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## State of Wisconsin

Assistive Technology Advisory Council

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

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### Assistive Technology Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

February 16, 2023

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

Join via [Zoom](#):

<https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1610739296>

Join via Phone:

Phone: 1-669 254 5252

Meeting ID: 161 107 39296

#### Action Items and Motion

##### A. Action Items

1. **Laura Plummer and Jenesis Lindbo will create a list of national conferences and trainings for posting on the website and social media.**
2. **Laura Plummer will share the meeting information as it becomes available for the Governor's Committee on Physical Disabilities.**
3. **Laura Plummer will set up an Executive Committee Meeting to review the AT Advisory Council bylaws.**
4. **Rick Ziller will do an introduction email between Laura Plummer, Jenesis Lindbo, and his contacts with the Veterans Administration.**

##### B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Jim Denham made a motion to approve the February 16, 2023 ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

2. **Motion Item:** Rick Ziller made a motion to approve November 9, 2022, ATAC quarterly meeting minutes. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Jim Denham to appoint Laurie Lane to the ATAC as the representative from the Alternative Finance Program. Rick Ziller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Shar Bruner to adjourn the meeting. Jim Denham seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:45am

### **C. Meeting Minutes**

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson**

**Council Members Present:** Alison Peetz; Dawn Merth-Johnson, Cassie Frost; Jason Ostrowski; Jim Denham; Mike Hipple; Debra Remmel; Rick Ziller, Nurudeen Amusa; Jenesis Lindbo; Shar Bruner.

**Guests Present:** Abygail Marx, Waisman Center; Calvin Options, Options for Independent Living; Cindi Pichler, Independence First; Laurie Lane, Independence First; Emma Duchrow, indiGo, Josh Theis, Options for Independent Living; Alex Lena, Midstate Independent Living Consultants; Dani Kaslow, Center for Deafblind Persons; Billy Mauldin, Public Service Commission.

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

#### **II. Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Review and Approve the February 16, 2023 ATAC Quarterly Meeting Agenda.**

Jim Denham made a motion to approve the February 16, 2023 ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried.  
**See Motion Item 1.**

#### **III. Review and Approve November 9, 2022, Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

Rick Ziller made a motion to approve November 9, 2022, ATAC quarterly meeting minutes. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**See Motion Item 2.**

**IV. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Assistive Technology Users (9:10 A.M. – 9:20 A.M.) or on the State Plan on Assistive Technology, 2021-2023 (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/state-plan-assistive-technology-2021-2023.htm>)**

- No public comment.

**V. Assistive Technology Program Partner Updates**

- Jim Denham shared that on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a virtual class on the built-in accessibility features for Windows 11 for people with vision loss. The Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired has a scholarship opportunity opened up for post-secondary education. There will also be a repeat of the Birding by Ear training.
- Cassie Frost attended the ATIA conference and also presented. She also reported the first Council for Exceptional Children conference occurred.
- Mike Hipple shared that the most recent WI AAC newsletter went out this month and that the USAAC organization is in a new membership year for anyone interested in joining.
- Dawn Merth-Johnson shared that she was able to present with Mike Hipple at the CEC Conference that Cassie Frost mentioned. The AT Forward project has finished three out of four AEM workshops. There was also an AAC funding presentation by Abygail Marx. All sessions are recorded and available on the DPI website. An AT Guidebook is also in the works.
- Debra Rimmel from DVR shared that referrals for services are still lower than expected and that there is funding for services and please consider encouraging referrals to her agency. Laura Plummer presented at the AsTech group earlier this month and the group will be meeting at Independence First for the next meeting.
- Shar Bruner reporting for the Independent Living Centers shared that Independent Living Resources is in the process of an IT upgrade that will increase capacity for virtual services. There is a local organization working to establish a pediatric used equipment program. CILWW did an overhaul

of their AT room which included dividing equipment up by federal equipment category. indiGo has moved their loan closet to a new space and will be holding their ADA event again this year. Access to Independence has completed one half of the 10 week gaming group for youth with disabilities.

Shar brought up concerns that the ILCs have shared regarding the length of loans and the delay in TAP copayments. Discussion regarding open-ended loans occurred. TAP has a waiting list at this time and will also need to serve those on the waiting list before new applications once funding becomes available again on July 1, 2023.

- Alex Lena from Midstate shared that they are partnering with the ADRC of Portage for an adaptive gardening series. They are also hosting an accessible ice-skating event and are planning to host the kayak event again this summer.
- Laurie Lane joined us from Independence First. She manages the WisLoan and Telework program. Three loans have been approved so far in 2023.
- Billy Mauldin from the Public Service Commission shared updates regarding the contracts in place for IP Relay and captioned telephone services. Billy shared information on a new development from Hyundai for alerting drivers who have a hearing loss to environmental sounds. [Article and video link.](#)

Abby Marx shared that “The Waisman AAC Programs are still understaffed with an open Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) position that we're trying to get posted again before the end of February. With that and the previous understaffing that we're still catching up from, our waiting list in the Communication Aids & Systems Clinic (CASC) has gone up to about 18 months.

Our ECHO AAC virtual learning community will have new sessions on the first Wednesdays of March, April, and May from 3:30-5:30 pm. If anyone is interested in joining this free web-based learning community for Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC), they can email [echoaac@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:echoaac@waisman.wisc.edu) to get onto our mailing list to receive the Zoom invites for each month.”

- Calvin from Options for Independent Living shared information about the recent Sled Hockey clinic that they hosted and which was spotlighted on the local NBC channel. An individual in that area is looking to sponsor an entire team and he is working with Alex from Midstate to develop more

Wisconsin teams so that people do not have to travel to other states for competitions. Options received another \$25K grant and has purchased a Freedom track device. The Give Big Green Bay fundraiser is coming up and last year they received \$23,000. \

Other plans in the works include DME collection drives, periodic gaming gatherings, open gym, and basketball time. He still serves on the DNR advisory council and they are looking for more representation from the northern and western areas of Wisconsin. \.

- Cindi Pichler from Independence First and her team presented at ATIA in Orlando this year. They have been doing a wide range of trainings to schools and universities. They also have done a major inventory of their loan and demo area and hope to do a used DME collection drive this summer.

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

- Review and discussion of the FFY22 Annual Progress Report
- Review and discussion of the FFY23 Q1 data and narratives or anecdotes
- Discussion of training ideas for FFY23 and development of a resource list of national training opportunities. **See Action Item 1.**
- Discussion about the new partnership with the ALS Association of Wisconsin and their device reuse activities.
- Discussion about Farm Technology Days on July 18-20, 2023
- Lisa Sobczyk shared updates from the Governor's Committee on Physical Disabilities and Laura Plummer will share their meeting information as it becomes available. **See Action Item 2.**

**VII. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Assistive Technology Act**

- Review and discussion about the recent reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act and the updated requirements for the membership of the AT Council.
- Rick Ziller will do an email introduction with his contacts at the VA. **See Action Item 3.**

- The AT Council bylaws will need to be updated so Laura Plummer will set up an Executive Committee Meeting to draft proposed changes. **See Action Item 4.**

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

- IX.** Motion made by Jim Denham to appoint Laurie Lane to the ATAC as the representative from the Alternative Finance Program. Rick Ziller seconded the motion. **See Motion Item 3.**
- X.** Motion carried. Motion made by Shar Bruner to adjourn the meeting. Jim Denham seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:45am. **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](mailto:laura.plummer1@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

**Phone:** 1-669 254 5252

**Meeting ID:** 161 107 39296

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