



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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MICHAEL WILLDEN
Director

JANE GRUNER
Administrator

MEETING MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Assistive Technology Council (AT Council)

Date and Time of Meeting: February 11, 2014
1:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held at the following location:

Reno: Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
999 Pyramid Way
Sparks, NV 89431
(775) 353-3599

This meeting will be Videoconferenced to:

Las Vegas: *new address* Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living
2950 S. Rainbow, #220
Las Vegas, Nevada 89416
(702) 889-4216

To join this meeting by phone dial 1-888-363-4735 then enter Access Code 1228133 when prompted.

(Videoconference equipment in Las Vegas was not working.)

- I. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

A quorum being present, Mr. Youngs called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Members Present: Frida Aizenman, Hentjie Apag, Victoria Essner, Thomas Kearns, Jesse Leaman, Brian Patchett, John Rosenlund, Scott Sauer, Scott Youngs

Excused Members: Tami Brancamp

Members Absent: Andrew Luiz, Ernest Hall, Havander Davis, Mechelle Merrill, Rena Smith

Public Present: Janet Belcove-Shalin, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center; Reggie Bennett, RAGE; April Guinsler, Easter Seals; Alex Majewski, Easter Seals; Yvonne Randall, Touro University

Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) Staff Present: Julie Balderson, Vicki Kemp, Cheyenne Pasquale, Diane Scully, Laura Valentine

II. Approval of the Minutes from the February 7, 2013 Meeting. **(For Possible Action)**
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Kearns noted his name was spelled wrong and asked that it be corrected. Due to staff turnover, a couple of words were missing in Item VI relating to the AT Summit and the website. Ms. Scully said she listened to the recording of the meeting and determined it should read, "It was stated that a breakout group at the AT Summit has been working on a website and we have been in the process of setting it up for certain approvals from our last meeting. Ms. Essner said a report on the status of this website will be made at the next meeting." Ms. Essner confirmed she made the comment.

Mr. Leaman made a motion to accept the minutes with noted changes. Mr. Apag seconded. Motion carried.

III. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

Ms. Pasquale introduced herself as the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Coordinator for ADSD. The ADRC website is: www.nevadaadrc.com. This site is a comprehensive tool for people looking for information and services. Included in the site is an online resource directory that is hoped will turn into a comprehensive directory of services statewide. Ms. Pasquale invited everyone to check it out and submit their organization to be added to the directory. She also offered to give demonstrations and if anyone needed more information they may call her at 702-486-3831.

IV. Discussion of Business from Prior Meetings
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

The questions regarding AT resources and information that Ms. Belcove-Shalin and the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center put together for review were briefly discussed. Ms. Belcove-Shalin said she only received two responses and said that if people weren't responding it must not be important, and there's been no activity on them in the past 11 months. Mr. Youngs explained they were general questions addressing where to go for resources and information on assistive technology specifically geared toward schools and students. The

council members determined this is something they would like to address at a later date as part of general resources. This will be added to a future agenda as an action item.

Mr. Youngs said the report addressing the Assistive Technology for Employment Summit is available online at <http://NATRC.info> and the council needs to decide if they are going to move forward with the goals and objectives laid out at the summit. Mr. Youngs would like to add this to the next agenda to discuss more in depth to decide what to do and where to go from here.

Another item for the next agenda would be an update on the website discussed at the summit.

V. Discussion and Exploration of Concerns Related to Accessibility of State Resources Including Printed Materials, Website, etc.
Thomas Kearns, Council Member

Mr. Kearns said that last February he was in Washington, DC discussing with members of congress the lack of accessible printed materials in schools. He noted the TEACH Act (Technology, Education, Accessibility in College and Higher Education) that requires colleges to purchase access systems and books that are accessible. The focus has always been on the publishers but they aren't the problem, they supply what the consumers' request. Since the colleges don't request accessible formats, learning systems and books don't have to be accessible. With the TEACH Act, the professor's would have to ask if the books and any other materials they want to use are accessible. Mr. Kearns said he does not think this is unique to institutions of higher learning, and the State needs to say the materials have to meet 508 standards or they cannot be used in the classroom. Thirty states have already done this and Nevada needs to also. Legislation is needed that states if a teacher or school wants to buy it, it has to meet 508 standards. This would put the burden on the purchaser and the supplier.

Mr. Youngs said this item needs to be split into two discussions, one on students getting access to materials, and the other general access to information on websites and documents managed by the State of Nevada. He noted many of the State's websites are not accessible, this should include places one would be directed to by links. Mr. Youngs suggested the Council come up with a position statement giving direction on what needs to happen to make it all accessible, noting both education and advocacy are necessary.

Ms. Aizenman asked if the two websites mentioned earlier in the meeting were accessible. Mr. Youngs said the NATRC site is, but no one knew if the ADRC site is and asked Ms. Aizenman if she could check it out and report back.

Mr. Kearns said he has tried to find a report on State websites to see if they have been checked for accessibility but has found nothing. He thinks the State would have done something like that, and the State needs to do something like that.

Mr. Youngs said that although the AT Council is part of a State agency perhaps the Council needs to be more active and look into this then report back what was discovered.

Mr. Patchett noted it's very difficult to have a meeting over the phone and suggested the Council meet in person if funding is available.

He continued by saying the Council needs to have a conversation with someone in the Governor's office regarding accessibility and if needed bring legislation to the 2015 Legislative Session.

Mr. Youngs said they should put this as an action item on a future agenda so the Council can decide how to proceed and vote on it. Mr. Patchett said to make every item an action item then it's not an issue. Mr. Youngs said that would work if specific language was in place for a motion.

Mr. Majewski, who worked at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for seven years doing AT, added that's it very difficult to do if the people involved aren't willing. He feels legislation is necessary and suggested looking at Truckee Meadows Community College and UNR to see what is accessible. That would give the Council some data to take to the Governor and the Legislature. Mr. Kearns added that more and more professors are using online activities as tie-ins to textbooks and they all need to be accessible.

Mr. Youngs suggested splitting this into two items for the next meeting agenda:

1. Accessibility of State websites and resources
2. How students access print materials in post-secondary education

The Council agreed. Mr. Youngs encouraged members to research these issues to facilitate discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Kearns suggested Mr. Young assign certain members to research a certain topic, and volunteered to do the educational side. Mr. Rosenlund said he will get some information together on what the State of Oklahoma recently did regarding their websites. Ms. Valentine said the Department of Health and Human Services sent out a notice saying State websites need to be updated and there was person to contact, she will forward that to Mr. Rosenlund if she still has it.

- VI. Discussion of the Effectiveness of the Early Implementation of Assistive Technology for Non-Verbal Students and Development of Recommendations to Improve the Assessment Policy, Process, Teacher Training and Technical Competences, and the Inclusion of Technology into the Implementation Process **(For Possible Action)**

Scott Sauer, Council Member

Mr. Youngs opened by saying the process of bringing a representative from the Department of Education onto the Council has been started. Once this person is on board it should help with issues in the schools, including transition.

Mr. Sauer started by noting this is a complicated subject that really has three parts. 1) There needs to be a standardized assessment process where guidelines and standards for assessments are spelled out so there's consistency in the child evaluation process and each child gets the proper device. 2) There needs to be proper training of the use of the device for the child and the teacher/staff; too often the device is put on a shelf if problems are encountered. 3) Ensure the device is being used in the classroom; provide support if difficulties of use in the classroom are encountered.

Parents need to understand how to proceed and their recourses going forward.

It's an accountability issue on the part of teachers and parents. Teachers don't know how to implement the device, and don't understand that it's their responsibility to make it work and ensure it is being used correctly. Parents don't understand what questions to ask if the device is not implemented in the classroom.

Mr. Patchett asked why the teacher has the device and not the child, and is training being provided so the child can take the device home? Mr. Sauer answered that parents often have no idea the child can take the device home. There needs to be a standard so parents know what their choices are. Mr. Youngs added he has had this same discussion with Department of Education (DOE) AT teams. Policies have been asked for before and nothing has come from the DOE. If there is a policy, it's vague. It's hoped when the DOE representative joins the Council, and perhaps representatives from school districts, this can be cleared up. There continue to be stories about not getting proper AT and not being able to take it home to do homework.

Mr. Sauer noted that for the past two years he's fought with the schools to let him take his daughter's device home, he just started a second due process in less than a year. A parent shouldn't have to get lawyer intervention to take the device home. The school knows parents are going to fight this and eventually win, but schools keep coming up with excuses. There are no standards and zero accountability, except directly with the AT team.

Mr. Patchett suggested presenting this situation to the Special Education Advisory Commission (SEAC), noting how can children be expected to get an appropriate education if they don't have access to the technology needed to learn.

Mr. Sauer said the evaluation form has an EIP box to check but it doesn't specify anything. There are indicators that should be considered and need to be looked

into. Mr. Sauer added it's difficult for parents to fight these battles because they are often already overwhelmed with work and caring for their child.

Ms. Valentine said that when she worked with IDEA Part C the same issues came up, adding that school districts are responsible for so much when it comes to AT perhaps the Council needs to get district representatives involved also.

Mr. Apag said the Council should take some time to talk to the people who make decisions regarding AT in schools.

Mr. Youngs noted the importance of this topic and suggested inviting representative from the DOE and school districts, including the AT teams, to a meeting. Mr. Sauer said the AT teams would be good because they know what's going on. Mr. Patchett also suggested inviting a representative from the State Special Education entity. Mr. Youngs agreed but noted the Council needs to be specific in what they ask them and stay away from generalities. Care must be taken when wording the agenda item and forming the questions.

Mr. Patchett stated what is needed is a proper evaluation, a person centered approach, and follow up to determine what happens when the technology is acquired. The Council should see the DOE procedures on this, including what happens when the device is in the hands of the child. If policies and procedures are in place why aren't they being implemented? What is the DOE process for getting information from the districts on how this is working?

Ms. Aizenman suggested a process like checking out a book from the library for letting the children take their devices home. Mr. Sauer said these devices are the children's voice – it should go with them everywhere. The child needs to use them like a speaking child uses its voice, to learn the English language. Mr. Patchett asked about insurance on the devices to cover any damage that may occur.

Mr. Youngs said there are a lot of issues to discuss on this and it will be on the next agenda with more specific wording. DOE and AT team representatives will be invited to do demonstrations and talk about their policies. He will work on this.

Mr. Leaman said he would like to get feedback on why the districts don't purchase these devices for the children. Mr. Youngs said the districts do buy the devices. Mr. Sauer added he has been told funding is not an issue, if a child needs a device they get it. It's the implementation and how it all works – accountability – that's the issue. He added, a parent shouldn't have to go to due process to get what their child needs to go to school.

- VII. Update on AT Council Members and a Discussion Regarding New Members.
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Rosenlund said he wasn't in the office and didn't have the documents needed to make the presentation. It will be made at the next meeting.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Determination of Issues and Agenda Items to be Considered or Deliberated at Next Meeting (For Possible Action)
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

The following topics will be on the agenda for the next meeting:

AT Summit Update.

Item V from this agenda split into two separate items, one addressing the accessibility of State websites and one addressing the accessibility of textbooks and other classroom material in colleges and universities.

Item VI from this agenda with more specific language to address certain issues.

Item VII from this agenda.

Mr. Patchett suggested an issue that was brought up at the last legislative session, trying to create independent living and AT services for blind and visually impaired people. Mr. Youngs will work with Mr. Patchett on this item. Mr. Rosenlund said this discussion is currently going on between Vocational Rehabilitation and ADSD, and is being discussed at the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) meetings (Feb. 20, 27 and March 6, 2014) when they review the State Plan for Independent Living. Mr. Patchett said he would like to meet with a representative from the SILC before next months' meeting with an interim legislative council team.

IX. Schedule Next Meeting (For Possible Action)
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Council will meet the second Tuesday every other month from 1 - 3 p.m. The dates for 2014 are: April 8, June 10, August 12, October 14, and December 9.

Mr. Youngs echoed Mr. Patchett's earlier remark about the difficulties in videoconference meetings but noted that funding is probably not available for travel. Mr. Patchett said funding for travel should be investigated. Mr. Youngs said he would do that.

X. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item)

Mr. Bennett wanted to give kudos to the Council members on their great work. He said the RAGE office in Las Vegas has a videoconference room and would gladly make it available for future meetings.

Ms. Scully said she would email the SILC agenda for their upcoming meetings to AT council members.

XI. Adjournment
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Kearns made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rosenlund seconded.
The motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

NOTE: Items may be considered out of order. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based upon viewpoint.

NOTE: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Diane Scully at (775) 687-0551 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at dmscully@adsd.nv.gov. Supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Road, #D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Diane Scully at (775) 687-0551 or by email at dmscully@adsd.nv.gov.

Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:

1. Aging and Disability Services Division, Carson City Office, 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706
 2. Aging and Disability Services Division, Las Vegas Office, 1860 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104
 3. Aging and Disability Services Division, Reno Office, 445 Apple Street, Suite 104, Reno, NV 89502
 4. Aging and Disability Services Division, Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104 Elko, NV 89801
 5. Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living 6039 El Dora St. H-8, N. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
 6. Disability Resources, 50 Greg St Suite 102, Sparks, NV 89431
 7. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 N. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701
 8. Desert Regional Center, 1391 So. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
 9. Sierra Regional Center, 605 South 21st St., Reno, NV 89431
 10. Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, 1311 N. McCarran, Suite 106, Sparks, NV 89431
 11. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
 12. Department of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
 13. Bureau of Vocational Rehab, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502
- Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <http://aging.state.nv.us/>