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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

August 27, 2024

9:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

754 Williamson Street Madison, WI 53703

Join via Zoom:

<https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1609211896>

Join via Phone:

Phone: 1-669-254-5252

Meeting ID: 1609211896

Meeting Minutes

Approved November 7, 2024

A. Action Items

B. Motion Items

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

Motion Item 2: Motion made by Cassie Frost to approve the May 1, 2024, quarterly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Deen Amusa. Motion carried.

Motion Item 3: Motion made by Jim Denham to appoint Rick Ziller to a second term. Motion seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion Carried.

Motion Item 4: Motion made by Rick Ziller to elect Jim Denham as Chairperson for the AT Council. Motion seconded by Debra Remmel. Motion Carried.

Motion Item 5: Motion made by Rick Ziller to elect Cassie Frost as the Vice Chairperson. Motion seconded by Calvin Richtig. Motion carried.

Motion Item 6: Motion made by Jim Denham to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 pm.

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

A. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

- Jim Denham called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.
- **Council Members Present:** Stacy Ellingen, Jim Rau, Calvin Richtig, Julie Bergen, Dawn Merth-Johnson, Cassie Frost; Laurie Lane, Jim Denham; Debra Rimmel; Rick Ziller, Nurudeen Amusa; Cortney Zurawski, Lindsey Kreitzman.
- **Council Members Absent:** BJ Ermence; Mike Hipple
- **Guests Present:** Dani Kaslow; MILC; Amanda Miller and Ashley Lien, CILWW; Cindi Pichler, Independence First; Abygail Marx.
- **DHS Staff Support Present:** Laura Plummer, Department of Health Services (DHS); Ashley Baker, Department of Health Services; Jason Anderson, Department of Health Services. Jenna Sturgis, Department of Health Services.

II. Review and Approve Quarterly Meeting August 27, 2024 Meeting Agenda.

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

III. Review and Approve February 22, 2024 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Correction noted regarding the Wisconsin Council of the Blind versus “for”.
- Motion made by Cassie Frost to approve the May 1, 2024 quarterly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Deen Amusa. 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

- Debra Rimmel from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation shared that there have been some upper management changes at DVR due to retirements.

- Dawn Merth-Johnson from the Department of Public Instruction announced that Michelle Silverman has joined their team at the AT Consultant. CESA2 has a new staff member handling the AT Lending Center and her name is Rachel Holt. The AT Forward calendar for the community of practice is now up to date for the school year.
- Deen Amusa from the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired shared that the 2025 Adventures in Vision Loss Camp is scheduled for September 15 – 19th.
- Calvin Richtig from Options for Independent Living reported on their 25th anniversary event, their ADA Caravan for Justice event, and attendance at the Farm Technology Days Technology classes continue with tribal nations and non-metro counties. Staff have been busy with many presentations and booths. Options has been using the 3D printer for another program (IRIS) and they have made 399 items with a cost savings of approximately \$5,000 for consumers. Finally, Options has partnered with Midstate Independent Living on a DHS Livable Communities grant on park accessibility.

Other IL Center Updates:

Midstate has been implementing communication boards in parks.

CILWW helped support the Farm Technology Days event and is working with WisTech on a getting grants for adaptive bikes and doing 3D printing.

Independence First assisted with Farm Technology Days and AT was highlighted in an article for the Milwaukee Journal newspaper.

- Laurie Lane with WisLoan attended Farm Technology Days and will be attending the Self Determination Conference. They have completed 33 loans for a total of 650K which doubles previous work. The Down Payment Assistance program was valuable in helping people afford to obtain assistive technology through WisLoan
- Jennifer Seale with the Waisman Center has relaunched a partnership with schools to train school based providers in AAC. They have two open positions so please contact her at the Waisman if you have questions. aac. Waisman Whirl (end of Sept) fundraiser. She is working an AAC improv event in the Spring.
<https://www.waisman.wisc.edu/whirl/>
- Rick Ziller did not have specific updates but has been reviewing the latest iOS updates and one interesting one is the addition of haptics for music.
- Cassie Frost shared that she is supporting several districts as they return for the school year. She will be presenting at the Closing the Gap conference in October in the Twin Cities area.

- Jim Rau has been focusing on his work with the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and the Wisconsin Chapter of the HLAA. : My work has been with the HLAA and the WI HLAA.
- Cortney Zurawski is working with the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point on rolling out a workplace accommodations training They have also hired an intern to improve accessibility with their Canvas courses.
- Jim Denham from the Wisconsin Council of the Blind is hosting a workshop in September which will be an introduction system on iOS for vision loss. They are also still accepting entries for their gallery night which is August 31st.
- Dani Kaslow with the Center for Deafblind Persons, representing the iCC program, has been having planning discussions with WDBTAP which services youth from K-12 who have a dual sensory loss.

VI. WisTech Program Updates and State Plan Timeline

- Laura Plummer provided an update on the Independent Living Supports Pilot program which includes that WisTech has received approximately 575 AT consult requests and have completed approximately 417 reports. This includes some requests where they were not applicable or the participants were not reachable. Some requests are also for married couples where they both qualify.
- Laura Plummer shared a brief update from the AT3 Leadership Symposium in Washington D.C.
- WisTech will be represented at the National Council for Independent Living Conference in July and at the Hearing Loss Association of America Convention in June.
- The State Plan for Assistive Technology reporting tool is currently under a public comment period with the Administration for Community Living. Once the comment period closes, ACL will update the form for submission. It is anticipated that submission will be in August or September of this year for the next three year plan.

VII. OPIL Cross Council Updates

- Jason Anderson with DHS provided an update that the Engage for Change cross-council event has been postponed until something in the Spring of 2025.

VIII. WisTech Program Updates

- WisTech held three public hearings last week for the State Plan for Assistive Technology for 2025-2027.
- WisTech has completed four of the AT webinar trainings for the year and the last training will be on Sept 11th. The topic for that training is AT for Mental Health and Self-Care.
- An update on the ILSP program was shared. WisTech has received approximately 932 AT consult request and has completed 857 reports. WisTech has two contract staff assisting with the program.
- Laura Plummer shared that she will be presenting with Dawn Merth-Johnson and several others at the Closing the Gap Conference in October in the Minneapolis area.
- Farm Technology Days were held in August and this is the second year for WisTech to host a booth. This year the event was supported by the Center for Independent Living, Independence First, Options for Independent Living, and the WisLoan Program. Governor Evers and Senator Tammy Baldwin stopped by the booth to learn about WisTech and assistive technology.

IX. State Plan for Assistive Technology Updates

- Laura Plummer shared information received during the three public comment periods. The feedback will be incorporated into the State Plan for Assistive Technology for 2025 – 2027. The plan must be submitted to the Administration for Community Living by September 30, 2024.

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

- Motion made by Jim Denham to appoint Rick Ziller to a second term. Motion seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion Carried. **See Motion Item 3.**
- Motion made by Rick Ziller to elect Jim Denham as Chairperson for the AT Council. Motion seconded by Debra Remmel. **Motion Carried. See Motion Item 4.**
- Motion made by Rick Ziller to elect Cassie Frost as the Vice Chairperson. Motion seconded by Calvin Richtig. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 5.**

XI. Adjourn

- Motion made by Jim Denham to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rick Ziller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 pm. **See Motion Item 6.**

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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