



Pathways to Technology Solutions

Assistive Technology Academy Series

David Baker, Director, Missouri Assistive Technology

Angelina Alpert, Research Assistant, UMKC-Institute for Human Development

Preamble

A few words about technology

“For people without disabilities, technology makes things easier. For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible.”

– Mary Pat Radabaugh



What Technology Have You Used Today?

- Technology That Made Life Easier

- Technology That Made Something Possible

“All Technology
is Assistive
Technology.”

- Sarah Hendren

What Can
a Body Do?

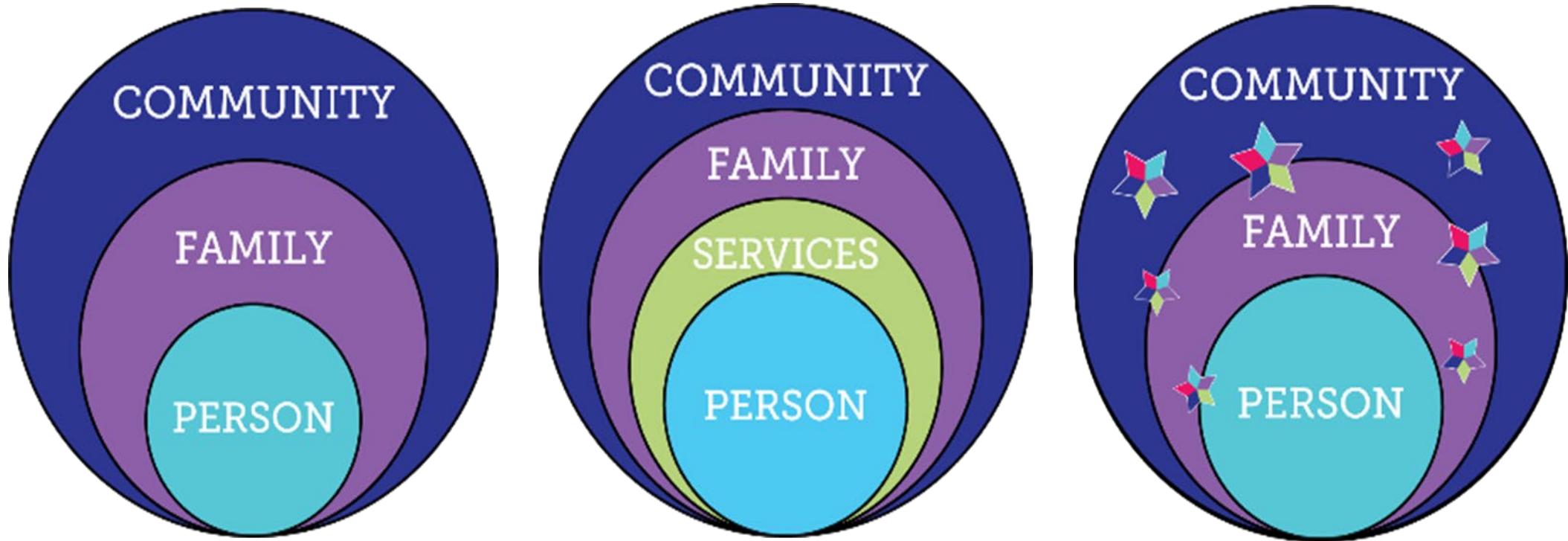
How We
Meet the
Built World

Sara
Hendren

Access + Ability



Integrating Services in Support Systems



Elevating Technology as a Solution



Goals of Elevating Technology as a Solution

- Shift our thinking on assistive technology
- Accept the idea that all technology is assistive
- It's used across the lifespan
- More people need to part of the discussion
- Build AT capacity for everyone

Who Benefits From Assistive Technology?

- Between 13% and 26% of the U.S. population is categorized as having a disability.
- Anyone who may have difficulty speaking, typing, writing, remembering, pointing, seeing, hearing, learning, walking and many other things.
- All of us



Common Myths About Assistive Technology

- AT always involves an electronic device and is always high-tech.
- AT only needs to be considered for individuals with certain types of disabilities.
- AT is expensive
- There are prerequisites to using AT
- What worked great for one individual will work great for another individual
- It's someone else's responsibility
- Only individuals who specialize in AT can consider, assess, explore, etc.

Current Issues in Assistive Technology

- Gap between the need for AT and access to it
 - Shortage of trained personnel
 - A lack of awareness at all levels
- A reliance on the Expert model
- AT should be drive by individuals but is really driven by legislation & policy
- We Yank the Rug Out From Under Individuals (A Lot)
- Rapid Technological Advancement
- How We Define AT

Life is about perspective and how you look at something...

Ultimately, you have to zoom out.

-Whitney Wolfe Herd

Why | AT is About Participation



Why | AT is About Education



Why | AT is About Employment



Why | AT is About Having a Good Life



Why | AT is About Aging in Place



Pathway to Technology Solutions

Pathways to Technology Solutions Is...

- A framework and tools to help people plan and organize around AT.
- Designed to build the capacity to understand, consider, explore, access and implement AT and related services.
- Founded on the idea that assistive technology and related services are an integral part of the life span for individuals with disabilities.
- There is nothing new or novel. Built-on already existing best practices.
- A template to incorporate in day-to-day planning and service delivery models.

CtLC Planning Pathway to Technology Solutions

Planning Phases
Exploring Person's Vision, Needs and Environment
Generating Technology Solutions
Selecting Technology Solutions
Using the Technology Solution
Refining Technology Solution

Why Now?

- “Golden Age” of Technology
- Builds on current momentum
 - Missouri No Wrong Door (NWD) Activities
 - Technology First Initiative
 - Federal Department of Education
- It’s time

Pathways to Technology Outcomes

- Education and Training
- Skill Development
- Professional Growth
- Collaboration and Networking
- Advocacy and Policy Development

Overview of Assistive Technology

Defining Assistive Technology

AT is...

- any item, piece of equipment, or product system,
- whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized,
- that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities

AT is an Umbrella Term



Levels of Technology

No Tech	The use of simple tactics, changes, or methods to solve problems or reach goals.
Low Tech	The most common form of assistive technology. Simple, low-cost devices that don't require a power source.
Mid Tech	More advanced than low-tech devices. Often battery operated. Do not require much skill or training.
High Tech	Most complex and costly type of assistive technology. Often computer-based with many advanced features. Can require lots of training.

Types of Technology

- Mobility Aids
- Communication Aids
- Sensory Aids
- Learning Aids
- Daily Living Aids
- Educational Aids
- Recreation and Leisure Aids
- Workplace Accommodations
- Environmental Controls

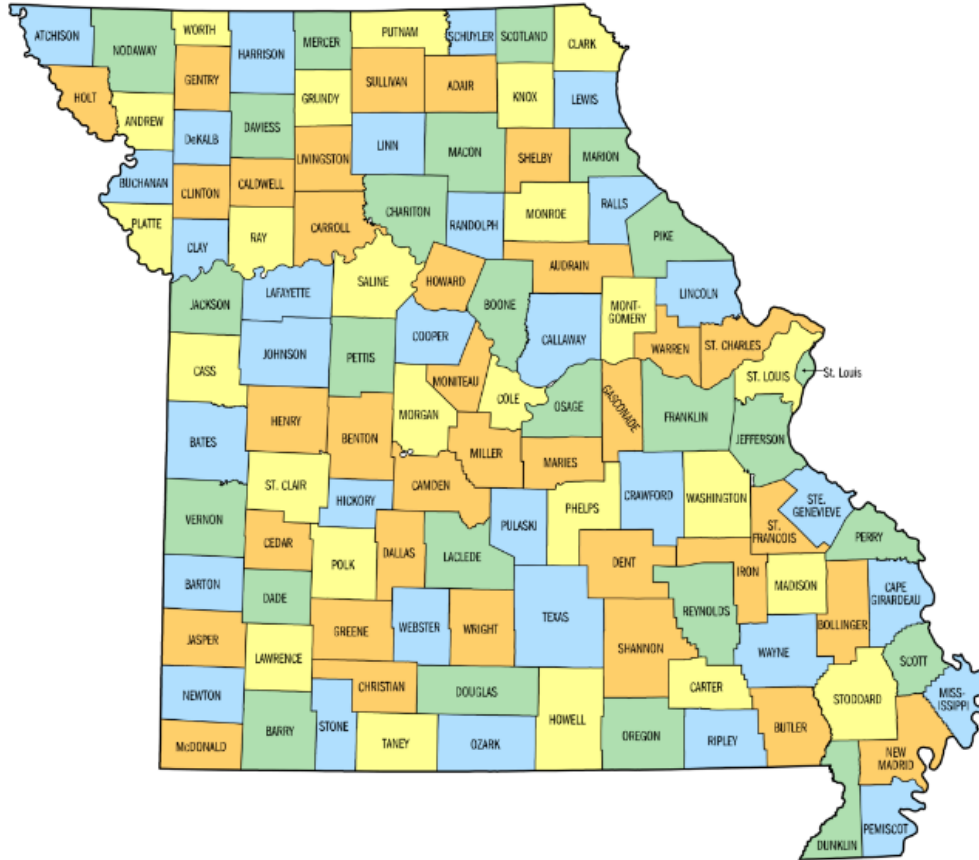
Bringing it All Together

Planning Pathway to Technology Solutions

Planning Phases	Planning Activity
Exploring Person’s Vision, Needs and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the person (vision, needs, strengths) and goals for AT • Identify the environmental considerations and current supports • Explore secondary impacts or outcomes? (staffing, decrease fears)
Generating Technology Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the goal, function, activity and tasks that AT will assist with • Explore technology by matching considerations with features of technology
Selecting Technology Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the specific tech solutions • Determine roles of person, AT team and support circle • Identify how and who will get the device or solution • Develop the training and onboarding plan
Using the Technology Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop implementation timeline for person learning about, launching and using solution with ease • Identify what short- and long-term success looks like
Refining Technology Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine how often need to check-in during implementation • Identify when to continue or abandon current solution

What's Next

Regional Networks of AT Academy Ambassadors



AT Academy 3-hour Session

- To dive into the Planning Pathway to Technology Solutions, learning the methodology and each phase

AT Academy Certification

- A day and a half training to understand the methodology and implementation of the Planning Pathway

Missouri Open Door Series | Opening Doors to Integrated Supports



2nd Wednesday of every month

12:30-1:30 pm CST

- **May 8th** Cost Saving Options for Private and Public Healthcare Across the Lifespan
- **June 12th** Medicaid and Medicare Preventative Services and Benefits
- **July 10th** Medicaid 101
- **August 14th** Low Income energy, utilities, broad band internet
- **September 11th** Open Enrollment
- **October 9th** Employment/Retirement Benefits
- **November 13th** OAA Caregiver Programs
- **December*** Canceled



4th Wednesday of every month

12:30-1:30 pm CST

- **May 22nd** Assistive Technology for Law Enforcement and First Responders
- **June 26th** Vehicle Modifications
- **July 24th** Assistive Technology for Spiritual Enrichment
- **August 28th** Advocacy for Assistive Technology
- **September 25th** Assistive Technology for Mental Health
- **October 23rd** AAC and Employment
- **November 20th *** Emergency Alert Devices
- **December*** Canceled

Join the No Wrong Door Listserv



Contact Information:

David Baker

dbaker@mo-at.org

Angelina Alpert

angelinaalpert@umkc.edu