AssistiveTech</td>
<td><a href="http://www.assistivetech.net">http://www.assistivetech.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Boulevard – directory of AT providers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.blvd.com/">http://www.blvd.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Rehabilitation Information Center</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naric.com/">http://www.naric.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT user information developed by NIDRR</td>
<td><a href="http://www.techconnections.org/">http://www.techconnections.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selecting AT with user involvement</td>
<td><a href="http://www.usatechguide.org/">http://www.usatechguide.org/</a></td>
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**Assistive Technology Catalogs**

<table>
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<th>Catalog</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT online catalog</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dynamic-living.com">http://www.dynamic-living.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT online catalog</td>
<td><a href="http://www.independentliving.com/">http://www.independentliving.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT online catalog</td>
<td><a href="http://www.maxiaids.com">http://www.maxiaids.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online catalog for low vision devices</td>
<td><a href="http://www.goldviolin.com/">http://www.goldviolin.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telesensory-visual impaired products</td>
<td><a href="http://www.telesensory.com/">http://www.telesensory.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT online catalog for visually impaired</td>
<td><a href="http://www.beyondsight.com">http://www.beyondsight.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT related to Alzheimers patients</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thealzheimersstore.com/">http://www.thealzheimersstore.com/</a></td>
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**Recreational Resources**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>URL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing has no boundaries</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fhnbinc.org/">http://www.fhnbinc.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active travel for persons w disabilities</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/index.html">http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor adaptive equipment</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vulpineadaptive.com">www.vulpineadaptive.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Seals recreation programs</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wi-easterseals.org/">http://www.wi-easterseals.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of blind athletes</td>
<td><a href="http://www.usaba.org/">http://www.usaba.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ski for Light</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfl.org/">http://www.sfl.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI DNR Accessible Recreation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/at/af/open/">http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/at/af/open/</a></td>
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**Vocational Programs**

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>URL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WI Division of Vocational Rehabilitation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr/">http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/">http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Service Animals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>URL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guide Dogs for the blind</td>
<td><a href="http://www.guidedogs.com/">http://www.guidedogs.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader Dogs</td>
<td><a href="http://www.leaderdog.org/">http://www.leaderdog.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeing Eye Dogs</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seeingeye.org/">http://www.seeingeye.org/</a></td>
</tr>
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### Blind/low vision Resources

### Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resources

### Home Modification Resources

### Funding Resources
- VA grants for home modifications: [http://www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.htm](http://www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.htm)
- WisLoan - AT and Home Modifications: [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/wisloan.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/wisloan.htm)

### Professional Associations
- American Speech & Hearing Assoc: [http://www.asha.org/index.cfm](http://www.asha.org/index.cfm)

### State-Federal Disability Agencies
- Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services: [http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/index.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/index.htm)
- Bureau for the Blind: [http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/blind/](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/blind/)
- Bureau for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: [http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/sensory/](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/sensory/)
- Physical Disabilities: [http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Disabilities/Physical/index.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Disabilities/Physical/index.htm)
- Bureau of Community Mental Health: [http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/MH_BCMH/index.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/MH_BCMH/index.htm)
- Wisconsin Medicaid DME Provider Info: [http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/updates/provtype/54medvend.htm#medicaid](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/updates/provtype/54medvend.htm#medicaid)
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Division of Disability & Elder Services
Bureau of Aging & Disability Resources
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