



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 Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

9:00 A.M. -12:30 P.M.

Join via [Zoom](#):

<https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/108010710>

Join via Phone:

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

Meeting ID: 108 010 710

ATAC Action Items and Motion

A. Action Items

- There were no action items.

B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Andrea Bertone to approve the May ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Jason Ostrowski. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Andrea Bertone to approve the February ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Lisa Woods. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Lisa Woods to appoint applicant number 7 and 11 to the ATAC. Motion seconded by Jason Ostrowski. Motion carried.
4. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Lisa Woods to appoint applicant number 10 to the ATAC. Motion seconded by Mike Hipple. Motion carried.
5. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Mike Hipple to approve the State Plan for Assistive Technology, 2018-2020. Motion seconded by Jason Ostrowski. Motion carried.
6. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Jason Ostrowski to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mike Hipple.



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C. Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson

Council Members Present: Jenesis Lindbo; Andrea Bertone; Scott Gilbertson; Jason Ostrowski; Lisa Woods; and Mike Hipple.

Council Members Absent (excused*): Jessica Holton; Rich Skerbitz; and Shar Brunes.

Guests Present: Billy Mauldin; Cindi Pichler; Andrew Boreaux; Jim Denham; Cassie Frost; Abygail Marx; RaeAnn Fahey; and Andrew Boreaux.

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

I. Meeting Called to Order

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

The meeting was available in-person attendance, via teleconference by calling 1-844-708-2569 meeting code 108-010-710, and via [Zoom](#).

II. Review and Approve the May Quarterly Agenda

- Motion made by Andrea Bertone to approve the May ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Jason Ostrowski. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

III. Review and Approve February Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Andrea Bertone to approve the February ATAC quarterly meeting minutes.
 - Correction noted on the spelling of Billy Mauldin's name.
 - Motion was amended to approve the February ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended.
 - Motion seconded by Lisa Woods. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.



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IV. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Assistive Technology Users or on the State Plan on Assistive Technology, 2018-2020 (dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02162.pdf)

- Cindi Pichler with IndependenceFirst requested an update on device reuse as outlined in the State Plan on Assistive Technology, 2018-2020.
 - Laura Plummer responded that device reuse services continue to be provided by the Department of Corrections (DOC) for refurbishment for durable medical equipment (DME). DOC is establishing relationships with entities to purchase used DME devices from them. Device reuse also continues to be tracked by the Independent Living Centers.

V. Assistive Technology Program Updates

- Jenesis Lindbo shared the following update from ATAC member, Shar Brunes, whom was unable to attend this meeting. *"Please let them (ATAC) know that we are applying for the new Alternative Finance Program Request for Proposals? We would be interested in their ideas/opinions as to what would be beneficial to our consumers."*
- Billy Maudlin from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) shared that there has been a drop in Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) applications. Typically PSCW receives 75-100 TEPP applications per month and in April 2020 PSCW has received 59 TEPP applications. This has also translated into lower expenditures for the TEPP voucher program. Billy Maudlin shared that the Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS) program has seen a longer wait time for captioned phone responses and longer call times overall. The revised TEPP equipment list has been finalized, but will not be made public until some additional policy protocols are approved by the Commission.
- Lisa Woods shared that the ATAC member orientation meeting was helpful and that she liked having all of the materials available online in one place. Lisa Woods stated her agency has converted to providing services entirely on a virtual basis.



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- Mike Hipple reported that the Wisconsin Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) Network hosted their regional meeting virtually in April 2020. The topic for this meeting was quality indicators for assistive technology used in schools. The next Wisconsin AAC Network meeting will be in August 2020 and will be on wheelchair positions. Mike Hipple is looking for speakers on wheelchair positions.
 - Laura Plummer is happy to correspond with Mike Hipple on this.
- Cindi Pichler shared that she and another staff member from IndependenceFirst have done three virtual presentations to college prep programs on assistive technology.
- Jason Ostrowski shared updates about the Samsung product testing he has been doing.
- Jim Denham from the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired shared information about an online course recently held regarding apps for people with vision loss. There will be additional trainings coming up. Jim Denham also shared that the Library for the Blind has had to re-visit how they are providing services and this has involved helping people access electronic reading materials through library apps.
- Andrea Bertone from the Wisconsin Department of Public (DPI) Instruction shared that the next online assistive technology resource that they will be doing is on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices. Jennifer Schubring will be the trainer. These trainings will be captioned and added to the DPI website. Andrea Bertone mentioned the CARES Act funding and that she may have some input into assistive technology applications which can be paid for with this funding source.
- Abbigail Marx shared that Waisman Center Communication Aids & Systems Clinic (CASC) has been providing services virtually and one of the challenges experienced has been how to do communication assessments remotely.
- Andrew Bordeaux shared that COVID-19 has highlighted that access to assistive technology is impacted by many factors and that not everyone has access to devices and connectivity. This led to discussion about the barriers



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an individual or families may have in accessing the internet. This access may be impacted by financial means, geographical availability, ability to obtain technology, and the skills to use it.

- RaeAnn Fahey from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) shared DHS has promoted free and low cost internet options that had been shared by PSCW. These were shared via the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents provided to IRIS and Family Care programs.

VI. Assistive Technology Advisory Council Member Appointments, Committee Membership, Vacancies, and Officer Elections

- Laura Plummer led the discussion regarding the ATAC having three vacancies. A review of the current ATAC membership base was provided and members reviewed the applications and submitted to serve on ATAC.
- ATAC members will submit their top 3 choices to Ashley Walker for voting.
 - Motion made by Lisa Woods to appoint applicant number 7 and 11 to the AT Council. Motion seconded by Jason Ostrowski. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
 - Motion made by Lisa Woods to appoint applicant number 10 to the AT Council. Motion seconded by Mike Hipple. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4.

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

- Laura Plummer led the discussion on Wistech program updates including a review of issues and actions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The pandemic impact on device loans, demonstrations, and reuse was discussed via email correspondence with program subcontractors. Information was shared with these programs in late March 2020 that there would be fiscal support for the purchase of Personal Protection Equipment (gloves, masks, cleaners) and related assistive technology equipment such as UV sanitization wands.



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- Guidance on providing virtual services under the Assistive Technology (AT) Act was also shared with WisTech subcontractors in March 2020. Administration for Community Living (ACL) issued guidance on acceptable video meeting.
- WisTech staff reached out to obtain information and guidance on methods to reduce social isolation through the use of technology. Unofficial documentation was provided and directed towards both facilities and families.
- CARES Act funding provided support to Aging and No Wrong Door programs. In ACL's guidance Aging and No Wrong Door programs to collaborate with AT Act programs were. WisTech staff has worked with the Office for Resource Development (ORCD) so when Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers receive these funds they are aware of the WisTech program's ability to provide information and support on assistive technology.
- There are numerous webinars on the topics of providing remote or virtual services, ensuring accessibility for video meetings, and product demonstrations. On a national level, Independent Living Centers, AT Act Programs, and Vocation Rehabilitation programs have shared their strategies to ensure continuity of services. These resources are routinely shared with WisTech subcontractors.
- Laura Plummer shared WisTech program data from quarter 2 (January-March). Program data, including the narratives will be sent out once compiled. WisTech is also collecting data on instances when services are not able to be provided as a result of the pandemic. This information is being collected through a survey form.
- Laura Plummer is participating in an in-depth training on Information Communication Technology (ICT) website accessibility. This training is being done virtually and is hosted by the AT3 Center.
- Lisa Sobczyk and Laura Plummer provided a second training to the Wisconsin Technical College System on ICT and accessible PowerPoints.
- Inclusa requested a presentation on assistive technology resources in Wisconsin, which will take place in May 2020.



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- WisTech regional trainings will occur virtually this year.
- Technical assistance has been provided to TEPP, Telecommunications Assistance Program (TAP), and to the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

VIII. Review and Approve the State Plan for Assistive Technology, 2018-2020

- The State Plan for Assistive Technology, 2018-2020 was reviewed. ACL has finalized the use of an accessible Word document as the format to submit the State Plan for Assistive Technology for approval by April 30, 2020.
- ATAC reviewed a draft of the SPAT, 2018-2020 during this meeting.
 - A motion by Mike Hipple to approved the State Plan for Assistive Technology 2018-2020. Motion seconded by Jason Ostrowski. Motion carried. See Motion Item 5.

IX. Assistive Technology Online Learning Resources

- A review of online resources for learning about assistive technology was provided in the materials and discussed by the ATAC.
- Laura Plummer shared the materials from the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) that were included in the meeting materials. BPDD is seeking input into their five-year plan.

X. Adjourn

- A motion was made by Jason Ostrowski to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mike Hipple. See Motion Item 6.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 P.M.