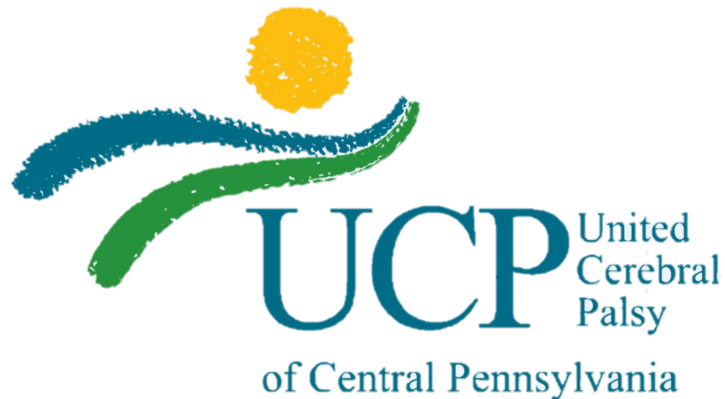


Technology for Transition



Presenter:

Marci Walborn, OTR/L, ATP



As Director of Childhood and Ancillary Services, Marci Walborn provides strategic direction and oversight of several inter-related UCP service lines, including Early Intervention, Family Support, and Assistive Technology/Independent Living Technology. She is responsible for fiscal oversight, regulatory compliance, continuous staff development, and ongoing evaluation of each service. With over 20 years of hands-on experience in Early Intervention—and as a testament to her commitment to the successful early development of all children—Marci continues to support a small caseload as an Occupational Therapist. She also lends her Occupational Therapy knowledge and expertise to other UCP divisions as needed.

This session includes:

- ❖ Learn about tools for independent living and employment
- ❖ Identify solutions to common barriers or challenges to transitioning with assistive technology
- ❖ Locate potential funding sources for assistive technology services and supports in adulthood

Assistive Technology

- Official Definition:
 - An item or piece of equipment that “is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capacities of individuals with disabilities.”
- Common Sense Definition:
 - Tools that make life easier, safer, or more independent

Find a Solution

- The Person



Abilities & Challenges

- The Tasks



Needs & Expectations

- The Assistive Technology



Possible Solutions

Roles of Technology

- Maximize independence in academic, self-care and vocational tasks
 - Ex. Notetaking tools, calculators, memory aids
- Increase participation
 - Ex. Communication tools, remote learning platforms
- Encourage development of self-advocacy

Executive Function

- Planning
 - Google Calender, [AnyDo](#), [ToDoist](#), [Remember the Milk](#)
- Time Awareness
 - [Time Timer](#), Visual Timer, Multi-Timer ([MultiTimer](#) (iOS) or [LemonClip](#) (Android))
- Staying on Schedule
 - Pomodoro Timer, Vibrating Wrist Watches
- Focus and Attention
 - Noisli, Flipd, Screen masking, Website and App blocking tools



Job Accommodations

- Adapted computer equipment
- Noise-cancelling headset
- Standing support stools or anti-fatigue floor mat
- Alternative lighting (non-fluorescents, anti-glare filters) or cubicle shield
- For more information, visit the Job Accommodation Network at askjan.org



Self-Care/Independent Living

- Medication Reminders
- Bed-Shakers
- Money Management



Barriers to Technology Transition

- Ownership
- Funding
- Practice Scenarios
- Acceptance

Barriers to Technology Transition - Ownership

- Devices used at school
 - Who owns the device?
 - Will the device be needed after graduation? (post-secondary education, employment, independent living)
 - What services are currently provided by school to support the use of the device?
 - Will these services be needed after graduation?

Barriers to Obtaining AT

- Ever-changing technology
- Not enough providers
- Lack of operational competence (providers and users)
- Finding the “best fit”
- AT considerations missing in transition plans
- Lack of self-determination
- \$\$\$\$

Public Funding Sources

- Medicaid, Medicare, Waivers
 - Provide AT/DME for individuals who need intermediate supports for community living
 - Not necessarily to be used for employment
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Provides devices and services needed to get or keep a job
 - May not be available during transition, but after graduation
 - May be a waiting list and/or a required “contribution”



Private Funding Sources

- Use private insurance
- Private foundations or charities
- Crowdfunding
- Get a loan
 - Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF): <https://patf.us/>
- Get it used
 - Reused and Exchanged Equipment Partnership (REEP): <https://techowlpa.org/reep/>

Hints for Successful AT Transition

- Start **now** with tools that help foster independence
- Revisit AT “early and often” in the IEP
- Understand ownership and funding, including future access
- Identify post-secondary goals ASAP, and explore AT needed to achieve them

Additional Hints for Successful AT Transition

- Pursue relationships with post-secondary world (e.g. volunteer positions; campus visits) to check out AT needs in other environments
- Develop relationships with OVR, student services offices, etc.
- Find successful mentors with disabilities and learn the role of AT in their lives

Resources:

- TechOWL (Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Act Program) –
 - <https://techowlpa.org/>
- Local Assistive Technology Resource Centers in Pennsylvania
 - <https://techowlpa.org/atrc/>
- Job Accommodation Network (jan)
 - <https://www.askjan.org>

ANY QUESTIONS?



Contact Us For More Information

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THANK
YOU!