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State of Wisconsin

Assistive Technology Advisory Council

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

Assistive Technology Advisory Council

Quarterly Meeting

February 22, 2024

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Join via Zoom:

[https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/161 140 4370](https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1611404370)

Join via Phone:

Phone: 1-669 254 5252

Meeting ID: 161 140 4370

Meeting Minutes

A. Action Items

Action Item 1: Calvin Richtig will email out the full list of updates from the Independent Living Centers to the full AT Council membership.

Action Item 2: David Morstad asked for AT Council members to consider attending GCPD meetings or joining a sub-committee.

Action Item 3: If an AT Council member is interesting in participating in the Cross-Council monthly meetings please let Jim Denham or Calvin Richtig know.

Action Item 4: AT Council members may choose to provide budget initiatives to DHS as part of the 2025-2027 State Budget development process. Please send ideas to DHSWisTech@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

B. Motion Items

Motion Item 1: Motion made by Calvin Richtig to approve the agenda and seconded by Laurie Lane. Motion carried.

Motion Item 2: Motion made by Calvin Richtig to approve the November 9, 2023 quarterly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried.

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

Motion Item 3: Motion made by Debra Rimmel to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 P.M.

A. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

- Jim Denham called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.
- **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 Rimmel; Rick Ziller, Nurudeen Amusa; Mike Hipple; Cortney Kurawski, Lindsey Kreitzman.
- **Council Members Absent:** none
- **Guests Present:** Leighann Granados, Indigo; Jennifer Schubring; Dani Kaslow; Casandra Kambitsis; Abygail Marx, Waisman Center; Eric Riskus, MILC; Amanda Miller, CILWW; Ashley Lien, CILWW; Billy Mauldin.
- **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; Lisa Sobczyk; DHS.

II. Review and Approve Quarterly Meeting February 22, 2024 Meeting Agenda

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

III. Review and Approve November 9, 2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Calvin Richtig to approve the November 9, 2023 quarterly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. 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

- Stacey Ellingen, who serves on the Governor's Committee for Physical Disabilities (GCPD), shared that this committee is working with the Department of Transportation on website improvements. The primary improvement is the inclusion of information and resources regarding accessible transportation and vehicle modifications.
- Laurie Lane from Independent First shared that there are currently 37 active loans with their external partner (MEDC) and two in-house loans. Two loans were

approved at the meeting yesterday and the majority of loan requests are for accessible vehicles. The new down payment assistance program has benefited three applicants so far.

- Dawn Merth Johnson from the Department of Public Instruction provided an update on the AT Forward project. They have reached 256 school districts and have issued 338 micro-credentials. DPI is currently posting for an AT consultant position with the focus for a person who is an OT or PT.
- Deen Amusa from the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired shared that the La Crosse, Wisconsin position is currently vacant and they are hoping to fill this soon.
- Jim Rau shared that HLAA-Wisconsin is working cooperatively with the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to increase services for the hard of hearing population. HLAA-WI is also seeking for closer collaboration with the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- BJ Ermence with the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shared that an ex-officio seat on the council has been provided to Kathy Johnson from HLAA-WI. She is also looking forward to the ADILN conference in April.
- Debra Rimmel from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation shared that Delora Newton recently retired and the new Division Administrator is Meredith Dressel. Project Search for this school year is winding down and plans are being made for the next school year. The AsTec teams continue to support DVR staff in the area of assistive technology.
- Calvin Richtig, representing the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers provided a brief update included mention of some new equipment to the loan and demo program and some recent recreation events. He has a full update that he will forward to AT Council Members via email. **See Action Item 1.**
- Jenn Seale from the Waisman Center shared information about an upcoming event called A Day with the Experts. Information can be found on the following website: <https://www.waisman.wisc.edu/event/experts-cerebral-palsy-2024/>
- Mike Hipple shared that the spring newsletter will be going out in March.
- Cassie Frost shared that she attended ATIA. The Council for Exceptional Children conference is next month. Locally, the Wisconsin Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children is seeing board membership nominations. They are also planning for a fall conference in Wisconsin.

- Jim Denham from the WI Council for the Blind shared that they have event on Feb 29th which is a training on using keyboard shortcuts for Gmail. May 4th there is another birding by ear event.
- Billy Mauldin from the Public Service Commission oversees the TRS and TEPP programs. He reported that completed vouchers for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 is remaining consistent with previous years.
- Dani Kaslow from the Center for Deafblind Persons and primary iCanConnect staff member reported that their agency recently used some of the PSC Non-Profit Access grant funds to assist individuals obtain telecommunications equipment. These were individuals who may not otherwise have qualified for the iCC program or who needed training on non-iCC purchased telecommunication devices. They also have welcomed a new Executive Director.

VI. Governor's Committee on Physical Disabilities, Opportunities and Access Committee; David Morstad

- David Morstad with the Governor's Committee on Physical Disabilities provided an overview of the Committee which included the history, their purpose, and sub-committee functions. David asked for AT Council members to consider joining their meetings to learn more and to consider joining a sub-committee. **See Action Item 2.**

VII. OPIL Cross-Council Workgroup Update; Jim Denham and Calvin Richtig

- Jim Denham and Calvin Richtig provided an update on the continued work among all of the disability related councils supported through the Office for the Promotion of Independent Living. There are ongoing, monthly meetings and they are asking for another AT Council member to volunteer to attend these and report back to the full AT Council. **See Action Item 3.**

VIII. Moving AT Forward Statewide ATIA Presentation Recap; Dawn Merth-Johnson

- Dawn Merth-Johnson provided an abbreviated presentation on the session done at the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) conference on the collaboration between DPI, DHS, and CESA #2. This session was awarded the Joy Zabala Spirit Award.

IX. WisTech Program Updates and State Plan Timeline

- Laura Plummer provided updates on the Annual Progress Report submission, Federal Fiscal Year 2024 first quarter data, and the Independent Living Supports Pilot program.
- A review of WisTech AT Partner Funding requests from the last fiscal year and current fiscal year was provided. This included the amounts funded for assistive technology purchases, training for staff, reuse activities, and special events. Laura Plummer expanded on the WICILC update to share that several of the items mentioned were funded by WisTech.
- Laura Plummer shared information from the Secretary's Office regarding the Biennial Budget process and members were asked to share any information or feedback either during the meeting or after. **See Action Item 4.**
- An update on the upcoming Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Conference was provided and a review of who is able to attend the May 1st AT Council Meeting which will be held in person (and virtual) at the Wisconsin Council for the Blind's offices in Madison, WI.
- The State Plan update for 2024-2026 will move ahead as planned for this summer but it is not known if the Administration for Community Living will have a platform ready for submission.

X. Annual Review of AT Council Bylaws

- The AT Council reviewed the current bylaws as required annually and noted no changes were needed.

VIII. Adjourn

- Motion made by Debra Remmel to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 P.M **See Motion Item 3.**

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.

Phone: 1-669 254 5252

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