GENERAL SESSIONS

Friday, November 22, 2002

(2:45 to 4:30 pm)

HIBISCUS ROOM - A

Assistive Technology: Tools for Computer Accessibility

Jill S. Oberstein, MA, OTR/L, Project Director, (Arizona Technology Access Program)

Abstract

Computer technology continues to create new opportunities for the ways people work, communicate, learn and play. Computers offer both opportunities as well as barriers for persons with disabilities that either promote or hinder inclusion in mainstream activities. This presentation will focus on the availability of computer adaptations in terms of both hard and soft technologies that can improve computer accessibility for persons with a variety of disabling conditions.

Learning Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand accommodations for computer input and output.
2. Identify built in accessibility features that are standard in today's computers.
3. Explore commercial hardware and software products designed to improve computer accessibility.

HIBISCUS ROOM - B

Social Security Benefits of Individuals with Disabilities.

Mike, Newman, Manager, US Social Security Administration, Saipan

Abstract

Presenter will give a brief talk on US Social Security disability programs: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This will include requirements for entitlement, the differences between the two programs and the additional benefits available to recipients, including Medicaid and Medicare. He will also discuss the various work incentives available to disability recipients. He will then be available to answer questions from conference participants.

Learning Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Know the different benefits of individuals with disabilities from US Social Security Administration.
2. Learn work incentives available to SSA disability recipients.

HIBISCUS ROOM - C

Using Technologies to Gain Independence

Gregory 'Gregg' Borja (Project Specialist, NMPASI) & Raymond 'Ray' Palacios (Client Advocate, PAAT/NMPASI)

Protection & Advocacy (P&A) groups were established to address public outcry in response to abuse, neglect and lack of programming for individuals with disabilities. Congress created distinct statutory grant programs to address the needs of different population of persons with disabilities. The Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) program is one such program.

This presentation will give a brief history surrounding the rights of the individuals with disabilities, the establishment of NMPASI, the purpose and services provided by Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) program, along with examples of successful cases completed by NMPASI, and a short motivated video presentation.

Learning Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand why there are rights to protect people with disabilities;
2. Understand the purposes of the Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) program;
3. Understand the functions of programs' Advocacy System;
4. Identify the CNMI's agency that administered the PATT program and how to contact them for services; and;
5. Gain insight on how individuals with disabilities can use assistive technology to be independent.