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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

May 7, 2025

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Join via [Zoom](#):

<https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1616832670>

Join via Phone:

Phone: 1-669-254-5252

Meeting ID: 161 683 2670

Approved August 28, 2025

A. Action Items Motion Items

B. Motion Items

- **Motion Item 1:** Motion made by Cassie Frost to approve the May 7, 2025, AT Council agenda and seconded by Laurie Lane. Motion carried.
- **Motion Item 2:** Motion made by Calvin Richtig to approve the February 5, 2025, quarterly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Julie Bergen. Motion carried.
- **Motion Item 4:** Motion made by Laurie Lane to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:49 A.M.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

- Jim Denham called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.
- **Council Members Present:** Jim Rau, Deen Amusa, Calvin Richtig, Cassie Frost, Dawn Merth-Johnson, Julie Bergen, Lindsey Kreitzman, Mike Hipple, Rick Ziller, Debra Remmel, Laurie Lane, Cortney Zurawski
- **Guests Present:** David Baker,

- **DHS Staff Support Present:** Jenna Sturgis, Laura Plummer, and Ashley Baker.

II. Review and Approve Quarterly Meeting May 7, 2025, Agenda

- Motion made by Cassie Frost to approve the May 7, 2025, AT Council agenda and seconded by Laurie Lane. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 1.**

III. Review and Approve February 5, 2025, Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Calvin Richtig to approve the February 5, 2025, quarterly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Julie Bergen. Motion carried. **See Motion Item 2.**

IV. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Assistive Technology Users

- No public comments.

V. Assistive Technology Program Partner Updates

- Dawn Mertz-Johnson from the Department of Public Instruction shared that the AT Forward Community has grown to over 1500 members which includes 291 unique school districts. There have now been 447 micro credentials awarded with the top area being AAC/Communication. However, participants are accessing all of the competency areas including growth in independent living, IEP/Implementation, academics, and organization/executive function. The CoP meetings have now concluded for the year with a session on Adaptive Gaming/AT Implementation in May. The highest live attendance was noted for the session in February, AAC Decision Tree: How to do an AAC Assessment with 141 participants followed by Implementing Feature Matching and Normalizing Accessibility. The AT CoP will continue with the 12:00-1:00 time frame next school year. The AAC partnership program with CASC at the Waisman Center has completed 13 evaluations since January. They have also implemented a new consultation model this year. The AT Lending Center will be closing soon for the summer with all items due back by June 1st. There are some equipment updates happening as they are updating some of the high-tech AAC devices this year and some next year.
- Debra Rimmel: DVR recently had a training on accessibility from Laura Plummer. No other updates.

- Laurie Lane from WisLoan attended the Engage for Change cross-council summit last week. WisLoan will also be representing at the upcoming Circles of Life conference. Laurie has been conducting trainings with each of the ILCs. There is still down payment assistance available and there are 49 active loans.
- Calvin Richtig provided updates that included information on the guided hands device being used by a student and the upcoming wheelchair wash in Appleton on Friday, May 9th. Their adaptive recreation program continues to be popular and most of their devices are booked out for the summer months. He showed screenshots of the Bowhead mountain bike, the huckleberry hiker, and others devices being used. Options has had collaborations with ODHH for the community and staff as well as Billy Maudlin from TEPP. Finally, Right Hear, audible signage for the Heritage Hill park, has been installed.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLLwJIX9eo4>
- Mike Hipple shared that the quarterly went out and he has been taking the WisTech AT Credential course with hopes to take the ATP this fall.
- Rick Ziller: No updates
- Jim Denham shared updates that included his exploration with a new product called Hable Easy. This is a small keyboard that can interact with smartphones.
<https://www.iamhable.com/en-https://www.iamhable.com/en-am/products/hable-easy>. Some software he is also working with is Guide Interaction which is an AI tool that can interact with a website and provide instructions to the website to complete next steps. This is in beta at this point.
- Julie Bergen no real updates at this point.
- Jim Rau shared that he has learned some more things about Auracast which is BT transmission. He was able to get an FM system installed in his local area and a loop installed in Cable.
- Cassie Frost shared that she also attended the Engage for Change cross-council summit last week She also shared an email to the whole AT Council about the Governor's budget.
- Cortney Zurawski, is now working at DVR versus UW-Stevens Point and she is learning her new role and using AT within this new role.

- Jenna Sturgis with DHS started at the new TAP Coordinator in March. She is learning program management for TAP and will be providing support for the iCanConnect program.

VI. WisTech Program Updates

- Laura Plummer provided a brief overview of quarterly data and noted that of the four partner with 3D printers there was only one that reported data.
- The Joint Finance Committee will meet this week regarding the Governor's budget request and members can contact the committee to provide their thoughts and feedback.
- The State Aging Plan is now open for public comment and information was provided to the AT Council Members.
- Laura Plummer shared that the WisTech AT Credential pilot is going well with 10 participants. The first full enrollment will begin on July 7th and information on applying to enroll will go out via the GovD listserve in the next week or so.
- WisTech will be submitting a presentation to the ATIA conference on the work done for the ILSP program.

VII. Public Records Training Review

- Laura Plummer reviewed the public records and open meeting information for the AT Council.

VIII. Other State AT Programs Overview - Guest Speaker

- David Baker from the Missouri Assistive Technology Program presented an overview of the AT program.

IX. Engage for Change Summit Update

- A brief update was provided by those who were able to attend
- Laurie Lane learned a lot of information from other council members. Each person is in a different role but we all have the same goals.
- Jim Rau shared that it went very well and more collaborations than the previous one. The hearing loop was essential.
- Julie Bergen shared that she sat with another council for the summit and learned about shared goals.

- Cassie Frost felt that it was a well-done meeting and appreciated getting to hear from the Lt. Governor and the DPH leadership along with their support for the council's work. She appreciated that these leaders wanted to hear from the councils.
- Dean Amusa shared that the event was a good opportunity to study the connectivity between each of the councils. We impact each other and there is a need for collaboration. Having the Lt. Governor attend demonstrates the impact of our councils.

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

- No action was taken.

XI. Adjourn

Motion made by Laurie Lane to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Cassie Frost. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 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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