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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 Minutes

Tuesday, February 5, 2025
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Meeting held via Zoom:
<https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1610414422>

Phone:
Phone: 1-669-254-5252
Meeting ID: 161 041 4422

A. Action Items Motion Items

B. Motion Items

- **Motion Item 1:** Motion made by Calvin Richtig to approve the February 5, 2025, AT Council agenda and seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion carried.
- **Motion Item 2:** Motion made by Julie B to approve the November 7, 2024, quarterly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Calvin Richtig. Motion carried.
- **Motion Item 3:** Motion made by BJ Ermenc to approve the nomination of Deen Amusa and Debra Rimmel for a second term on the council. Motion seconded by Mike Hipple. Motion carried.
- **Motion Item 4:** Motion made by Cassie Frost to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Debra Rimmel. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 P.M.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

- Jim Denham called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

- **Council Members Present:** Jim Rau, Deen Amusa, BJ Ermenc, Calvin Richtig, Cassie Frost, Dawn Merth-Johnson, Jenn Seale, Julie Bergen, Lindsey Kreitzman, Mike Hipple, Rick Ziller, Debra Remmel, Laurie Lane
- **Guests Present:** Dani Kaslow, Amanda Miller, Calvin Richtig, Amy Perron, Emma Duchrow
- **DHS Staff Support Present:** Jason Anderson, Laura Plummer, Jenna Sturgis, Karen Odegard, and Ashley Baker.

II. Review and Approve Quarterly Meeting February 5, 2025, Agenda

- Motion made by Calvin Richtig to approve the February 5, 2025, AT Council agenda. Motion seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 1.**

III. Review and Approve November 7, 2024, Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Julie B to approve the November 7, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Calvin Richtig. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 2.**

IV. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Assistive Technology Users

- No public comments.

V. Assistive Technology Program Partner Updates

- Calvin Richtig from Options for Independent Living provided an update on the Livable Communities Grant in which funds provide direct impact with accessibility improvements for parks.
- Cassie Frost shared that she presented at the Assistive Technology Industry Association conference in Orlando, Florida last month.
- Dawn Merth-Johnson from the Department of Public Instruction shared that the AT Forward Community of Practice membership increased by 115 individuals recently. They are looking to update the time of day when the webinars are provided to attract additional attendees.
- Jenn Seale with the Waisman Center reported that they are still understaffed but continue with partnerships to increase AAC awareness. They will be hosting a comedian who uses improv to spread awareness.
- BJ Ermenc reported on behalf of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing regarding their strategic goals. BJ mentioned the HLAA national convention information and the Nagish captioning app.
- Rick Ziller shared concerns around the topic of AI as it relates to assistive technology.

- Mike Hipple shared about the upcoming USAAC conference.
- Jim Rau shared his thoughts and concerns around the topic of Auracast functionality within hearing aids and auditory access.
- Laurie Lane from Independence First reported that WisLoan has had 23 new loans finalized at the end of the year.

VI. WisTech Program Updates

- Laura Plummer shared updates from the Assistive Technology Act Conference and new potential device purchases for the lending inventory.
- WisTech will be hosting webinars again this year and the AT Council members were asked for suggestions. Laura Plummer also reviewed the training survey results.
- Karen Odegaard from the Department of Health Services shared information about the current state budget cycle.
- Laura Plummer provided an overview of the two WisTech AT credentials that are being launched this spring.

VII. Public Records Training Review

- Laura Plummer noted that the training will be sent out for review and discussion at the May 2025 meeting.

VIII. Other State AT Programs Overview - Guest Speaker

- Amy Perron from the Minnesota STAR Program presented an overview of their AT Act program.

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

- Motion made by BJ Ermenc to approve nomination of Deen Amusa and Debra Rimmel for a second term on the council. Motion seconded by Mike Hipple. Motion carried.
Motion Item 3.

X. Adjourn

Motion made by Cassie Frost to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Debra Rimmel. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 P.M. **See Motion Item 4.**

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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