



Shepherd Center

Independence Through AT and Person Centered Approaches

Danny Housley

Shepherd Center

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About Your Presenter

- Case Manager for the Center for Assistive Technologies at Shepherd Center
- On GA SILC Board
- On NFBGA Atlanta Executive Board
- Previously worked at a CIL (and was the board chair later)
- Previously ran the alternative financing program for GA
- Puppeteers in his free time and does trainings for making puppetry more accessible



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Shepherd Center's mission is help people with a temporary or permanent disability caused by injury of disease rebuild their lives with hope, independence and dignity. Advocating for full inclusion in all aspects of community life while promoting safety and injury prevention.



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Center for Assistive Technologies



Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities.

“Disability is not a medical problem. The problem is the built environment and the barriers that society puts up. It’s not about the inability to move or to breathe without a ventilator; it’s about the inability to get into a classroom.”

-Joseph Shapiro

Begin with the End in Mind



Assistive Technology Spectrum

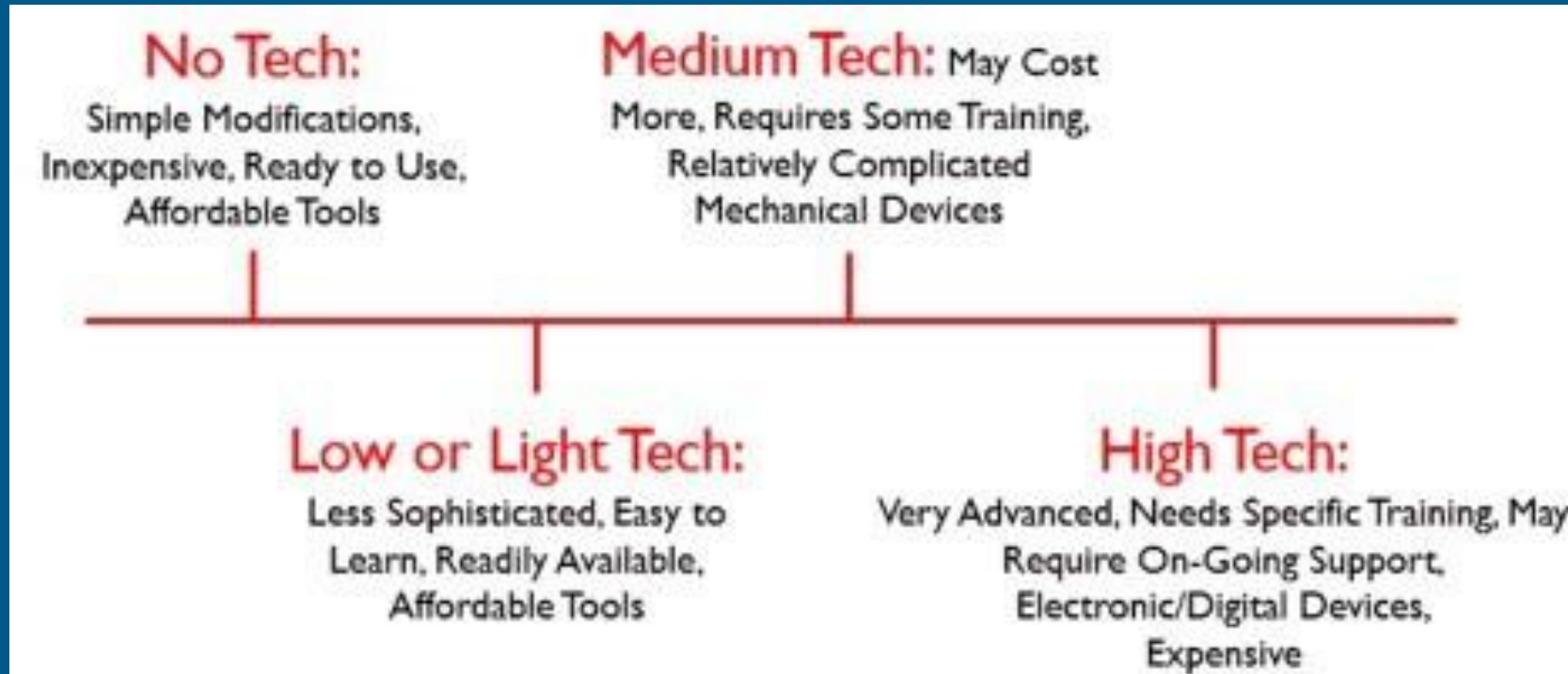


Image credit: www.techowipa.org

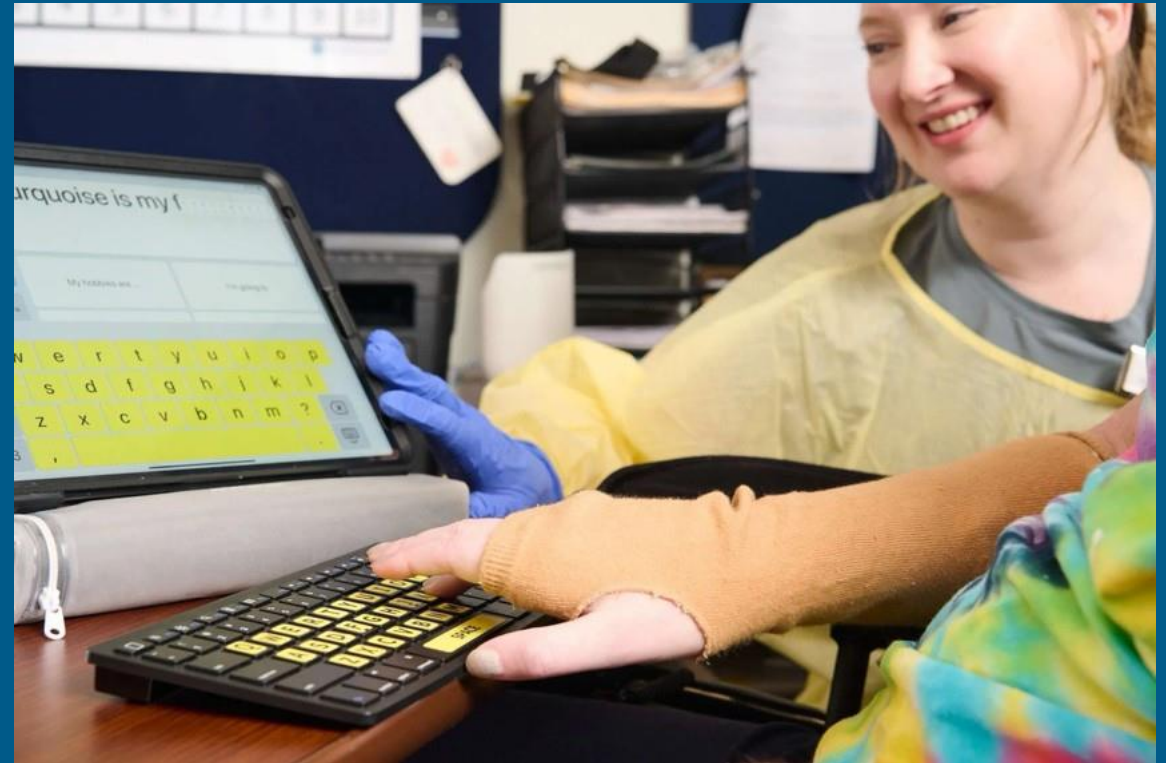
How Shepherd Does Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology Services/Supports

- Evaluations: access technology, adapted driving, seating
- Travis Roy Trav Packs
- Christopher Snell GlassOuse program
- SmartTECH Project
- Recreation
- Outside programs/services

Access Technology

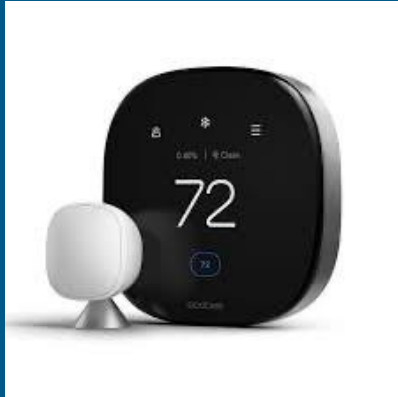
- Device
- Environmental
- Communication
- 1 on 1 and group trainings
- Focusing on the goals of the individual



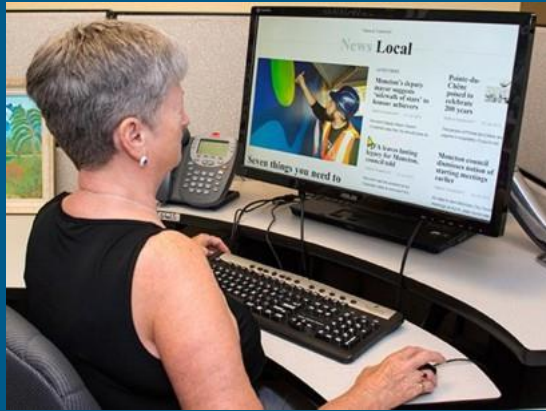
Physical Access



Smart Home Technology



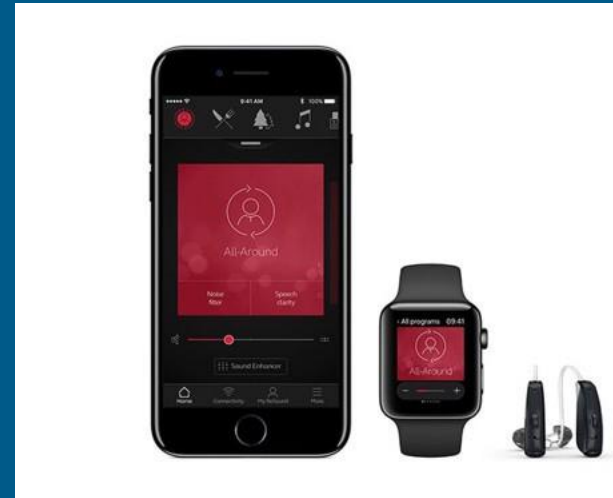
Visual Access



Non-Visual Access



Auditory Access



3D Printing





Adapted Driving Clinic



- Safety Evaluations
- On the road evaluations
- Driving simulator
- Low tech
- High tech

Low to High Tech Driving Solutions



Adapted Steering



Wheelchair Seating and Mobility Clinic

- Power chairs
- Manual chairs
- Alternative drives
- Supports
- Customized



Alternative Drives for Powerchairs



Travis Roy Back in the Game Initiative



- Generous gift from the Travis Roy Foundation
- Trav-packs are all customized
- For any patient experiencing tetraplegia
- Smarthome
- Device access
- Mounting

Christopher Snell GlassOuse Program

- Thanks to a generous contribution from a former patient
- Focusing on patients with tetraplegia
- Provides 1 GlassOuse device (1.4 or Pro) and two bite switches



SmartTECH Program



Smart TECH Project

Smart Technology Education for
Carryover at Home

- Initiative started between two managers at Shepherd
- Education and demonstration
- Partnered with AT Act Program
- Goal 1- exposure to smart home solutions for staff, patients and their support systems
- Goal 2- data gathering for better AT outcomes for patients



SmartTECH Forms



Amazon Echo Show 8

- Wakeword is "Alexa"
- Requires an Amazon Account
- Skills and setup are handled in the Alexa app
- Access settings by swiping down from the top of the screen
- You can scan barcodes by saying "Alexa scan" and holding the item in camera view
- Show and Tell feature to identify items: "Alexa, what am I holding?"
- Turn the fan on/off
- Change the color and intensity of the lights
- Play music on iHeartRadio or Spotify

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Acquiring Assistive Technology

Barriers to Assistive Technology

- Insurance
- “Medical necessity”
- Cost
- Availability
- Getting the assessment

Funding Assistive Technology

- Insurance
- Grants
- Alternative Financing Programs
- Assistive Technology Act
- National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program
- Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program
- Check for local reuse and reutilization programs

UCP Bellows Fund

- United Cerebral Palsy
- Funds go FAST
- For AT
- Nominations through local affiliate
- info@ucp.org



ALS Association

- \$500 each cycle
- No more than \$1,000/year
- ALS/PLS diagnosis
- Reimbursement
- <http://webga.alsa.org>



Association of Blind Citizens

- Will cover up to 50% of a device
- Minimum \$200 Maximum \$6,000
- <\$50,000 income and <\$20,000 assets
- For Blind and low vision
- www.blindcitizens.org



Co-Payment Assistance Options Part 1

Patient Advocate Foundation- Co-Pay Relief

www.patientadvocate.org

1-866-512-3861

The Assistance Fund – Co-pay Assistance

www.tafcares.org

Provide co-pay assistance, healthcare expenses and insurance premiums and incidentals

Co-Payment Assistance Options Part 2

Patient Services Incorporated

www.patientservicesinc.org

1-800-366-7741

Here for a Reason Organization

www.hereforareason.org

Can provide up to \$500 for DME



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Questions?
Comments?
Small jokes?