

State of Wisconsin

Assistive Technology Advisory Council

1 West Wilson Street, Room 551
Post Office Box 2659
Madison, WI 53701-2659

Telephone: 608-514-2513

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Web: atc.wisconsin.gov

Assistive Technology Advisory Council (ATAC) Quarterly Teleconference Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

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

Join via [Zoom](#):

<https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/92218394295>

Join via Phone:

Phone: 844-708-2569 or 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 922 1839 4295

Action Items and Motion

A. Action Items

- There were no action items.

B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Jason Ostrowski made a motion to approve the November 4, 2020 ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Shar Brunes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Lisa Woods made a motion to approve the August 5, 2020 ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended. Alison Peetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Jason Ostrowski made a motion to elect Jenesis Lindbo as Chairperson. Lisa Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Motion Item:** Jenesis Lindbo made a motion to elect Jason Ostrowski as Vice Chairperson. Lisa Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. **Motion Item:** Jim Denham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shar Brunes seconded the motion. Motion carried.



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C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson

Council Members Present: Jenesis Lindbo; Andrea Bertone; Jason Ostrowski; Lisa Woods; Shar Brunes; Jim Denham; Jessica Holton; Cassie Frost; Alison Peetz; Scott Gilbertson; and Mike Hipple.

Council Members Absent (excused*): Rich Skerbitz.

Guests Present: Billy Mauldin, Public Service Commission; Hayley Bollinger, SVRI; Dani Kaslow, Center for Deaf-Blind Persons; Eric Riskus, Midstate Independent Living Consultants; Cindi Pichler, Independence First; and Angela Young, Inclusa.

DHS Staff Support Present: Laura Plummer, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR); Lisa Sobczyk, DHS, BADR; Monica Smith, DHS, BADR; and Ashley Walker, DHS, BADR.

II. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson at 9:05 A.M.

The meeting was available via teleconference by calling 1-844-708-2569 meeting code 922 1839 4295 and via [Zoom](#).

III. Review and Approve the November 4, 2020 Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- Jason Ostrowski made a motion to approve the November ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Shar Brunes seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

IV. Review and Approve the August 5, 2020 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Lisa Woods made a motion to approve the August ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended. Alison Peetz seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

V. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Assistive Technology Users or on [the State Plan on Assistive Technology, 2018-2020](#)

- No public comment was received.



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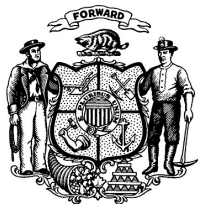
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VI. Assistive Technology Program Updates

- Jenesis Lindbo from the Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin shared that her agency continues to provide assistive technology (AT) services and review approaches to doing so from a distance.
- Billy Maudlin from the Public Service Commission (PSC) reported on an update to the vendor protocols which each Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) vendor must sign. TEPP has gone from over 90 vendors down to 35 vendors. Part of this streamlining has occurred was due to one former vendor having over 30 locations. TEPP voucher levels are down by a slightly and in October 2020 there were approximately 168 TEPP vouchers processed. Also, non-profit grant applications have been completed and PSC is receiving first quarter reports from the Independent Living Centers.
- Shar Brunes with Access to Independence reports the agency is working on creative solutions to continue providing AT services. One situation she described was meeting with the consumer from the front lawn. A device for demonstration was placed on the doorstep and the consumer picked it up. Access staff then used the identical device from the lawn and shared a video of themselves using the device. Also Access is giving consideration on how to do device drop offs for consumers who may not be able to lean or reach down to the ground to pick up a device. Access is also doing YouTube videos on how to set up devices on loan.
- Lisa Sobczyk shared an update that the ATAC website will be migrated to the DHS website. A migration to a new format is underway. Lisa Sobczyk met with DHS communications staff to explain the accessibility issues that currently exist with the DHS website. Lisa Sobczyk will be sending a link to ATAC of the migrated website to provide feedback to DHS on accessibility or barriers to accessing the website experience so we can resolve this issues in a timely manner.
- Eric Riskus from Midstate Independent Living Choices (MILC) described how they are providing AT services in a consistent and safe manner. The pandemic has allowed them to reach new consumers and agencies by being available when other agencies have not been available. MILC is tracking staff



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- time involved with cleaning and sanitizing AT devices. MILC also has a quarantine room set up.
- Dani Kaslow from the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons (CDBP) reported on the iCanConnect program. The program is open for business and providing a combination of remote and in-person services. CDBP consumers have a combination of hearing and vision loss and their program focuses on communication technology, means more in-person services are needed. Cleaning and sanitization procedures, learned from one of the national webinars has assisted with maintain safety for staff and program participants.
- Jim Denham from the Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired (WCBVI) is providing AT services remotely. All of WCBVI's training in 2021 will be done virtually. WCBVI has an upcoming webinar on the new features of JAWS which will include voice navigation. Jim Denham continues to trial the Orbit Writer device for accessing mobile devices.
- Lisa Woods is finishing her internship and providing Telehealth services. Her agency struggles with meeting the needs of people with disabilities. She has some questions she would like input on ahead of a presentation she is doing. She will send an email with these questions to ATAC members.
- Cassie Frost is seeing more parent involvement with student AT needs. Carrie Frost also reported Technology Integration Specialists in her school district are more attuned to the AT needs of students.
- Jason Ostrowski provided an update on the Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities including information about the Emergency Toolkit and a recent toolkit presentation the Council did for iCare staff.
- Michael Hipple shared that the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Regional Network (WATRN) newsletter went out on Monday. Michael Hipple also reported that WATRN had its fourth quarter meeting and attendance was not as high as it has been at previous meetings.
- Scott Gilbertson from the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired reported that in his area it's more difficult for people to access virtual services. Most of his work with consumers has been done by phone and postal service.



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- Cindi Pichler from Independence First reports that her agency is doing contactless loans and demonstrations of AT equipment. Independence First has received a grant and will be setting up an AT center dedicated to seniors and relocation. Independence First has too much equipment at this time as incoming donations have increased and many people are not willing to take used equipment due to safety concerns. Independence First is doing virtual AT outreach and training.
 - Allison Peetz shared that her son is 100% virtual for school and she has been assisting the school in determining the tools that are best suited for his language processing disorder. She will be attending her first virtual Individualized Education Plan meeting.
 - Angela Young from Inclusa reports that her agency continues to build on use and provision of AT for members. Serving virtually has been a challenge.
 - Jessica Holden from Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation reports that staff are still working remotely. Staff are meeting with consumers virtually and Jessica report that some consumers have elected to have their cases placed on hold due to COVID-19. DVR's AsTec team meets every other month to discuss AT and the new lead for this team, Amy May, has put together a survey for field staff on what are the AT needs of consumers.
 - Andrea Bertone from the Department of Public Instruction shared that they received CARES Act funding and are partnering with Cooperative Education Service Agency (CESA) 2. The AT Forward project includes a Community of Practice and technical assistance for families and schools. Resources developed will serve as a long standing source of information to bring AT to the forefront.
 - Monica Smith with DHS provided an update on the Telecommunication Assistance Program (TAP). Monica Smith and Billy Maudlin with PSC did a presentation on TAP and TEPP programs to MILC staff. They are available to do this for other agencies if interested. The TAP program is also preparing to launch a hearing aid purchase assistance program that will follow the income and other guidelines of the current TAP program. It will be available to provide up to \$250 per hearing aid or \$500 maximum per person. The next steps are



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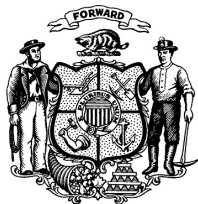
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- to finalize the application and gather feedback. The anticipated launch date of the hearing aid purchase assistance program is January 2021.

VII. WisTech Program Updates (Consumer Stories, Quarterly Reporting, Trainings, and COVID-19 Impact on Delivery of Assistive Technology Services)

- The final draft of the Reconstitution Guidance on AT services was provided to WisTech subcontractors at the end of August 2020 and is located in the ATAC Livebinder.
- The four WisTech Virtual Trainings held in 2020 reached a wide audience and a recap of these training was provided in the ATAC Livebinder. Recordings of these trainings will also be placed on the ATAC uTube channel.
- Independent Living Centers (ILCs) were asked to review the Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference registration options and utilize WisTech funding to send staff if beneficial. The conference is virtual which lessens the expense of attending the conference since there are no travel expenses incurred.
- Independence First coordinates the WisLoan program and collects this data on a statewide basis. Independence First WisTech contract is being amended as they are willing to provide WisLoan data for State Assistive Technology Program's Annual Program Report to the Administration for Community Living.
- Laura Plummer has been participating on the DHS Compassionate Visits workgroup to assist with the development of a guidance document for facilities.
- The TelTex contract has been signed and details are being finalized on the process by which ILCs can request iPads for short-term AT loans.
- Laura Plummer has been working with the Department of Public Instruction on the AT Forward project to guide the use of CARES Act funding on the topic of AT.



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- A vendor of vision loss devices donated his entire inventory and it has been distributed to the staff from the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired. This technology is being made available to consumers at no cost as part of WisTech program's device reutilization activity.

VIII. Assistive Technology Council Member Appointments and Election of Officers

- Jason Ostrowski made a motion to elect Jenesis Lindbo as Chairperson. Lisa Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
- Jenesis Lindbo made a motion to elect Jason Ostrowski as Vice Chairperson. Lisa Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4.

IX. Group Power Training Update

- Jenesis Lindbo, Jim Denham, and Jason Ostrowski provided an update on the Group Power Facilitation training that they attended in October 2020. Lessons learned included creating space within meetings for everyone, using specific activities within meetings to foster group collaboration, and methods for mitigating conflicts.
- Additional sessions as a follow-up to this training will be scheduled on a bi-monthly basis in 2021.

X. Accessible Social Media

- Jenesis Lindbo, Laura Plummer, and Jim Denham did a short educational presentation on how to create accessibility within various social media platforms.

XI. Adjourn

- Motion made by Jim Denham to adjourn the meeting. Shar Brunes seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 5.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.