



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

Telephone: 608-514-2513  
Fax: 608-267-3203

## 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

November 9, 2023

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

#### Join via Zoom:

<https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1616329389>

#### Join via Phone:

Phone: 1-669 254 5252

Meeting ID: 1616329389

#### A. Action Items

**Action Item 1:** Laura Plummer will explore the development of a joint assistive technology events calendar with Jim Denham and Calvin Richtig.

#### B. Motion Items

**Motion Item 1:** Motion made by Laurie Lane to approve the agenda and seconded by Mike Hipple. Motion carried.

**Motion Item 2:** Motion made by Calvin Richtig to approve the August 25<sup>th</sup> quarterly minutes. Motion seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion carried.

**Motion Item 3:** Motion made by Jim Denhan to elect Rick Ziller to a second term. Motion seconded by Mike Hipple. Motion carried.

**Motion 4:** Motion made by Laurie Lane to adjourn. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

#### C. Meeting Minutes

##### I. Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

- Jim Denham called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M.

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

- **Council Members Present:** Stacy Ellingen, Jim Rau, BJ Ermenc, Calvin Richtig, Julie Bergen, Jennifer Seale, Dawn Merth-Johnson, Cassie Frost; Laurie Lane, Jim Denham; Debra Remmel; Rick Ziller, Nurudeen Amusa; Mike Hipple; Cortney Kurawski.
- **Council Members Absent:** Lindsey Kreitzman
- **Guests Present:** Rachel Puda, DHS; Leighann Granados, Indigo; Jennifer Schubring; Dani Kaslow; Kathleen Huevler; Casandra Kambitsis; Matt Palma, WESP-DHH; Sebastian Wood, Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin; Abygail Marx, Waisman Center; Kristine Leonard; Kate Coerper, Statutory Council on Blindness.
- **DHS Staff Support Present:** Laura Plummer, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR); DHS, Zachary Donovan, DHS, Ashley Walker, DHS; Jason Anderson, DHS.

## **II. Review and Approve Quarterly Meeting November 9, 2023 Agenda**

- Motion made by Laurie Lane to approve the agenda and seconded by Mike Hipple. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 1.**

## **III. Review and Approve August 25, 2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

- Motion made by Calvin Richtig to approve the August 25<sup>th</sup> quarterly minutes. Motion seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 2.**

## **IV. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Assistive Technology Users or on the State Plan on Assistive Technology, 2021-2023**

- No public comment.

## **V. Assistive Technology Program Partner Updates**

- Dawn Merth-Johnson from DPI provided an update on the AT Forward project. The monthly Community of Practice (COP) meetings continue this year and Laura Plummer presented on the WisTech loan program and WIAT4ALL at the beginning of the year. This month's topic is Executive Functioning. The collaborative team supporting the AT Forward project is presenting the work at the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) conference in Orlando, Florida in January 2024. The last two items shared are

that over 300 micro-credentials have been issued and that DPI will be hiring for an AT consultant with an emphasis on an OT or PT for that role.

- BJ Emence shared an update from the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH). The Council will meet in December to establish strategic goals for the upcoming year. She participated in a panel at Concordia to educate medical students about serving people with disabilities (in collaboration with the Council for Physical Disabilities). CDHH also recognizes that some schools are reducing foreign languages taught due to budget constraints, which can include American Sign Language.
- Calvin Richtig, representing Options for Independent Living in Green Bay shared that their organization remains involved with hosting world competition events for sled ice hockey. The LEND by Options reuse program continues to grow and was able to support this competition with loaner shower chairs. Options remains focused on the expansion of recreation opportunities and also continues with the technology “clinics” on Washington Island. Marinette County had a second annual We Wheel Together event with 129 participants and 52 AT device users. Options has received funding to purchase an adaptive kayak and plans on clinics in the coming year.
- Calvin Richtig, representing the Wisconsin Coalition for Independent Living Centers (WCILC). Midstate Independent Living received funding from the Dudley foundation for hockey sleds. The ILCS had many booths and events along with committee involvement. Calvin shared an extensive update from all of the ILC updates via email with the AT Council members. This update included links to each of the ILC newsletters and he encouraged members to sign up to receive those newsletters.
- Jennifer Seale from the Waisman Center shared that they are currently full staffed for the first time in a long time. They have had the first few ECHO augmentative sessions with one remaining.
- Debra Remmel from DVR shared that the CPA grant continues and DVR is seeking additional referrals for services.
- Jim Denham from WI Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired had a few updates included that the previous week the organization hosted a gallery night for artists. There is a free AT class in December on “apps”. If anyone is interested, they can reach out directly to Jim Denham.
- Rich Ziller from AdaptiveTR has been doing some presentations and outreach in the area of assistive technology.

- Cassie Frost shared that her updates are limited due to the start of the school year, which is always hectic. She attended and presented at the Closing the Gap conference in Minnesota in October. The Council for Exceptional children will be recruiting new members and is looking to grow.
- Deen Amusa from the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired shared that they hosted their annual Adventures in Vision Loss at the WI Lions Camp. There were 18 individuals who attended. Beginning in January OVBI will have a retirement and Deen will be taking over the counties near Madison.
- Mike Hipple shared his newsletter with the AT Council members ahead of the meeting. This went out in October to just under 400 individuals and he would like the council members to share with others. He attended Closing the Gap conference, which is held each October in the Minneapolis area. The USAAC (United States Augmentative and Alternative Communication Society) will have a membership drive later this year.
- Laurie Lane from WisLoan shared that the next meeting is next week Wednesday (monthly). They received a grant from ACL for down payment assistance and marketing materials are forthcoming. Laurie has been working on educating the IL staff and doing outreach.
- Stacy Ellingen presented with the Tech First Coalition at the Self-Determination Conference. Stacy did a video for the Self Determination Channel on YouTube on her use of eye gaze.
- Cortney Zurawski from UW-Stevens Point has been working on accessibility in their learning management system (Canvas LMS). She attended the Higher Ed (Ahead) meeting at UW-Whitewater.
- Dani Kaslow from the Center for Deafblind Persons shared that Joan Schneider is retiring at the end of this month. The new Executive Director is Adrian Klenz.
- Kate Coerper from the Statutory Council for the Blind shared that they meet quarterly, and these meetings are open to the public.
- Kathleen Huevler from the ALS Association shared updates about their reuse and assistive technology services. They have seen an approximately a 50% increase in requests and one focus has been voice banking.
- Jim Rau, former member of the HLAA for Wisconsin shared that there have been some meetings with ODHH to discuss website improvements.

## **VI. WisTech Program Updates**

- Laura Plummer provided a recap of the WisTech data collected for the final quarter of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 which ran from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023. The Annual Progress Report (APR) is due December 31, 2023.
- Laura Plummer provided an update on the WisTech AT Credentials that included that the pilot has wrapped up for the WisTech Verified ATP and content development continues for the WisTech AT Credential curriculum. There have been some delays due to staff and subject matter capacity.
- The 2024 WisTech Training survey was distributed, and the results will be shared at the next quarterly meeting.
- Laura Plummer thanked Laurie Lane for beginning to enter her data collection in the areas of public awareness, training, and information and assistance into WIAT4ALL so that it can be included in the APR.
- Discussion around the use of a joint calendar to track AT trainings and events throughout the state. Laura Plummer will explore this further with Jim Denham and Calvin Richtig. **See Action Item #1.**

#### **VII. Independent Living Supports Pilot Presentation**

- Rachel Puda from DHS gave a presentation on the Independent Living Supports Pilot Program.

#### **VIII. Unified Voices Council Summit Discussion**

- Zachary Davenport from DHS shared that the individual connections between the various councils was very beneficial. Overall feedback was that the experience was useful and now the focus can shift to policy work for the future. There is discussion as to how frequently this could happen.
- Jim Denham shared he would like more time for individual councils to chat amongst themselves.
- Debra Rimmel shared that she experienced some disconnect from the beginning and that a council overview of each one should have been at the beginning. It was harder to answer the questions at the start without the foundation of what the other councils do. She also noted that time was limited.
- Stacy Ellingen felt the summit was well organized and had great ideas. She shared that GCPD is writing a letter to thank DHS and to host this annually. Should the AT Council do the same?

- BJ Ermence agrees with all that has been shared. She understands that the groups that were there are the councils hosted by DHS and not including the aging and developmental disability councils as well.
- Jim Denham shared that one of the things that happened was the awareness that these other councils are in existence.
- Cassie Frost enjoyed meeting people from the AT Council that she had not met previously. Tables were a mix of council members from each council.
- Dawn Merth-Johnson felt more connection with the AT Council after the summit.

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

- Motion made by Jim Denham to elect Rick Ziller to a second term. Motion seconded by Mike Hipple. Motion Carried. **See Motion Item 3.**

**X. Assistive Technology Advisory Council 2024 Meeting Dates Discussion**

Meeting dates for 2024 will be as follows:

- Feb 22, 2024 Zoom
- May 1, 2024 In-Person
- Aug 27, 2024 Zoom
- Nov 7, 2024 Zoom

**XI. Adjourn**

- Motion made by Laurie Lane to adjourn. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 A.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](mailto:laura.plummer1@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

**Phone:** 1-669 254 5252

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