



# Highlights

for January & February 2008

We are pleased to introduce *Highlights*, the email News Brief for the Pass It On Center. We are interested in not only communicating what we have accomplished; but in hearing your impressions, reactions, and questions regarding our activities. Information on how you can contact us, as well as how to opt-out of receiving *Highlights*, will be included in each issue.

We hope this issue of Highlights finds you well. All twelve RSA-funded Model Demonstrations for Assistive Technology Reutilization programs (AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees), members of the Pass It On Center National Task Force, AT Act Programs, and other programs and individuals who have expressed an interest in Center activities will receive a copy of *Highlights* each month.

## I. Recent Pass It On Center Activities

### 1. Participation in ATIA 2008



#### A. ATIA Strand on Reuse

AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees and AT Act Programs presented sessions on AT reutilization to a diverse audience at the ATIA Conference held in Orlando (<http://www.passitoncenter.org/ATIAconference/index.shtml>). The AT Reuse Strand featured the following six workshops and speakers on AT reutilization:

- **AT Reuse and AAC:** **Steve Parker**, Director of Assistive Technology - ALSA of GA, **Debby McBride**, AAC TechConnect, **Judith Meyer**, PRC, **Carson Cochran**, DynaVox, and **Carolyn Phillips**, Director of the Pass It on Center.
- **Designing and Implementing Statewide Equipment Reutilization Programs:** **Beth Mineo**, Delaware; and **Sara Sack**, Kansas
- **AT Reuse and Liability Issues:** **Jessica Brodey**, JMB Policy Associates and member of the National Task Force on Assistive Technology Reutilization
- **Pass It On! Overview of National AT Reuse Center:** **Joy Kniskern**, Pass It On Center Principle Investigator and **Carolyn Phillips**, Pass It On Center Director.
- **AT Reuse and Transition:** **Joe Tedesco**, Director of Tech-Able, Inc. (thanks to Janie Worton, Georgia High School/High Tech Coordinator who co-developed the presentation)
- **So You Want to Start an AT Reuse Program?:** Carolyn Phillips; and four representatives of AT Reuse Demonstration Programs funded by RSA: **Chris Brand** and **Robert Rust** (STAR Network, Georgia), **Carla Walker** (Paraquad, Inc.), and **Dorothy Young** (Project Start, Mississippi).

In addition to being their state's AT Act Program Director and AT Reuse Demonstration Program Director, Sara Sack and Beth Mineo served as AT Act and Pass It On Center strand managers for the Conference. So thank you, Beth and Sara!

At least **39 states and territories were represented** by participants in the AT Reuse Mini-Track and the workshops attracted large and enthusiastic audiences. Several participants stated they came to ATIA specifically to attend the AT Reuse Sessions.

ATIA conducted evaluations of the workshops. We do not have a full report yet of these results. However, a scan of the evaluations of these workshops indicated the high value of the information shared and overall interest in the progress of AT reuse.

#### B. ATIA Vendor Forums and Pass It On Center Exhibit

Over 35 Vendors participated in the Vendor Forum the Pass It On Center hosted at ATIA 2007 so two more were planned for ATIA 2008. Unfortunately, vendors were unable to participate this year due to the event location and time away from the exhibit area.

**Next years plans** call for hosting one or more **vendor breakfasts** or similar events near the exhibit area. The Pass It On Center Team **did meet with 11 vendors** regarding specific AT Reuse questions throughout ATIA.

We were also very pleased by the information table provided by ATIA – strategically located just outside the Exhibition Hall. **Caroline Van Howe**, Director of Programs for ATIA, was a tremendous help in making ATIA 2008 a great success for the Pass It On Center! Thank you, Caroline.

#### C. Meetings with AT Reuse Programs at ATIA

The Pass It On Center team met with representatives from nine states and AT Reuse programs to provide specific TA and address questions on a wide range of issues including marketing, liability, sustainability, and program design.

## **2. Technical Assistance Meetings with AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees**

As you know, in 2006 12 grants for demonstrations of AT reuse were provided to states and non-profits around the country. As we have begun the second year of RSA funding, the Pass It On Center has already met with all 10 of the 12 grantees to discuss their successes and challenges during the second year of their grant. Before making the calls, our goals were to: **1)** learn, in more detail, just how each program fared during their first year, **2)** gauge the success of the technical assistance provided by the Pass It On Center, **3)** determine what technical assistance needs might exist for Year Two, and **4)** to survey interest in a grantee meeting this summer. After speaking with program directors, the Pass It On Center staff can definitely say that our goals have been exceeded.

We want to thank all the directors of RSA's AT Reuse Demonstration Programs who have taken time out at the beginning of Year Two to speak with us. We appreciated the opportunity to learn from you.

Each program has a tremendous story to tell, whether of outright success, or of struggle, learning, and adjustment. We have been so impressed by the passion, creativity, and expertise evident in these programs! We will be summarizing our technical assistance calls so that visitors to our website will have the opportunity to learn of the accomplishments of the AT Reuse Demonstration Programs.

## WEB UPDATE NOTICE

The [www.passitoncenter.org](http://www.passitoncenter.org) website now features new resources!

We will be sending out e-alerts about additions and improvements to the Pass It On Center website. We are building a site that we hope you will regard as a "solutions source." Please check in often to explore!

- NATTAP has *passed on* to the Pass It On Center website the interactive map of the United States and territories that allows users to locate AT services throughout the country. The goal is to have one resource per state listed by September 30, 2008. We are nearly there – with most states having multiple entries. Please check to see if your state is listed, and if not, please enter your information today!
- New additions to the website also include: complete Pass It On Center PowerPoint presentations from ATIA (<http://www.passitoncenter.org/ATIAconference/index.shtml>)
- New "look and feel". Many of the materials formerly available only the RSA-funded grantees will now be accessible to the general public.
- Additional webinar archives have been added. We are also in the process of moving most webinar archives from the password protected area of the website to an area open to non-grantee visitors to the website. This page will be fully populated with in early March (<http://passitoncenter.org/webinars/index.shtml>).

We continue to see a steady increase in the number of unique visits the website gets on a daily basis. Most visitors are spending time listening to our Webinars, finding reuse solutions, and researching resources.

## II. Upcoming Events



### AT REUSE AND POLICY SERIES

*These additional webinars will give participants a chance to structure, share, and discuss policies and practices for AT reuse across all aspects of program operations!*

- ★ March 25 – Guidance on FDA Regulations
- ★ April 22
- ★ May 13
- ★ June 17
- ★ *Additional webinars may be added to the series as needed*

*We are pleased to have Jessica Brodey, in her capacity as consultant to the Pass It On Center and National Task Force member, present this series of special webinars.*

All webinars will be from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM EST  
Open to all AT Reuse Programs

### PASS IT ON CENTER WEBINARS

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| <b>Tuesday, March 25</b> ( <i>First Part of Special Policy Series</i> )<br>Guidance for AT Reuse Programs On the<br>Applicability of the Food, Drug, And Cosmetic Act to Reuse of AT Devices<br>Jessica Brodey, JMB Policy Consultants<br>Audience: AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees & AT Act Programs | 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST |
| <b>Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008</b><br><i>RSA Reporting</i><br>Jeremy Buzzell<br>Audience: AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees Only   | 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST |
| <b>Tuesday, May 20, 2008</b><br>Disaster Preparedness & AT Reuse<br>National Task Force Representative<br>Audience: AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees & AT Act Programs   | 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST |
| <b>Tuesday, June 24, 2008</b><br>Third Party Payer Relationships & AT Reuse<br>National Task Force Representative<br>Audience: AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees & AT Act Programs  | 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST |
| <b>Tuesday, July 29, 2008</b><br>Vendor/Manufacturer Relationships & AT Reuse<br>National Task Force Representative<br>Audience: AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees & AT Act Programs  | 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST |

### **National Task Force Meeting – July 2008 – Washington DC area**

Major initiatives of the NTF participants during 2007 were to:

- discuss and vet definitions of AT reuse activities in an effort to establish common language for all AT reuse programs;
- discuss and determine the structure of NTF Study Groups that will review and make recommendations concerning work done by PIOC staff and contractors on topics of study developed from prioritized technical assistance needs of AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees;
- a checklist of AT reuse policy considerations to help programs mitigate liability (Jessica Brodey, JMB Policy Associates)
- research on the relationship between medical devices as described in the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and AT reuse (Jessica Brodey, JMB Policy Associates);
- meetings with vendors/manufacturers at MedTrade to explore and mitigate their concerns about AT reuse and the role of the Pass It On Center to identify and promulgate successful practices and quality AT reuse services (Rita Hostak, VP of Sunrise Medical).

Most of the Study Groups will be convened again during July to continue work on various AT reuse topics (<http://passitoncenter.org/taskforce.shtml>) to review and make recommendations about the web-based, interactive, AT Reuse Program Development and Implementation Guide currently under development, and to revisit scope of work and priorities for the coming year.

### **Annual Conference of AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees**

The Pass It On Center will host a meeting of RSA-funded AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees in late summer. Almost since our first grantee meeting last year in Denver, we have been asked if we would have another grantee meeting in 2008. Our technical assistance calls with grantees confirmed the overwhelming interest in and support for a meeting. The Pass It On Center surveyed grantees regarding meeting dates in August. The selected meeting dates for RSA-funded Demonstration Program Grantees will be announced in early March.

### **2009 National Conference on AT Reuse**

Various AT Act programs, and all state AT grantees, some vendors and agencies have asked the Pass It On Center to host another major national conference on AT Reuse to explore where we have been, where we are, and where we are going with AT Reuse initiatives in the United States. The National Conference on AT Reuse in May 2006 identified many issues, solutions, and needs for additional research. The proposed conference would take a closer look at successful practices, policies, outcomes, sustainability, and solutions to some of the key issues many AT reuse programs face.

### **AT Reuse Program Development and Implementation Guide**


The Pass It On Center is developing a guide that includes such information as instructions on cleaning and sanitizing specific types of AT, brochures on customer care, and maintenance of specific types of AT. This guide will feature universally designed, interactive products, Users will be able to download and customize many of the products with their program contact information and logos.

This guide, or knowledge base, will act as a multi-media repository of the shared learnings of the AT Reuse Demonstration Programs. This repository will be the core of the Pass It On Center's solution-focused website. Through the website, the knowledge base of these demonstrations will continue to provide encouragement and guidance for programs and individuals long after the 3-year grant period is completed.

RSA Program Specialists, **Jeremy Buzzell** and **Rob Groenendaal**, along with various AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees, previewed a draft of this "guide" at ATIA. AT Reuse Demonstration Grantees and the Pass It On Center National Task Force (NTF) will review these products for changes and approvals before release on the website projected to occur in August 2008. Stay tuned for more information!

### **Guidance for Assistive Technology (AT) Reutilization Programs on the Applicability of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to the Reuse of AT Devices**

Many in the reuse and vendor communities have raised concerns about the implications of FDA regulations for reuse. The Pass It On Center has worked with Jessica Brodey in developing guidance on this issue. This document should be finalized by mid-March 2008. The purpose of the guidance is to clarify various regulations of the FDA concerning the use of "medical devices" and AT reuse activities, and to provide suggestions to ease liability concerns for AT reuse activities.



**Pass It On**  
CENTER ...the National AT Reuse Center

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Please note that info@passitoncenter.org email address will be available after March 4

If you do not wish to receive the Pass It On Center Highlights by email please contact us at [info@passitoncenter.org](mailto:info@passitoncenter.org).  
The Highlights will also be available on [www.passitoncenter.org](http://www.passitoncenter.org).