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Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



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Governor's Commission on Disability-New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP) Presentation to the Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee of the LHHS By Karen Peterson

NMTAP is a federally funded program under a formula grant set to fulfill the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (Amended 2004). All states and U.S. Territories are funded under this Act.

We work with various entities around the state, such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide demonstrations and loans of assistive technology to individuals so they may choose the best device to help them meet their goal whether it is in employment, education or community living.

The four core directives of the NMTAP are:

- 1) Device Demonstrations
 - a. We demonstrate several different types of devices that could provide functional assistance to individuals with disabilities.
- 2) Device Loans
 - a. The individual chooses the device(s) that he/she feels would fit their need. The device(s) is loaned out for 30 days. The individual then requests the accommodation from their employer, from DVR, from school or may purchase the equipment themselves.
- 3) Device Re-use
 - a. We provide durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers) and up-to-date computers to individuals with disabilities, free of charge, to use in their environment.
- 4) Financial Loan Programs
 - a. We have two types of financial loan programs:
 - i. To purchase equipment for entrepreneurs with disabilities
 - ii. To purchase any type of assistive technology when they have no other option

Our collaborations with the DVR are as follows:

- 1) DVR Director is one of our Commissioners
- 2) The NMTAP Supervisor is a member of the DVR/State Rehab Council
- 3) NMTAP Advisory Council includes a staff member of DVR