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State of Wisconsin

Assistive Technology Advisory Council

Web: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/atac/index.htm>

Assistive Technology Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

August 25, 2023

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Join via Zoom:

<https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1615239239>

Join via Phone:

Phone: 1-669 254 5252

Meeting ID: 1615239239

Approved November 9, 2023

A. Action Items

Motion Item 1: Jim Denham and Jenesis Lindbo will work on a draft letter that members of the AT Council can share as part of public comment.

B. Motion Items

Motion Item 1: Motion made by Rick Ziller to approve the agenda and seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion carried.

Motion Item 2: Motion made by Laurie Lane to approve the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Debra Remmel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion Item 3: Motion made Cassie Frost to elect Jim Denham as Chairperson of the ATAC. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried.

Motion Item 4: Motion made by BJ Ermenc to request that Jim Denham and Jenesis Lindbo compose a public comment letter addressing the updates to the American's with Disabilities Act. Motion seconded by Deen Amusa. Motion carried.

Motion Item 5: Motion by Debra Remmel to elect Calvin Richtig as Vice Chairperson for the ATAC. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/atac/index.htm>

Motion Item 6: Motion to appoint Jim Denham (Chair), Deen Amusa, Cassie Frost, Debra Remmel, Mike Hipple, and Calvin Richtig to the to the AT State Plan Development Committee made by Rick Ziller. Motion seconded by Laurie Lane. Motion carried.

Motion Item 7 : Motion to appoint Calvin Richtig (Chair), Laurie Lane, BJ Ermenc, Jennifer Seale, and Stacy Ellingen to the Collaboration and Outreach Committee made by Jim Denham. Motion seconded by Deen Amusa. Motion carried.

Motion 8: Motion to appoint Jim Denham (Chair), Cindi Pichler, Julie Bergen, Jenesis Lindbo, Rick Ziller, and Stacy Ellingen to the Data Collection and Analysis Committee by Julie Bergen. Motion seconded by Debra Remmel. Motion Carried.

Motion 9: Motion made by Laurie Lane to adjourn. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 A.M. **See Motion Item 8.**

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

- Jim Denham called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.
- **Council Members Present:** Stacy Ellingen, Jim Rau, BJ Ermenc, Calvin Richtig, Julie Bergen, Jennifer Seale, Dawn Merth-Johnson, Cassie Frost; Laurie Lane, Jim Denham; Debra Remmel; Rick Ziller, Nurudeen Amusa
- **Council Members Absent:** Mike Hipple, Lindsey Kreitzman, Courtney Kurawski.
- **Guests Present:** Jesse Kayson, Emma Duchow, Eric Riskus, Megan McCormick, Jennifer Schubring, Holly Konitzer, Dani Kaslow, Jenesis Lindbo, Cindi Pichler, Julie Reidl, Michelle Gaslow.
- **DHS Staff Support Present:** Laura Plummer, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR); Lisa Sobczyk, DHS, Zachary Donovan, DHS, Ashley Walker, DHS.

II. Review and Approve Quarterly Meeting August 25, 2023 Agenda

- Motion made by Rick Ziller to approve the agenda and seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 1.**

III. Review and Approve May 18, 2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Laurie Lane to approve the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Debra Remmel seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 2.**

IV. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Assistive Technology Users

- Jenesis Lindbo provided public comment by expressing gratitude for the time she was able to spend on the AT Council and she has offered to remain involved as a public member.

V. Assistive Technology Program Partner Updates

- Laurie Lane from WisLoan shared that new vehicles loans can now can go out to 80 months and that the interest rate for all loans will remain at 4%.
- Dawn Merth-Johnson with the Department of Public Instruction shared that the AT Forward project recently added \$10,000 worth of low and mid range technology to the AT Lending Center. There has been some re-design of the micro credential and the Community of Practice meetings are set for this upcoming school year.
- Stacy Ellingen is presenting at the self-determination conference with the Technology First Coalition.
- Jim Rau, president of the WI Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) chapter shared that the VA is currently using a telehealth platform that does not allow for captions for visits. He has been advocating for this to change.
- BJ Ermenc shared that she attended the HLAA Convention in New Orleans and is learning how technology works as well as the next gen of Bluetooth and how it may override loop technology. She also serves on the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing which will be reorganizing and having elections in October. She is looking forward to the United Voices Summit. She participated in an emergency practice session at the Green Bay airport so they can have people with disabilities represented. She also attended the event at Options for Independent Living yesterday. Talked with the GB transit about possibly adding loops to the bus and will be introducing them to Juliette

- Sterkens. City of Wauwatosa displayed the Disability Flag in the 4th of July Parade and a few additional promotions around the ADA. They are doing an accessible park. First phase will be done in 2024.
- Calvin has updates from the ILCs. He encourages everyone to sign up for each of the ILC newsletters. On August 25th Options had their Community Event to do a used equipment collection and it has expanded to a larger resource fair. Options did pre-collections with ADRCs within their service area. Options has been still doing sled-hockey events and some events are open to all and some are for the pro athletes. Consumers had beach access opportunities.
 - Access to Independence had a similar event on the same day.
 - Midstate IL hosted an adapted kayak event that was widely attended.
 - Independence First has been distributing disposable supplies as part of their food bank pickups.
 - Indigo held their ADA celebration on July 26th.
 - CILWW recently collaborated with the LE Phillips library on website accessibility.
 - ILR provided information at three different booth events in their service area.
 - Debra Rimmel from DVR shared that they are still looking for additional referrals. The Career Pathways grant is serving almost 500 people (manufacturing, IT, healthcare). This provides for additional funds directed towards career goals in those areas.
 - Julie Bergen, also will be joining the Independent Living Council for Wisconsin
 - Jennifer Seale shared that they have several new staff members but they do have a position open for a speech pathologists. They will be doing a capacity building project around the state by collaborating with school districts.
 - Jim Denham from WI Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired shared that they had an AI webinar and its impacts for people with vision loss. Some new apps are in development, including BeMyEyes (Be my AI). It's providing very in-depth image description. There is a recording of the webinar so Jim can

share the link with those interested. Each year there is an art show and accepting applications for artists who have vision loss to submit their work. In November they have gallery night and then the art is up for sale.

- Cassie attended the kayak event with Midstate and it was a great experience. Cassie attended the International Society of Technology in Education conference. She saw an increase in conversation around the topic of accessibility. Cassie presented a session on iOS accessibility and the method was an escape room. WI CEC is going to host a conference again next spring.
- Deen Amusa shared that the next Living with Vision loss program is scheduled for September 18-22, 2023.

VI. WisTech Program Updates

- The quarterly data was reviewed and the dashboard shared with members.
- Three of the WisTech trainings for this fiscal year have been completed and two more are planned for September.
- WisTech attended both of the collections drives earlier this week; one in Madison and one in Green Bay.
- Table display materials have been ordered and will be distributed to each ILC for branding purposes.
- WisTech presented recently to DVR WDA #1 on Assistive Technology Resources and also did a presentation to community members for the Eau Claire ADRC.
- Discussion about the reauthorization of the ADA. Motion made by BJ Ermenc to request that Jim Denham and Jenesis Lindbo compose a public comment letter addressing the updates to the American's with Disabilities Act. Motion seconded by Deen Amusa. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 4.**

Jim Denham and Jenesis Lindbo will work on a letter that members of the AT Council can share as part of public comment. **See Action Item 1.**
- Discussion and reminders about signing up for the Unified Voices: Engage for Change cross-council summit happening on October 3-5, 2023.

VII. WisTech Role in Independent Living Supports Program

- Lisa Sobczyk and Laura Plummer provided an update on how WisTech is supporting the Independent Living Supports Pilot program which is funded from ARPA dollars. This program provides program participants funding to delay their need to enroll in long term care services. WisTech will be conducting assistive technology and assessment services for participants.

VIII. WisLoan and Telework Presentation by Laurie Lane, Independence First

- Laurie Lane from Independence First provided a presentation on the WisLoan and Telework alternative financing programs.

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

- Motion by Cassie Frost to elect Jim Denham as Chairperson for the ATAC. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 4.**
- Motion by Debra Remmel to elect Calvin Richtig as Vice Chairperson for the ATAC. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 5.**
- Motion to appoint Jim Denham (Chair), Deen Amusa, Cassie Frost, Debra Remmel, Mike Hipple, and Calvin Richtig to the to the AT State Plan Development Committee made by Rick Ziller. Motion seconded by Laurie Lane. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 6.**
- Motion to appoint Calvin Richtig (Chair), Laurie Lane, BJ Ermenc, Jennifer Seale, and Stacy Ellingen to the Collaboration and Outreach Committee made by Jim Denham. Motion seconded by Deen Amusa. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 7.**
- Motion to appoint Jim Denham (Chair), Cindi Pichler, Julie Bergen, Jenesis Lindbo, Rick Ziller, and Stacy Ellingen to the Data Collection and Analysis Committee by Julie Bergen. Motion seconded by Debra Remmel. Motion Carried. **See Motion Item 8.**

X. Adjourn

- Motion made by Laurie Lane to adjourn. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 A.M. **See Motion Item 9.**

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.

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