



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>

Assistive Technology Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

May 18, 2023

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

Join via **Zoom**:

<https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1611163901>

Join via **Phone**:

Phone: 1-669 254 5252

Meeting ID: 161 116 3901

Approved August 25, 2023

A. Action Items

None

B. Motion Items

- 1. Motion Item:** Cassie Frost made a motion to approve the May 18, 2023 ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Laurie Lane seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** Jim Denham made a motion to approve February 16, 2023, ATAC quarterly meeting minutes. Deen Amusa seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 3. Motion Item:** Mike Hipple made a motion for the Jenesis Lindbo to send a letter in support of the state budget initiatives for assistive technology. Jim Denham seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4. Motion Item:** Mike Hipple made a motion to approve the updated Assistive Technology Advisory Council Bylaws. Jim Denham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

5. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Shar Brunes to appoint Calvin Richtig, Jennifer Seale, and Lindsey Kreitzman to the ATAC as the representatives from the Independent Living Centers, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and Medicaid. Dawn Merth-Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Deen Amusa to elect Mike Hipple Jim Denham, and Cassie Frost to second terms on the ATAC. Laurie Lane seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Cassie Frost to elect the five anonymous candidates selected to the ATAC. Motion seconded by Jim Denham. Motion carried.
8. **Motion Item:** Motion made by Shar Brunes to adjourn the meeting. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson

- Jenesis Lindbo called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

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

Council Members Absent: Jason Ostrowski.

Guests Present: Abygail Marx, Waisman Center; Calvin Options, Options for Independent Living; Cindi Pichler, Independence First; Laurie Lane, Independence First; Emma Duchrow, indiGo; Dani Kaslow, Center for Deafblind Persons; Billy Mauldin, Public Service Commission; Matt Daniels; Katie Blue; Jennifer Schubring; Jennifer Seale, Waisman Center; Kelly Gocheanau; Michelle Glasgow; Julie Reidl; Angie Pereira, ALS Association; Kathleen Huevler, ALS Association.

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

II. Review and Approve Quarterly Meeting May 18, 2023 Agenda

Cassie Frost made a motion to approve the May 18, 2023 ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Laurie Lane seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 1.**

III. Review and Approve of the Quarterly Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2023

Jim Denham made a motion to approve February 16, 2023, ATAC quarterly meeting minutes. Deen Amusa 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/wistech/state-plan-assistive-technology-2021-2023.pdf>)

- No public comment.

V. Assistive Technology Program Partner Updates

- Jenesis Lindbo is currently working on more gaming consulting. Including online streaming access.
- Jim Denham from the WI Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired will be hosting an online training with the topic of iPhone vs. Blind Shell phone on Thursday, May 25th. Jim is beta testing Be My Eyes, an app allows people with vision loss to connect with live volunteers to connect with sighted volunteers who describe what you see. Virtual volunteers will use Chat GPT to do the image description. <https://www.bemyeyes.com/blog/introducing-be-my-eyes-virtual-volunteer>
- Rick Ziller shared that he does not have too many updates but is a beta tester for the Apple iOS features for accessibility. <https://www.apple.com/newsroom/2023/05/apple-previews-live-speech-personal-voice-and-more-new-accessibility-features/>

- Alison Peetz shared that her daughter used the Otter AI app for transcription so she plans to use that with her son. Billy Mauldin shared some other transcription app ideas for her son.
- Cassie Frost has been receiving a lot of inquiries about assistive technology in general. This includes Inclusa reaching out for their staff to have more training in this space, especially communication. She will be presenting at ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education). She will be presenting on IOS accessibility in line with an escape room theme.
- Dawn Merth-Johnson from DPI shared information from the AT Forward Community of Practice. A survey will be going out to gather input and there are over 1100 individuals and 249 school districts. All the presentations are archived in the video library.
- Mike Hipple shared that he is the new secretary for an organization and looking for an app to take notes. Also a few updates from AAC. The International AAC has an upcoming conference in Mexico but he is not available to go. Please encourage those who use AAC to join the society. The next WIATR N will be in the summer. WIATR N is also looking to provide a discount code for Closing the Gap.
- Debra Rimmel from DVR shared that the AsTech Team toured Independence First. DVR is now serving those in category 3 under the Order of Selection.
- Deen Amusa shared that OBVI will be hosting an event at the Lions camp in June for skills development in the areas of electronics and smart devices.
- Laurie Lane from WisLoan shared that four loans were approved at yesterday's meeting. They will be expanding the loan amounts and length of term to address adapted vehicles. Loans are at 4% and applications are picking up.
- Shar Bruner has a few updates from the Independent Living Center network. At Access to Independence we started a youth gaming group in January and it has been very successful.
- Shar Bruner shared an update from Independent Living Resources (ILR). ILR has been doing outreach and presentations on WisTech, TEPP, TAP, Wisloan, and Telework. ILR is also working with local ADRCS on accessing services. They are tracking an influx of calls from those interested in donating equipment. Three staff are scheduled to attending various professional development opportunities.
- Calving Richtig has had good results with social media outreach, including Facebook Live. They did an adapted equipment race in the parking lot between the adaptive bike, track chair, etc. Options is also now doing Tik Tok videos. A nosey cup video has over 75,000 views alone. The DME Lend program is

running through AT4ALL. They have been hosting technology classes to teach individuals how to use mobile and tablet devices.

Options is doing strategic planning and looking at underserved populations in their service area. Washington Island has a community health program and are collaborating with them. Upcoming events include county park outreach event in the fall and the community expo on August 24th. Planning is underway for sled hockey clinics and Farm Technology Days. Women's World Sled hockey tournament will be held again in Green Bay.

- Calvin also shared information about the recent loan of the Obi Robot feeder, a device that WisTech purchased to add to the loan and demo program. The consumer is 27 years old and was able to eat independently for the first time because of the Obi Robot. Calvin is also assisting with computer and gaming access for this individual. This consumer will also be volunteering at Options to gain work experience.
- Cindi Pichler from Independence First we provided a tour to AsTech from DVR. They have been doing many tours and trainings with local University OT programs. The Milwaukee area is still experiencing limited vendor options for home modifications. They have been hosting a food distribution program and have been putting disposable supplies that have been donated to IF. It's product that is reaching people in need. They have added an office chair that doubles as a lift chair to the loan and demo program.
- Billy with the Public Service Commission manages the TEPP and Telecommunications Relay Service programs. Data has shown that 95% of smart devices purchased using TEPP funding are Apple products. The other 5% are typically Samsung and just a handful of google smart devices. In June and July he will be touring the IL Centers on the western side of WI. Governor Evers signed an executive order (#190) to change the WTRS Advisory Council. Updated language and reducing the number of people. Vacant positions include someone with a speech disability, someone who is deafblind or deaf low-vision, and another person who is hard of hearing and uses captioned phone services. Please let contact him if you have anyone to recommend.
- Dani Kaslow from the Center for Deafblind Persons. Processing approximately two new iCanConnect applications per month.

VI. ALS Association

Presentation from Angie Pereira and Kathleen Huevler from the ALS Association.

VII. WisTech Program Updates

- Laura Plummer provided an update on the quarterly data which was sent to AT Council members ahead of the meeting for review.
- Laura Plummer reviewed the upcoming WisTech webinar trainings for 2023.
- Laura Plummer attended an in-depth web accessibility training hosted by WebAIM.
- Today is Global Accessibility Awareness Day and DHS has upgraded their website to include toggle functions for font size and high contrast mode.
- WisTech will be participating in the Farm Technology Days on July 18-20.
- There will be a cross-council summit on October 3-5, 2023.
- Laura Plummer reviewed the AT credential program that is in development for AT providers in Wisconsin.

VIII. Review and Approve Budget Support Letter

- Mike Hipple made a motion for the Jenesis Lindbo to send a letter in support of the state budget initiatives for assistive technology. Jim Denham seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 3.**

IX. Review and Approve updated ATAC Bylaws

- Mike Hipple made a motion to approve the updated Assistive Technology Advisory Council Bylaws. Jim Denham seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 4.**

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

- Motion made by Shar Bruner to appoint Calvin Richtig, Jennifer Seale, and Lindsey Kreitzman to the ATAC as the representatives from the Independent Living Centers, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and Medicaid. Dawn Merth-Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 5.**
- Motion made by Deen Amusa to elect Mike Hipple Jim Denham, and Cassie Frost to second terms on the ATAC. Laurie Lane seconded the motion. **Motion carried. See Motion Item 6.**

- Motion made by Cassie Frost to elect the five anonymous candidates selected to the ATAC. Motion seconded by Jim Denham. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 7.**

XI. Adjourn

- Motion made by Shar Brunes to adjourn the meeting. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M. **See Motion Item 8.**

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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