



State of Wisconsin

Assistive Technology Advisory Council

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Assistive Technology Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Join via [Zoom](#):

161 149 9614

Join via Phone:

Phone: 1-669 254 5252

Meeting ID: 161 149 9614

Action Items and Motion

A. Action Items

1. **Action Item:** Laura Plummer will check the membership roster to verify Shar Bruner's membership appointment and term end date and make corrections as necessary.

B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Cassie Frost made a motion to approve the February 23, 2022, ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Jason Ostrowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Mike Hipple made a motion to approve the November 10, 2021, ATAC quarterly meeting minutes, as amended. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Jim Denham made a motion to elect Debra Remmel as the representative from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for her first term and Andrea Bertone as the representative from the Department of Public Instruction to her second term. to the ATAC. Rick Ziller seconded that motion. Motion carried.
4. **Motion Item:** Shar Bruner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Denham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson

Council Members Present: Alison Peetz; Andrea Bertone; Cassie Frost; Jason Ostrowski; Debra Remmel; Jenesis Lindbo; Jim Denham; Mike Hipple; Shar Brunes; Rick Ziller,

Council Members Absent (excused*): Scott Gilbertson; Lisa Woods*

Guests Present: Abygail Marx, Waisman Center; Calvin Options, Options for Independent Living; Cindi Pichler, Independence First; Jenn Seale; Waisman Center; Ramsey Lee, Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities Member-at-Large; Pauline Lorenz, Society's Assets.

DHS Staff Support Present: Laura Plummer, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR); Karen Potneck, DHS, BADR; Mikael Snitker, DHS, BADR; Ashley Walker, DHS, BADR.

II. Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

III. Review and Approve Quarterly February 23, 2022, Meeting Agenda

Cassie Frost Mike made a motion to approve the February 23, 2022, ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Jason Ostrowski seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 1.**

IV. Review and Approve November 10, 2021, Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Mike Hipple made a motion to approve the November 10, 2021, ATAC quarterly meeting minutes. as amended. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 2.**

V. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Assistive Technology Users (9:10 A.M. – 9:20 A.M.) or on the State Plan on Assistive Technology, 2018-2020 (dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02162.pdf)

No public comment.

VI. Assistive Technology Program Partner Updates

- Jim Denham from the Wisconsin Council for the Blind shared that his agency received a grant from the Inspiration Foundation which was used to purchase assistive technology (AT). He is working on learning all aspects of Windows 11 in order to provide training to consumers when that platform launches. Funds were also used to purchase a new MacBook so that they can provide training on that platform as well.
- Shar Brunes shared updated from the Independent Living Network. Options for Independent Living appreciated that two staff were able to attend the ATIA Conference in Orlando through support from WisTech. There will be an official release soon, but Options purchased an accessible trike for loan and demo. A new IL Coordinator, Brian, has started and they have two fundraisers to support programming and equipment in the model showcase

home. CILWW has been training interns on AT services and outreach with AT articles throughout their service area. Access has a new staff member with AT experience.

- Calvin Richtig from Options for Independent Living shared additional details regarding their efforts at expanding recreational opportunities. The accessible bike was purchased through a Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation grant from the Hostel Shoppe in Stevens Point, WI. They have a trailer and anticipate people being able to borrow the bike to access the extensive state trail system. This pairs well with the Action Trackchair that they already make available for loan and demonstration.
- Rick Ziller with ATR has been working with a new staff member who will be conducting training in area of low vision AT. He also shared that user of Dragon Naturally Speaking may be impacted by industry and ownership changes with Nuance, which is now owned by Microsoft. There are concerns about future support for this software.
- Mike Hipple from WI AAC Network shared that the latest [newsletter](#) has been released and no updates from the council for special education at this time.
- Cassie Frost has been developing an accessible guide for conference planning. She also attended the national Council for Exceptional Children conference and there is a new strategic plan with an equity focus. There is an electronic version of the [AT Wheel](#) that many people use as a guide for services for students with disabilities.
- Debra Rimmel from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation shared that referrals continue to be lower than is typical. Laura Plummer recently spoke with the AsTech group. DVR is hiring for the Career Pathways Advancement Grant and existing staff are receiving refresher training on aspects of service delivery such as plan development and assessments.
- Allison Peetz is serving on the advisory council for the MATC Uniquely Able Academy. She mentioned a training program for CNC operation students and she is advocating for the inclusion of AT for students with disabilities.
- Jason Ostrowski has been working with students from the University of Milwaukee (OT Department) on app development. At this point they have developed [Access Slope](#) and Access Ruler. These apps are found in the Apple and Google Play stores. Information about these apps can be found at the [R2D2 website](#). Next they plan to develop an accessibility app related to restaurants. Laura Plummer shared that there is an app available that crowd sources sound levels in restaurants called [Sound Print](#).
- Abygail Marx from the Waisman Center shared information about the [ECHO trainings](#). These include a short presentation by an “expert” in the area of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and then a case study for group problems solving. These are free and are recorded. Additional questions can be directed her via [email](#).

VII. WisTech Program Update (Annual Progress Report, Quarterly reporting, State Plan development, and general updates)

- Laura Plummer reported that WisTech supported 32 registrations for the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) conference. Three people attended in person in Orlando and the other 29 were virtual participants.
- Introduction of new DHS staff, Karen Potneck and Mikael Snitker.
- The TAP Hearing Aid Assistance program has expanded to allow up to \$1500 towards hearing aid purchases for those eligible. This change is in effect until June 30, 2022.
- Tessa Heckel from CESA #8 shared her experience with using the WisTech iPad loaner program for her students and families.
- The Administration for Community Living has authorized \$80,000 to each AT Act Program from the American Rescue Plan Act. The funds are to be used to bolster public health related personnel and must be used by September 30, 2024.
- ACL is finalizing the reporting tool for the State Plan for Assistive Technology for 2021-2023.
- The FFY21 Annual Progress Report was reviewed.
- The FFY22 first quarter data was reviewed.

VIII. WisTech Annual Training Survey Results and Training Topics Discussion

- Review of the FFY22 Training Survey was discussed. No high area of trainings noted and an even spread among topics. Discussed revising the survey next year for additional clarity and simplicity.
- Topic ideas reviewed included adaptive gaming, Cassie Frost's topic of accessible conference or event planning, AAC in schools, and Cindi Pichler suggested the ATIA session on ableism.

IX. Assistive Technology Advisory Council Member Officer Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies

- Scott Gilbertson from the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired will not be serving a second term and Laura Plummer has reached out to the Office Supervisor for another staff recommendation. Jim Denham also has a suggestion and will reach out to that OBVI staff member regarding their possible interest in serving.
- Motion made by Jim Denham to appoint Andrea Bertone to her second term, representing DPI and Debra Rimmel to her first term, representing DVR. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.

- Shar Bruner noted that the membership roster may have an error with her term dates so Laura Plummer will reconcile and correct if needed. See Action Item 1.

X. Adjourn

- Motion made by Shar Bruner to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Jim Denham. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4. Meeting adjourned at 11:51 A.M.

The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the governmental business outlined in the above agenda. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide advice and guidance to the WisTech Program and assure that it is in compliance with the provisions of the Assistive Technology Act (Tech Act) of 1998, as amended. Specifically, the Advisory Council will provide advice and guidance on the following:

- Submission of Wisconsin's State Plan for Assistive Technology (AT) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living (ACL);
- Monitoring the WisTech program according to the State Plan for AT;
- Developing and maintaining collaborations with other agencies, organizations, and bodies providing AT services and devices throughout the State; and
- Monitoring of program data and outcomes.

The Council is administratively attached to the Department of Health Services. If you need an interpreter, alternate formats, or other accommodations to participate, please contact Laura Plummer at 608-514-2513 or laura.plummer1@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Phone: 1-669 254 5252

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