

UCEDD Directors Meeting

February 17th, 2022 3-5pm ET

Breakout Room Notes

Breakout Room Title: Technological Capacity Building

Facilitator: Gail Chodron

Notetaker: Katie Johnson

Guiding Questions:

- How have UCEDDs enhanced technical capacity among staff and within the center by developing and or recruiting staff with those skills?
- How have directors leveraged the resources of the university and other partners to meet technological needs of their centers?
- How has the pandemic impacted the technologies used in the field and how can we broaden this capacity to impact the field?

Attendees:

Gail Chodron, WI

Aubyn Stahmer, CA-MIND

Sheli Reynolds, MO

Chris Murray, OR

Notes:

- OR- biggest need around website development
 - Very expensive- especially to attain highly skilled programmers w/ accessibility expertise
- CA-MIND-
 - Doing more work on social media and in plain language, so it becomes a lot
 - Families and self-advocates don't have tech skills like one drive, tracking, Qualtrics etc. that are common in higher ed
- MO- hired Director of Communications and Accessibility
 - "Don't hire a doer, invest in a strategist who understands the doing"
 - Website updates & social media built into individual project knowledge translation plans
 - Invested in tech infrastructure- a digital asset management system and Salesforce
 - Projects aren't housed on university websites due to strict rules. Instead subcontract someone to build out the website.



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- Deciding what should be in-house versus contracted out
 - WI- what skills are you putting under position descriptions and are those skills need in next 10-20 years?
 - How do you evaluate outside talent if you don't in-house expertise?
- Not enough resources to invest in an organizational system staff my not uptake
- Investing core dollars so that technical staff don't need to have all the skills
- Teach staff how to allocate resources for videos, websites, etc. in their grant budgets
- OR- Instead of replacing tech staff, trying to recruit undergraduate students or younger staff
- MO- contracts usability and universal design experts for one grant, and transfers lessons learned for other projects that don't have the budget
- Community colleges have a lot of the technical programs
- CA-MIND- recruits from LEND Trainee program for UDL
- OR- infuse funding to up our game in the disability field
- Virtual Reality as an untapped potential for the disability field
- High demand for skill set being discussed- sometimes you start with someone passionate about field and help them build the skill set
- CA-MIND- center has website communications staff person but limited time for UCEDD specifically
- CA-MIND partnering with IDDRC to have plain language committee to translate research, trying to figure out where to share it out to

Future TA Needs:

- Leveraging different software and technologies
- Building infrastructures for disseminating products virtually
- Regional coordination-
 - UCEDDs all invest in something they can share, invest in a better technology support system
- List of contractors of who is best for usability, websites, etc.
- How do you navigate bureaucracy and challenges for developing tech solutions



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