



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 (ATAC) Quarterly Teleconference Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

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

Join via [Zoom](#):

<https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/84557069051>

Join via Phone:

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

Meeting ID: 845 5706 9051

Action Items and Motion

A. Action Items

1. **Action Item:** Jenesis Lindbo will connect those in attendance who are interest in discussing Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) access in Wisconsin.
2. **Action Item:** Jenesis Lindbo will connect those in attendance who are interested in discussing barriers encountered by people with disabilities with accessing healthcare and mental health services virtually.

B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Jim Denham made a motion to approve the February 24, 2021 ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Shar Brunes made a motion to approve the November 4, 2020 ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended. Alison Peetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Jason Ostrowski 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; Lisa Woods; Shar Brunes; Jim Denham; Jessica Holton; Cassie Frost; Alison Peetz; and Mike Hipple.

Council Members Absent (excused*): Rich Skerbitz, Andrea Bertone, Scott Gilbertson

Guests Present:

Kristie Boettcher, Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin; Shannon Gess, Vocational Rehab Counselor; Lexi Salter; Crystal Baird; Geri Draz, Inclusa; Danielle Dworak, Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin (CILWW); Pauline Lorenz, Society's Assets; Cindy Pichler, Independence First; Billy Mauldin, Public Services Commission; Jamie Schrauth, Elev8; Chris Hege, eClusion; Ryan Scanlan; Debra Remmel, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Renee Chrz, Access Our City; Bobby Taylor, CILWW; Abygail Marx, Waisman center; David Koch, CILWW; Nikki Hysel, Independent Living Resources; Hayley Bollinger, UW-Stout; Karl Kopp, Society's Assets; Dani Kaslow, Center for Deafblind Persons, Michelle Retzlaff, Satillo; Heather Prenovost, Satillo;

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.

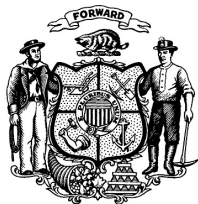
II. Meeting Called to Order

- Meeting called to order by Jenesis Lindbo, Chairperson at 9:08 A.M.

The meeting was available via teleconference by calling 1-844-708-2569 meeting code 845 5706 9051 and via [Zoom](#).

III. Review and Approve the February 24, 2021 Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- Jim Denham made a motion to approve the February 24, 2021 ATAC quarterly meeting agenda. Cassie Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.



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IV. Review and Approve the November 4, 2020 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Shar Brunes made a motion to approve the November 4, 2020 ATAC quarterly meeting minutes as amended. Alison Peetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

- Jenesis Lindbo from CILWW reported that she is pursuing her Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) certification.
- Jessica Holton from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) shared that her agency continues to provide services virtually. Jessica responded to a question about being allocated to support unemployment efforts. She reported that the majority of DVR staff have returned to their regular positions.
- Billy Mauldin from the Public Service Commission shared that TEPP now has 32 vendors, which is a manageable number, and the program is seeking to make changes in the wording for some components of the voucher program to align with the Governor's Executive order regarding inclusive language.
- Shar Brunes from Access to Independence shared that her agency has utilized COVID funding to support consumers with needs in the area of housing, food, and transportation.
- Cindi Pichler from Independence First reported on an update with their AT for seniors grant which is being used to establish a demonstration area of assistive technology in the format of a home environment. Her agency also now has a dedicated web page that contains a listing of their used equipment that is available for donation.
- Pauline Lorenz from Society's Assets shared that there have been numerous media efforts to increase awareness of assistive technology and she is evaluating what additional items to include in the loan and demonstration program.



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- Mike Hipple from Wisconsin Assistive Technology Regional Network (WIATRN) shared that he is seeking articles and input for future issues of their organization's newsletter. Jenesis will connect those in attendance who are interested in the topic of AAC access in Wisconsin via email. See Action Item 1.
 - Jim Denham from the Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired reported that he has a more inclusive job title now, Access Technology Specialist.
 - Lisa Woods shared that she has finished her Master's Degree and her agency is conducting an audit of accessibility for virtual services. Jenesis will connect those in attendance who are interested in this topic via email. See Action Item 2.
 - Cassie Frost shared that her district is in the midst of budget planning.
 - Alison Peetz shared that her son is now receiving caption services. She has also been participating in the AT Forward Community of Practice.
 - Chris Hege shared that he continues to push forward on greater accessibility to gaming and education for caregivers of the importance gaming can have for individuals with disabilities. Jenesis Lindbo shared information about the statewide Leveling Up events.

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

- Laura Plummer reviewed the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Progress Report that was submitted to the Administration for Community Living
- The first quarter data numbers for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 was shared. This included the device loan, demo, and reuse numbers for each ILC as well as the device acquisition from the iCanConnect program and the donations received by DHS for donation through the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Narratives were also shared with the AT Council.
- An update was provided on the migration of the AT4ALL website to the new platform. All ILCs have received training on this migration and on data updates.



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- COVID continues to impact service delivery however, the WIsTech activities are resuming as agencies and consumers become more comfortable with their safety protocols.
 - Laura Plummer shared a short video that was created for the Association of Technology Act Programs (ATAP) Leadership Symposium happening in March. The video provided information on the new TAP-Hearing Aid Assistance Program (TAP-HAA) that Monica Smith is managing. Monica Smith fielded questions and discussion about the TAP-HAA program.
 - The State Plan for Assistive Technology is due for updating this fiscal year.

VIII. Assistive Technology Training Survey Results and Discussion

- Laura Plummer shared the results from the training survey, which was distributed to stakeholders to gather input on suggested topics for the WisTech trainings that will occur in 2021.
- Discussion regarding the Virtual Home Modification session that Laura Plummer attended at Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) Conference. An invitation to speak has been extended to those presenters.
- Additional topics that survey respondents indicated were of higher interest included technology for blind and low vision and Information, Communication, Technology (ICT) accessibility.
- The topics of technology access for children, gaming, and AAC were also discussed.

IX. AT Forward Project; Molly Vierck, CESA #2

- Molly Vierck from CESA #2 shared a presentation about the AT Forward Project that was created out of funding that the Department of Public Instruction received from the CARES Act.

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 11:43 A.M.