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AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

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**Minutes**

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

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, February 22, 2018 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. Brian Patchett, Chairperson

Members Present: Ms. Frida Aizenman, Ms. Debra Collins, Mr. Havander Davis, Ms. Victoria Essner, Mr. Thomas Kearns, Ms. Mechelle Merrill, Mr. Brian Patchett & Mr. Scott Sauer

Members Excused Absent:

Members Absent: Mr. Hentjie Apag, Ms. Julie Bowers

Guests: Ms. Norma Hernandez, Ms. Lagree Drawantz, Ms. Linda Desantis, Mr. Scott

Mr. Joseph Diarte, & Mr. Jack Mayes

Staff: Ms. Wendy Thornley, Mr. John Rosenlund,

1. Verification of Postings

Mr. Brian Patchett, 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.)

Mr. Jack Mayes stated work on the state website/ADA is coming along great. There is great information, links and access.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2017 Meeting **(For Possible Action)**

Mr. Brian Patchett, Chairperson

Mr. John Rosenlund noticed a letterhead mistake will be corrected.

Mr. Brian Patchett motioned to accept minutes, not accepted.

Mr. Thomas Kearns needed to go over recording to check on a direct quote, not his.

Mr. Thomas Kearns motioned to approve with correction.

Ms. Frida Aizenman second motion. The motion carried.

1. Presentation Regarding Statewide Website Accessibility and Consumer Collaboration.

Linda DeSantis, Enterprise I.T. Services D

Ms. Linda DeSantis, Manager for State of Nevada Website, stated that all content management, 142 websites in their environment, not all State websites are under their content management. They are coming up with a plan to make them all compliant and share information with other agencies/websites. They have been working on this for a couple of years. She has been working with Mr. Thomas Kearns and trying to be transparent. Will forward PDF of all they are trying to accomplish since Dec 1st, 2017, the goal being that the state would become ADA compliant.

Linda stated the Department of Education, was cited with noncompliance a year ago. The templates they were using were non-compliant, a tool was purchased for them called Cite Improve. About 13 templates were made compliant and the DOE is using them. Working for these templates to be user friendly for the AT users. Small steps, five sites are ADA compliant, hired a public intern to make compliant documents and draft procedures. 10 out of 142 websites are maintained by her team. For the others, they have provided training on maintaining their websites.

Mr. Thomas Kearns asked about compliant forms and how other state agencies are stepping up including DHHS.

Linda stated the website she is currently talking about is ada.nv.gov. On the 142 websites, every page, has an ADA logo on the top right hand, which has a link to an accessibility information page. On this page a complaint form has been modified in Google Drive, this is used to see patterns on any issues and for follow up purposes. Outreach to other divisions to put up the logo or a link to the ADA webpage, so the user will be able to fill out a complaint. Out of the 142 websites, currently 38 are being remediated, 5 are compliant and 99 have not been started. On the website under the ADA snap shot there is a button that says, “Website Accessibility Status” and it has information on what is being worked on.

Mr. Brian Patchett thanked Linda’s team for such a great job, on these websites and was glad DHHS is stepping up, he asked about work on State Legislature’s website.

Linda said we do not have authority to make websites like Legislature use our CMS.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that Linda’s team is doing phenomenal and when provided with issues, they respond with multiple solutions and help in other ways.

Mr. Brian Patchett asked if DETR was involved.

Ms. Michelle Merrill did not know but will inquire.

Ms. Vickie Esner stated that DETR asked to leave the CMS about 8 months ago, their website was built under their CMS, but they will not remain long. She will put in the link, that will tell by department, what websites are under them.

Ms. Linda DeSantis confirmed DETR can still consult with them, but even if they leave the CMS they must be ADA compliant. Working on forms being able to be signed online.

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

Mr. Thomas Kearns, SWAT Subcommittee Chairperson

Mr. Thomas Kearns reached out to Shanna Rahmings who had received info from the Governor’s office, she was to give more updates, but she has since resigned. A new CIO will be appointed, and Mr. Thomas Kearns will work with the new CIO.

1. Discussion on Assistive Technology Council Involvement Including a Pathway for Involvement in Work Groups Regarding Accessible Web Based Services and Programs of the State of Nevada.

Mr. Scott Youngs, Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities

Mr. Scott Youngs thanked Linda and Mr. Thomas Kearns for the work and updates. Encourages people to visit their site. He asked, how do people get involved with the group and what is the process?

Ms. Linda DeSantis stated that, under CMS users, there is info on what is being tested and has Linda’s contact info for volunteers. She has been contacted by Athena, an IT Analyst for the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, who has volunteered for testing. Linda will make the volunteer button on the home page bigger for better visibility.

Mr. Thomas Kearns suggested the AT council advertise to consumers throughout the state.

Mr. Scott Youngs agreed that the pathway to volunteering will be shared to the AT council, so it may be passed on to all interested parties. This way it can be accessed by people with other disabilities. He asked if anyone can join the group or give input?

Ms. Linda DeSantis stated yes, everyone has access to the website and can sign up to the list serve. She has had response from the public with people who would like to test.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated we will curtail personal issues/opinions, there is a huge agenda of 200+ websites and agencies that are being worked on.

Mr. Scott Youngs asked that both physical access at facilities, webpage and employee discrimination issues all go to Tammy Smith.

Linda responded that web-based complaints are separated, Tammy Smith and her boss Amy Taylor take the other complaints and if it is a complaint for an agency that is not within their realm, they are reaching out to the agency and following up with them for a resolution. Web based, and Physical complaints had many questions that did not apply to each other, to keep them together.

Mr. Scott Youngs stated the ADA likes to keep, to one person, but it is understandable that they are being separated do to the different nature of the complaints.

Mr. Brian Patchett asked if Linda’s group if they take care of the school districts.

Joe said the different school districts are not controlled by our CMS, just the main state department.

Mechelle reminded that Nevada is a local control state, meaning local districts have independent authority in all things.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that the Information Technology Advisory Board has a lot to do with accessibility and advisement, they are focused on security of state websites. He would like to explore in future meetings regarding this Board making Public Comment in the ITAB meetings.

1. Discussion on the Challenges Providing Assistive Technology Services in Nevada’s Education System and Where Can Services Through the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative be Supportive.

Mr. Brian Patchett, Chairperson

Mr. Brian Patchett is working on getting people who represent the school district to come to meetings. Special education teachers and parents say AT is not working and is not being used. What can we do to help the school districts?

Mr. Thomas Kearns asked about parent input, he had AT access but not training to teachers or aids in classroom.

Mr. Scott Sauer said there needs to be a rights and information page for parents, to get children access.

Mr. Scott Sauer. and Ms. Norma Hernandez gave examples of how limited rights and information have affected their children receiving the correct services, accessibility and materials needed.

Mr. Brian Patchett will be meeting with Senator Dennis and he invited Ms. Norma Hernandez and Mr. Scott Sauer to participate on creating a legislative item for special education.

Mr. Brian Patchett stated that Easter Seals has offered to come in and train faculty and evaluate, at Clark County School District, but they have not received much response.

Mr. John Rosenlund stated that we can support, but do not have authority to evaluate under the act.

Ms. Norma Hernandez stated that she paid out of pocket to have her son evaluated and have this included in her sons’ IEP, she pointed out that not many parents have the resources or referrals to do this for their children.

Mr. Thomas Kearns said that an information page is needed, on a website for parents which mentions importance of evaluations, AT and AT training, everyone agrees.

Mr. Scott Youngs pointed out that each county has their own rules regarding these issues, it is not one set of rules that they would have to work with and there are potential barriers that would be different in each county.

Mr. Thomas Kearns asked that this information be placed on the next meeting agenda.

1. Discussion on the Challenges Providing Assistive Technology Services in Nevada’s Vocational Rehabilitation System and Where Can Services Through the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative be Supportive.

Mr. Brian Patchett, Chairperson

Ms. Mechelle Merrill stated that she is working with work force investment partners, as much as possible since there are only 50 counselors state wide. Their programs do not start until age 16, they do evaluations and provide products that the school district should have provided sooner. In the last three years they have provided services of an average of 248 people a year through AT services at a cost of about $560,000. They have made it a priority to provide AT, although funds are difficult to receive they are trying different partnerships to receive as many funds as possible. She believes they need an advocacy form this council to the school district, because her services have some of the parents’ same frustrations.

Ms. Norma Hernandez stated they work with Job Connect, vocational rehab specifically, but they have a large wait list. She wants to find a way that more people could be served with their funds and not have Vocational Rehab take the bulk load of the expenses and help people access their services.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that one tool that is under-used is the conference system with video capabilities, which they have access to, throughout the state. This can be used for training and advocacy, or parents that need help.

1. Discussion on the Challenges Providing Assistive Technology Services for Kids Transitioning from School to Vocational Services or Community Living and Where Can Services Through the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Work Together.

Mr. Brian Patchett, Chairperson

Mr. John Rosenlund stated that he saw a gap in services, between AT collaborative and independent living. They should be tied together for individuals who are not taking a vocational route but want independent living. Looking to connect them with the correct resources.

Mr. Thomas Kearns stated that there is a gap for newly blind, deaf, or immobile individuals, they do not receive training.

1. Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative (NATC) AT Act Program Updates, Presentations, and Discussions: Reviewing 2017 Annual Reporting Information.

Mr. John Rosenlund, ADSD – Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative

Mr. John Rosenlund provided data on his report about state financing. They support medical device reutilization and refurbishment programs, device lending and device demonstration programs. Working on making the report into an accessible format.

1. Review the Assistive Technology Council Membership

Mr. John Rosenlund, ADSD

Four council members will be ending their second term in the end of March. Supposed to be 51% AT user.

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

Mr. Brian Patchett, Chairperson

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for:

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. Scott Youngs stated he read the department of justice complaints and the state of Nebraska has a settlement agreement regarding issues on website accessibility, part of the complaint wanted a general ADA taskforce established to oversee and provide input to the state on all issues, from a consumer base perspective. He recommends one taskforce to oversee all issues in our state.

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

Mr. Brian Patchett, Chairperson

Mr. Brian Patchett suggested three meetings between now and October.

Mr. Thomas Kearns brought up an agenda item for next meeting regarding information page and to get the work started.

Mr. Thomas Kearns made a motion for meeting to be adjourned. Second by Ms. Debra Collins, motion carried.

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:** Mr. Brian Patchett, Ms. Frida Aizenman, Hentjie Apag, Julie Bowers, Debra Collins, Havander Davis, Victoria Essner, Mr. Thomas Kearns, Mechelle Merrill, Cloyce Sauer

**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