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**Minutes**

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

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 10:00 am

This meeting will be held and video conferenced at the following locations:

Reno: Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center

1875 Plumas St., Suite 1

Reno, NV 89509

Las Vegas: Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center

2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 11

Las Vegas, NV 89102

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

Meeting Materials Available at: <http://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/ATCouncil/Agendas/>

**Agenda**

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Mr. Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Members Present: Ms. Frida Aizenman, Mr. Havander Davis, Ms. Victoria Essner Essner, Mr. Hentjie Apag Apag, Mr. Thomas Kearns Kearns, Mr. Brian Patchett Patchett, Mr. John Rosenlund, Mr. Scott Youngs Sauer & Mr. Scott Youngs

Members Excused Absent:

Members Absent: Ms. Mechelle Merrill

Guests: Mr. Jack Mayes, Ms. Shanna Rahming

Staff: Mr. Jeff Duncan, Ms. Dawn Lyons, Ms. Christine Platt, Ms. Monica Choi & Ms. Wendy Thornley

1. Verification of Postings

Mr. Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Ms. Wendy Thornley verified the Posting.

1. **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.)

Shanna Rhaming Chief Information Officer of NV EITS gives her report.

The state has a new Ekron Management System File Website that has ADA compliant templates so that when state employees create content through these templates the material is accessible. Along with these templates EITS has created tutorials on how to use the templates and how to create documents that are ADA Compliant. EITS has bought a tool called SiteImprove to search state websites non-compliant content and what needs to be worked on whether it is WCAG 2.0 A issues, AA issues AAA issues and PDF issues. Using this tool EITS has picked a number of websites they are using this tool to work on and a list they will working on in the future. Smart Forms have been created and a framework is being applied to make them compliant. All new websites and content by EITS will be created compliant. EITS is working with other content managers throughout the state to help make sure they are creating compliant sites and material. They are also working on the Governor’s Sites and the Department of Education, Nevada Ready, NV.Gov., Bully Free Zone and [Gov.NV.Gov](http://Gov.NV.Gov) to work toward compliance. Shanna finished by saying this has been a quick overview that is being done.

**Scott Youngs**

After Shanna Rhaming’s Web Accessibility Report, Scott Youngs asked if she would be on future agendas to keep a dialog on how it’s going and what the council can do as well as others can do to help in this process. Shanna agreed and asked if she could reach out in the interim before the next AT Meeting to members of the AT Council such as Thomas Kearns and Mr. Youngs to ask for advice and see if EITS is progressing in a way that the council agrees. Scott Youngs answered that this would be OK and the AT Council staff will be in touch. Scott also asked for a written report from Shanna so the AT Council would not miss any part of her report in the record.

It was agreed that the group would like Ms. Shanna Rahmingto come to the next couple meetings to update the group on this topic. Ms. Shanna Rahming will connect with Mr. Thomas Kearns and Mr. Scott Youngs regarding upcoming meetings. She also agreed to send along a written report of her update she gave at this meeting.

Mr. Jack Mayes stated that he just finished his annual priority setting process is also working on website accessibility and will also work with Shanna on his website.

Mr. John Rosenlund stated that the Disability Services Chief position with the state has been posted and that Mr. Jeff Duncan is the acting Chief until the position is filled. The Chief of Resource Development position has also been posted.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that an event at TMCC is coming up, the Inclusion and Equity Dept. and the National Federation of the Blind in Nevada is having a “Meet the Blind” event. They will be showing the movie, “Do you dream in color?” about four youths who are going to college. Oct. 3rd starts at 12:30 pm In the Red Mountain Student Building. He will send a text document to Ms. Wendy Thornley to share.

1. Update and Discussion regarding the Original April 21, 2017 Letter Sent to Governor Sandoval Requesting That People With Disabilities be Able to Utilize User-friendly Accessible Technologies.

Mr. Thomas Kearns, Chairperson

Mr. Scott Youngs stated that he had sent the letter to the Governor’s office on April 21st and had not heard if they had received the letter until last week.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that he, as part of a group had created a report from four or five members of the National Federation of the Blind and submitted to this committee. Can we pull that report and pass it on to interested parties? He also stated that he felt that this council could become a model for the rest of the state agencies.

Mr. John Rosenlund stated that this council is “Opening the Door” for this line of communication.

Mr. Scott Youngs stated that this council is somewhat of an advisory council, he feels that if an agency is not doing what they need to, the consumer has the right to access services elsewhere. Sort of balancing advocacy and the law. The letter was a way to say that there are problems with consumer accessibility and needing technical assistance.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that the council understands this is a process, that he had brought this issue to the council six years ago. So if there are consumers out there that are frustrated with the progress that has not happened over the years I understand 100%. If they feel the only way they can get remedies and get them quickly is through legal action then he understands.

John Rosenland stated: But that’s exactly what the AT Council has done, we created a pathway. It was the whole point why we created this process was if there was an issue there is now an open door. If someone decides to bring litigation there is a pathway and an open door to communicate. It’s a success.

Mr. John Rosenlund stated that this council is the pathway to resolve the accessibility issue.

Mr. Brian Patchett agreed that this ongoing conversation is good. A non-state employee can ask for additional funding through lobbying efforts.

Mr. Scott Youngs stated that they may need a subcommittee to address helping the state with accessibility. Some members of this subcommittee could be council members and some could be the public. He also suggested that this be an agenda item on the next agenda.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 27, 2017 Meeting **(For Possible Action)**

Mr. Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Thomas Kearns motioned to approve the minutes as posted. Ms. Victoria Essner seconded. The motion carried.

1. Nominations and Election of the AT Council Chair and Vice Chair **(For Possible Action)**

Mr. Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Thomas requested that John give the group a rundown on people eligible to nominate.

John stated that the following people are eligible: Frida, Hentjie, Havander, Victoria, Brian and Scott Sauer.

Scott stated that the council does not have specific bylaws around elections.

Brian nominated himself, stating that he has been an AT user since college and feels that the need for AT is a personal passion.

Brian is voted in as the new AT Chairperson.

John nominated Thomas. Thomas accepts the nomination and is voted in as the new AT Vice-Chairperson.

Victoria will help Thomas with his subcommittee.

1. Update on AT Council Membership

Mr. John Rosenlund, ADSD

John stated that all standing members are in a renewal process. He also stated that Scott Youngs is done with his two terms. John stated that he, himself, would stand till his position is filled and Michelle will stand till her position is filled by Vocational Rehabilitation.

John also stated that the Department of Education position has been filled by Julie Bowers and the Workforce Investment position has been filled by Debra Collins. He stated that more AT users are needed for membership and encouraged the council to start talking to other people to be on this council.

Scott stated that he would like people to look for “Complex AT Users”, that is, people who identify as having more than one disability.

John stated that potential members need to know what is expected of them, what the purpose of the AT Council is and to have read the AT Council Position Statement.

Scott stated that other councils have done this and that maybe this council can source their onboarding process.

It was agreed that there would be a standing Membership agenda item.

1. Review the AT Council’s Position Statement. Discussion and Possible Recommendations of establishing objectives to be addressed by the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative (NATC) **(For Possible Action)**

Mr. John Rosenlund, ADSD

Scott stated that it was agreed to have a yearly plan regarding council responsibilities, items of importance and basic principles of how AT is critical to the success of individuals with disabilities, identifying gaps in service etc. The council will be a stake holder in the state. The accessability of state websites has been a major focus.

Mr. John Rosenlund stated that many goals have been reached. He also stated that he would like to see if they can tie projects with goals moving into next year’s goals and objectives.

Mr. Brian Patchett agrees about changing things systematically and to work with the state regarding budgeting, website accessibility, getting ready to legislate and advise etc.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that its important to have consumers helping the state offices to fix accessibility issues with websites and materials.

Mr. John Rosenlund agrees and would like to get feedback from people who are working on these projects.

Ms. Frida Aizenman wondered if students could be part, since it is their lives that are being educated.

Mr. Scott Youngs agrees with everyone’s suggestions. He sees an action being created from combining the first three priorities and goals. He feels that getting data would be important with collaborating with schools etc. Maybe speeding up things like getting Braille copies of books would be one of the ways to assist students. Complex needs are not being dealt with at all.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that advertising is crucial to promote the assistive technologies. That consumers don’t know about it or don’t know how to use it. He was part of a gathering concerning publicists in the Northern Nevada region. How to reach an individual who is stuck at home and only has a tv. The public needs to be contacted about this technology is available and this is how to find it.

Ms. Frida Aizenman stated that she remembers when she was working for the federal government. Newspapers were being read over the radio. Her manager made it possible for her to participate.

Mr. Scott Sauer stated that being an access point is very important. He also stated that something that has vocabulary technology is available but has not been accessed by the school district. He feels that goals number 3 and 5 are very important. Many students do not have internet at home, have only a single mom parenting them, and many do not have AT representatives at their child’s parent conferences.

Hentjie Apag stated that advertisingis an important part of outreach. Maybe one or two council members could take part in that.

Brian Patchet stated that it makes a lot of sense. Also last year he talked with the administrator for Special Education for Clark County and met quite often. One thing they talked about assistive technology. Mid summer, it seemed possible to do some progressive things in the schools. A month ago, Clark County had a ninety-million dollar shortfall and it was decided to cut funding for Special Education. Now, all the IEPs (Individual Education Plans), look the same for every kid. They have no access to assistive technology and do not know how to use it.

Mr. Scott Sauer stated that his daughter has an ipad that only has one app on it and her school district tells him that that is the best they can do.

Mr. Brian Patchett and Mr. Scott Youngs gave Mr. Scott Sauer a direct phone number for Brian that Scott Sauer could use to work together on this issue.

The following is taken from the current AT Council Position Statement:

Basic Principles:

1. Appropriate technology is critical to the success and quality of life of people with disabilities.

2. The State of Nevada has gaps in services, collaborations, and practices.

3. The Nevada Assistive Technology Council will operate as lead stakeholder.

4. Assistive Technology service requires an interdisciplinary team-based approach.

Priorities, practices, and goals:

1. Increase access to and usability of assistive technology services statewide.

2. Foster inter-agency collaborations to improve service delivery.

3. Require access to independent, person centered, and team based assessment, training and follow along services.

4. Support the creation of an accessible web-based system to increase exposure to Assistive Technology education and training opportunities.

5. Provide Assistive Technology reutilization, device demonstrations, device loans, training, technical assistance, and public awareness throughout the state.

6. Advocate for the accessibility of websites in State agencies and service provider organizations.

After Shanna Rhaming’s Web Accessibility Report, Scott Youngs asked if she would be on future agendas to keep a dialog on how it’s going and what the council can do as well as others can do to help in this process. Shanna agreed and asked if she could reach out in the interim before the next AT Meeting to members of the AT Council such as Thomas Kearns and Mr. Youngs to ask for advice and see if EITS is progressing in a way that the council agrees. Scott Youngs answered that this would be OK and the AT Council staff will be in touch. Scott also asked for a written report from Shanna so the AT Council would not miss any part of her report in the record.

1. Discuss Future Agenda Items and Confirm Next Meeting Dates **(For Possible Action)**

Mr. Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Scott Youngs stated that continued work on accessibles state websites would be on the next agenda with Mr. Thomas Kearns in charge of that. The position statement discussion will be on there as well.

Mr. John Rosenlund stated that outreach and public awareness both of the AT Council and the AT Collaborative would be discussed as pertaining to the position statement. It would be good to flesh that out in the next couple months to put a plan together with our community partners, including the AT council, with our limited funding.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that the group has two new members, can our council have access to the online training that is available through the state electronic process that teaches members the legalities of Open Meeting Law? The council also needs to keep a recurring agenda item regarding the AT Council Position Statement.

Mr. John Rosenlund stated that there could be an ongoing agenda item relating to membership, training etc. He also mentioned that there is an upcoming Open Meeting Law training through the Attorney General’s office that might be open to the public.

Mr. Scott Youngs stated that it would be helpful to get this council’s position statement out to other agencies for collaboration and feedback.

The Next Two Meetings are Scheduled for:

December 7, 2017 at 10:00 am

March 1, 2018 at 10:00 am

1. 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. Thomas Kearns stated that the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL) has recently reconnected the streaming video and the council may be able to meet there in the future.

Mr. Scott Youngs stated that he felt that the NNCIL should be the first choice for meeting location and that it would need to be decided by the council.

Mr. John Rosenlund asked Mr. Scott Sauer if, in the next week they could try accessing the AT Project through Easter Seals

1. Adjournment **(For Possible Action)**

Mr. Scott Youngs, Chairperson

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.

**Current Members:**  Frida Aizenman, Hentjie Apag, Julie Bowers, Deborah Collins, Havander Davis, Victoria Essner, Mr. Thomas Kearns, Mechelle Merrill, Brian Patchett, John Rosenlund, Cloyce Sauer, Scott Youngs

**NOTE:** In an effort to provide a safe environment for Aging and Disability Services Division meetings, please refrain from wearing perfume, scented hairspray, cologne, scented deodorant, essential oils aftershave or any other scented products when you attend.

Scented products contain chemicals which can cause migraines, nausea and even breathing problems for people with asthma, allergies, and environmental illness.

**No Scents is Good Sense!** If you are unsure if a product is safe to wear, a good rule of thumb to just not wear it.

**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 Wendy Thornley at (775) 687-0551 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may email her at [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov). Supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Road, #D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Wendy Thornley at (775) 687-0551 or by email at [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov).

***Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:***

Aging and Disability Services Division, Carson City Office, 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706

Aging and Disability Services Division, Las Vegas Office, 1860 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104

Aging and Disability Services Division, Reno Office, 9670 Gateway Suite 200 Reno, NV 89521

Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 2950 S. Rainbow Blvd, #220, N. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146

Disability Resources, 50 Greg St Suite 102, Sparks, NV 89431

Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 N. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Desert Regional Center, 1391 So. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146

Sierra Regional Center, 605 South 21st St., Reno, NV 89431

Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, 1875 Plumas Street, Reno, NV 89509

Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, 2820 West Charleston Blvd.Suite 11 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431

Deaf Centers of Nevada 6490 South McCarran Blvd Building F Suite 46 & 47 Reno, NV 89509

Community Enrichment Programs, 2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146

Department of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <http://www.adsd.nv.gov> and https://notice.nv.gov