

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

Fax: 608-267-3203

Web: atc.wisconsin.gov

Assistive Technology Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

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

Join via [Zoom](#):

<https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/82487414725>

Join via Phone:

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

Meeting ID: 824 8741 4725

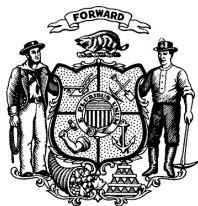
Action Items and Motion

A. Action Items

1. **Action Item:** Laura Plummer will contact Jessica Holton to discuss the AT survey that DVR conducted with their staff.
2. **Action Item:** Jenesis Lindbo asked that an Executive Committee meeting be held to continue the discussion on AAC access and services.

B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Jason Ostrowski made a motion to approve the May 19, 2021 ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Jim Denham seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Mike Hipple made a motion to approve the February 24, 2021 ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended. Lisa Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Jenesis Lindbo made the motion to appoint ATAC applicant #4 to the AT Council. Jason Ostrowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Motion Item:** Jim Denham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried.



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C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson

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

Council Members Absent (excused*): Scott Gilbertson

Guests Present: Billy Mauldin, Public Service Commission; Calvin Richtig, Options for Independent Living; Abygail Marx, Waisman Center; Pauline Lorenz, Society's Assets; Michelle Retzlaff, Augmentative and Alternative Communications (AAC) Consultant; Michelle Mineo, AAC Consultant; Heather Prenovost, AAC Consultant; Cathryn Scott, IRIS Consultant; Jaclyn Borchardt, Vision Forward; Amy May, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation representing for Jessica Holton.

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 by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson at 9:07 A.M.

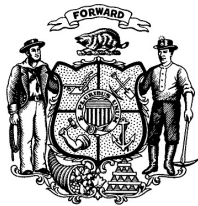
The meeting was available via teleconference by calling 1-844-708-2569 meeting code 824 8741 4725 and via [Zoom](#).

III. Review and Approve the May 19, 2021 Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- Jason Ostrowski made a motion to approve the May 19, 2021 ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Jim Denham seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

IV. Review and Approve the February 24, 2020 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Mike Hipple made a motion to approve the February 24, 2021 ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended. Lisa Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.



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V. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Assistive Technology Users or on the [State Plan on Assistive Technology, 2018-2020](#)

- No public comment received.

VI. Assistive Technology Program Updates

- Assistive Technology Program related updates were shared by Council Members and Guests.
 - Mike Hipple shared updates regarding the spring WIATRNL newsletter. Their social media presence is growing and the newsletter had an interview with an AAC user.
 - Jim Denham shared information about recent and upcoming trainings such as Birding by Ear, outdoor grilling, and smart speakers.
 - Billy Mauldin reported that so far 1,276 vouchers have been issued compared to 1,688 last year. There has been a decline in Hard of Hearing Vouchers and Telecommunication Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) now has only 33 vendors. Discussion about TEPP eligibility was raised as it relates to individuals who are enrolled in long-term care programs. Billy Mauldin provided clarification that any Wisconsin resident with disability related barriers to distance communication has the right to apply to the program. Their participation in a long term care program such as Family Care or IRIS does not prevent a person from utilizing the TEPP program to access funding for distance communication.
 - Calvin Richtig, staff from Options for Independent Living, shared that his agency will be resuming in-person services on June 1, 2021. Options is also conducting a search for an Executive Director.



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- Cassie Frost shared that her district is transitioning between virtual and in-person learning. The pandemic has had an influence in the IT department and providing technology to students. Her district is also evaluating what aspects of this past year to continue next year.
- Alison Peetz shared a request for assistance in advocating with her son's district in the provision of specific software to help with his learning needs. Cassie Frost offered assistance to speak with Alison Peetz.
- Pauline Lorenz shared information about a resource fair Society's Assets is involved in.
- Amy May reported that DVR is still providing remote services. A survey for staff on assistive technology decisions and purchases has been completed. Laura Plummer will contact Jessica Holton to discuss the AT survey that DVR conducted with their staff. See Action Item 1.
- Abygail Marx shared information related to AAC needs and the creation of a learning community.
- Andrea Bertone provided an update on the AT Forward project that will continue for another year.

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

- DHS Support Staff gave an update on the most recent WisTech Program Quarterly Data; which included device loan, demonstration, and reuse numbers.



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- Recent trainings provided included one for the Eau Claire County ADRC on smart home technology and the Amazon Alexa. The first WisTech Virtual Training was held on May 11, 2021. Additional trainings included new staff orientation for DVR, the National AgrAbility Training Workshop, and the ATAP Directors meeting.
- Monthly AT Virtual Networking Events are now being hosted on Zoom for anyone interested in discussing assistive technology.

WisTech has been involved with equitable access throughout the COVID-19 vaccine effort.

VIII. Assistive Technology Advisory Council Member Appointments, and Vacancies

- The Council discussed and reviewed pool of new applications, and voted on council membership.
 - Motion made by Jenesis Lindbo to appoint applicant #4 to the AT Council. Motion seconded by Jason Ostrowski. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.

IX. Augmentative and Alternative Communication Access Discussion

- Abygail Marx from the Waisman Center provided a general overview of how AAC services are accessed throughout in Wisconsin; indicating the lack of providers and that her agency is the primary referral location for high-end AAC assessments and services.
 - The Council discussed possible reasons for the lack of knowledgeable providers for AAC included: limited educational programming on AAC, lack of assistive technology in the educational prep programs at Universities and the limited access of general providers to the AAC devices themselves. Families and consumers also having limited access to higher end AAC devices for loan, yet many insurance programs require a loan prior to approving the purchase of a device.



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- The Council discussed the option of adding AAC devices to the WisTech loan and demo program, and whether there is potential funding for this.
 - Concerns were mentioned about the use of funding for high cost devices that may receive few requests to borrow and subsequently become outdated.

Discussion around providers working outside their scope of work if they are not trained Speech Therapists, yet are expected to provide loans and demonstrations on higher end AAC devices.

- Several AAC consultants in attendance offered their willingness to support greater access to devices along with training and would be interested in continuing the dialogue on this topic.
- Jenesis Lindbo asked that an Executive Committee meeting be held to continue the discussion on AAC access and services. See Action Item 2.

X. Adjourn

- Jason Ostrowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 P.M.