



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, August 5, 2020

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

Join via **Zoom**:

<https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/92293759273>

Join via Phone:

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

Meeting ID: 922 9375 9273

ATAC Action Items and Motion

A. Action Items

- There were no action items.

B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Jason Ostrowski to approve the August ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Jim Denham. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Lisa Woods to approve the May ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Alison Peetz. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Shar Bruner to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Jim Denham. Motion carried.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson

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

Council Members Absent (excused*): Rich Skerbitz and Scott Gilbertson.

Guests Present: Billy Mauldin, Public Service Commission; Jennifer Schubring; Calvin Richtig, Options for Independent Living; Karl Kopp, Society's Assets; and Angela Zalig (Speaker), Office for Blind and Visually Impaired.



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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 9:03 A.M.

The meeting was available via teleconference by calling 1-844-708-2569 meeting code 922 9375 9273, and via [Zoom](#).

III. Review and Approve the August Quarterly Agenda

- Motion made by Jason Ostrowski to approve the August ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Jim Denham. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

IV. Review and Approve February Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Lisa Woods to approve the May ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Alison Peetz. 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.

VI. Assistive Technology Program Updates

- Jenesis Lindbo shared that she has been doing a significant amount of research into developments of new assistive technology devices.
- Billy Mauldin from the Public Service Commission updated the ATAC on the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP). During state fiscal year 2020, which ended on June 30, 2020, there were 1,962 vouchers redeemed for a total of \$912,000. There was a drop in applications at the beginning of the pandemic, but there has been an increase in voucher applications in July. Billy Mauldin shared the Universal Service Fund contract with the Independent Living Centers (ILCs) will be renewed and may be an 18 month contract this next time in order to align the timing with fiscal years. The final TEPP Outreach program reports are coming in from the ILCs.



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- Alison Peetz shared that she and her son have working to learn more about his accommodations through the Chrome browser for remote learning.
 - Lisa Woods shared that she has been reviewing appropriate tools for the provision of virtual telehealth services for individuals who have a hearing and/or vision loss.
 - Mike Hipple reported that the Wisconsin AAC Network (WIATRAN) is hosting their next networking event on Thursday, August 6, 2020.
 - Jim Denham will be trialing the new device called the [Orbitwriter](#). This is a Bluetooth Braille keyboard for smartphone devices that retails for \$99.
 - Shar Bruner reported that Access to Independence has been working on plans for resuming services.
 - Jason Ostrowski shared that the Samsung phone he was doing a trial for is not going to be produced.
 - Cassie Frost provided the update that her focus has been on determining what the school year will look like for her districts and ensuring students have full access at home and at school. This also involves significant amounts of training for teachers and parents.
 - Jessica Holton with the Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR) shared that Amy May is now heading up the AsTec team. DVR still has 34 employees working for the unemployment division.
 - Calvin Richtig shared that Options for Independent Living offices are currently closed to the public, however, the agency is providing services remotely. Calvin Richtig has been working and providing virtual school support for his son, which gives him insight into what families are experiencing.
 - Billy Mauldin asked about the office closure.
 - Calvin Richtig replied that the Board of Directors has elected to keep Options offices closed to the public to keep staff and consumers safe.
 - Andrea Bertone with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) discussed the assistive technology (AT) work group within DPI and its efforts around ensuring access for students. DPI is developing a contract with CESA #2 to expend CARES Act funding to support AT during the next year.
 - Jennifer Schubring reported that WIATRAN will have the next networking event on Thursday with a focus on classroom teachers and professionals as they discuss plans for the coming school year.



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- Monica Smith from DHS reported that the Telecommunications Assistance Program (TAP) has wrapped up the state fiscal year and TAP is looking to expand the support it provides to consumers who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or Deaf-blind in state fiscal year 2021.
- Lisa Woods asked about access and expansion to broadband access for Wisconsin residents.
 - Billy Mauldin responded with resources currently available and offered to answer additional questions directly.

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

- The WisTech quarterly data and narratives were shared and reviewed with the ATAC. Highlights included recognizing the impact of COVID-19 has had on the delivery of AT services.
- Information was shared about the collection of data on AT services that subcontractors were unable to provide due to the pandemic. This is a requirement of the Administration for Community Living, which oversees the federal state assistive technology program.
- Many professional development opportunities have been made available and shared with ILC staff and AT service providers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing services in remote and alternative formats.
- WisTech staff have been conducting trainings on information and communications technology (ICT) and AT resources for various stakeholder and service provider groups. This includes technical assistance to the Governor's Office on document accessibility.
- Badger Correctional Enterprises has been working directly with Inlusa on durable medical equipment sales. Badger Correctional Enterprises will also be reaching out to other Managed Care Organizations.
- WisTech is pursuing a contract with Teltext to provide loaner iPads to assist with the remote loan and demonstrations to consumers in order for them to be able to make decisions.
- Two upcoming WisTech Virtual Trainings are occurring this fiscal year. Information will be shared with the ATAC. This will conclude the four WisTech Regional trainings planned for this year.



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VIII. Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

- Jason Ostrowski, Chair of the Council on Physical Disabilities shared information about the Council. He also shared that the Council is seeking members with physical disabilities to serve on the Council.

IX. Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired (OBVI) Presentation

- Angela Zalig with OBVI provided an informational presentation on the services available from OBVI to consumers statewide.

X. Service Delivery and COVID-19

- Ashley Walker from DHS shared that BADR is providing guidance to subcontractors on AT service delivery during the pandemic.
- BADR worked with Jason Beloungy from Access to Independence and Marci Boucher from Independence First on this document.
- Once this guidance is finalized it will be provided to ATAC.

XI. Adjourn

- Motion made by Shar Brunes to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Jim Denham. Meeting adjourned. See Motion Item 3.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 P.M.