

Submitted by John Rosenlund for 11-20-14 AT Position Paper Subcommittee Meeting

Purpose of the AT Council:

The purpose of an Assistive Technology Council is to provide advice for planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities. The majority of the individuals on the council must be persons with disabilities that use AT or family/guardians.

Scott Youngs statement about the Council:

The Nevada AT Council is a group of stakeholders from across the state whose mission is to improve access to assistive technology by people with disabilities. People with disabilities will benefit by appropriate but innovative technology that improves functionality, and reduces dependency.

Requirements under the AT Act:

Under the Assistive Technology Act the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative must provide both State Level Activities and State Leadership Activities.

State Level Activities must provide the following or claim flexibility/comparability:

- State Financing – Financial loans for AT, other activities that provide AT, or provide cost savings to obtain AT.
- Reuse – exchange, refurbish/reassign, open ended loan.
- Short-term Device Loan – for decision-making, while device is being repaired, waiting for funding, short-term accommodation, or professional development
- Device Demonstration – compare features/benefits and determine if appropriate

State Leadership Activities are all required and as follows:

- Training and Technical Assistance
- Public Awareness (including information and assistance)
- Coordination and Collaboration

Drafted language based on the 2011 AT Summit as drafted by Scott Youngs and John Rosenlund.

Comprehensive Service Delivery:

The Assistive Technology Council supports the creation of a collaborative workgroup among Assistive Technology stakeholders throughout the state of Nevada; in order to establish a “Best Practices for Assistive Technology Assessments”. Utilizing Device Demonstration, Trial, Loans to ensure appropriate selection by the consumer.

Continuity of Services – Transitions:

The Assistive Technology Council supports seamless transition throughout programs emphasizing lifelong Person Centered Planning.

AT Special Interest Group – Sustainability:

The Assistive Technology Council supports Assistive Technology Training & Awareness in the community; funding of all types of Assistive Technology services; and creation of a resource list for Assistive Technology throughout the state and including the creation of a web-based system for education and exposure to Assistive Technology training opportunities.

Resource Sharing – Interagency Collaboration:

The Assistive Technology Council supports the increase of collaborations with service providers that focus on the development of a more streamlined referral process that is accessible and usable by consumers and the AT Network.

Establish Minimum Data Set – Quality Assurance:

The Assistive Technology Council supports the gathering of baseline data on the types and severity of people with disabilities who would benefit by assistive technology. Implement short term (one year) planning approaches.

Establish Minimum Standards – Quality Assurance:

The Assistive Technology Council supports the adoption and use of quality assurance models such as the Quality Indicators in Assistive Technology (QIAT) and/or other best practices as agreed upon by Council.

Sustainability:

The Assistive Technology Council supports the exploration and implementation of innovative funding strategies that support and potentially grow programs and services throughout the state. Braided funding and fee for service options for example.

Draft provided by Jesse Leaman:

It is the position of the NATC that persons with disabilities need more access to, and education about, AT in order to increase their independence, employment opportunities, and quality of life. AT is any device or service that is used to maintain or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. To this end, the NATC supports the expansion of availability and knowledge of AT by:

- Creating the Nevada Assistive Technology Research & Training Center (NATRTC):
 - To develop state-of-the-art AT with student engineers at the University of Nevada.
 - Improve awareness of AT by hosting monthly “Introduction to AT” seminars at University of Nevada, Reno and the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living.
- Allowing students with disabilities equal access to educational resources, including the provision of AT, that travels with the student as they transition from one institution to another.
- Reducing the wasteful spending associated with inappropriate purchase of AT by ensuring that assessments are made by qualified individuals.
- Increasing independence of people with disabilities through AT, allowing them to remain in the home of their choice.

These steps will help people with disabilities living in Nevada to reduce their dependence on state and federal support while increasing their employment opportunities and quality of life.