



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

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ROMAINE GILLILAND  
*Director*

JANE GRUNER  
*Administrator*

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
*Governor*

## MINUTES

Name of Organization: Position Paper Subcommittee of the Nevada  
Assistive Technology (AT) Council

Date and Time of Meeting: October 14, 2014  
1:00 p.m.

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

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

Las Vegas: Rebuilding All Goals Efficiently (RAGE)  
2901 El Camino Ave., Suite 102  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
(702) 333-1038

## Minutes

- I. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions  
John Rosenlund, Chairperson

A quorum being present, Mr. Rosenlund called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Members Present: Jesse Leaman, John Rosenlund, Scott Youngs

Members Absent: Brian Patchett

Aging and Disability Services Division Staff Present: Diane Scully, Laura  
Valentine

- II. 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.)

There were no comments from the public.

- III. Approval of the Minutes from the August 12, 2014 Meeting (For Possible Action)  
John Rosenlund, Chairperson

Mr. Youngs made a motion to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Leaman; motion carried.

- IV. Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Draft of Position Paper on AT Issues (For Possible Action)  
John Rosenlund, Chairperson

Mr. Rosenlund suggested they identify their stakeholders before drafting the position paper.

Mr. Leaman asked who would be seeing the position paper.

Mr. Youngs said the recipients have not been established yet. He explained that, as he recalls, the position paper was suggested by Mr. Patchett because the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD) is doing one, and since Mr. Patchett is on both councils, it would be a good idea for the AT Council to present one to the Legislature also. The Subcommittee should consider why it's needed, what it will do and who would do it.

Mr. Leaman said it should be brought to the Governor and Legislature. He asked what position does Governor Sandoval and his opponent in the upcoming election have on AT issues. Mr. Youngs responded probably none.

Mr. Leaman suggested he research important pieces of legislation that will be presented at the 2015 Legislative Session to see if any tie in with AT. Mr. Youngs suggested he check with the CSPD since there may be an AT component in one of their proposed services.

Mr. Leaman said he sees the AT Council as an important stakeholder for AT in the State. Mr. Youngs said it's the Subcommittee's job to put something together to take back to the full Council so they can be advocates for AT and present these issues to the Governor, the Legislature, schools and other appropriate places.

Mr. Leaman suggested a bullet point be added to the position paper for a research and training center. Mr. Youngs said the Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center (NATRC) at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) may address some of what involved in that, but not necessarily research and training. Mr. Leaman explained that there are two training components, a wheelchair skills

test that classifies the user's skill which is important in rehabilitation, and introduction to AT. Mr. Youngs asked for more explanation. Mr. Leaman said they need to have a standardized test to be used Statewide to assess consumer's needs for AT. Mr. Rosenlund said this sounds like it falls under the heading of Best Practices, adding that if there's a need in the community, then the AT Council should support it. Mr. Leaman said he would forward more information and internet links to Ms. Scully for her to distribute to the full Council. Mr. Rosenlund added this sounds like something trying to be done through Easter Seals and UNR. Mr. Leaman said they need to combine resources.

Mr. Rosenlund said he has looked at what has been done regarding AT in other states and has come across some very good language for Best Practices. One source said there really is no standardized assessment, noting it should be a multi-faceted approach.

Mr. Youngs said NATRC has looked at this for K-12 (the Wisconsin model is very good), and employment assessments. They have taken the best parts of those and added what they wanted, noting a lot of research has already been done.

Mr. Leaman mentioned he's applying for a grant to address AT research and processes.

Mr. Rosenlund said the position paper needs to be a general overview of the position of the AT Council incorporating the top five issues submitted by the Council members.

Mr. Rosenlund, Mr. Leaman and Mr. Youngs each shared their notes on the position paper (see attached).

Mr. Youngs said he liked the language Mr. Rosenlund used for Comprehensive Service Delivery and suggested they use that throughout the document. Mr. Leaman agreed.

Mr. Rosenlund said they need to get Mr. Patchett's piece of the draft, the overview and mission, statement to put it all together.

Mr. Rosenlund said he would like to have a draft of the position paper to present to full AT Council at their next meeting, scheduled for December 9, 2014.

He also suggested the Subcommittee review the 2011 AT Employment Summit Report (see attached). It has addressed most of the issues and addresses the numerous overlapping of issues and services. Mr. Rosenlund said transition is more of a stakeholder issue, noting that each agency should know what the others are doing in order to make it a seamless process for the consumer. Best Practices is for the stakeholders, what assessments to use, what trainings to go to – this should be addressed also.

For Comprehensive Service Delivery, Mr. Rosenlund said “in order to” should be removed, and “Assessments” should be changed to “Service Delivery.” The new statement would read, “The Assistive Technology Council supports the creation of a collaborative workgroup among Assistive Technology stakeholders throughout the State of Nevada to establish a ‘Best Practices for Assistive Technology Service Delivery.’”

Mr. Rosenlund said the Council supports specific terminology for AT Service Delivery. Mr. Youngs said they should eliminate “Transitions.”

Mr. Rosenlund said they should identify their stakeholders first. Mr. Youngs said the participants at the 2011 Employment Summit are the stakeholders. NATRC has other lists including State Agencies that can be combined into a comprehensive list of stakeholders. He noted the Summit attendees looked to the AT Council to move forward on the topics determined at the Summit.

Mr. Youngs continued, noting there should be a web-based system to provide information. Mr. Rosenlund added the AT Council should support training, awareness and funding for all types of AT services, including the creation of a resource list. Mr. Youngs said that has been done but NATRC doesn’t know what to do now. Mr. Rosenlund asked if it can guide someone through the AT process. Mr. Youngs said no, it’s not a flowchart. Mr. Rosenlund suggested making that an AT Collaborative project, and fine tune it to be a position of the AT Council.

Mr. Rosenlund said they need to get the Mission Statement from Mr. Patchett, then set the goals and priorities. Mr. Youngs agreed, adding they need to be sure the paper says what they mean so it is used to promote AT the way the Council intends. He suggested keeping to broad topics for the time being.

Due to the overlapping of many processes, goals and topics, it was suggested a sentence noting that be incorporated into the position paper.

Mr. Youngs said resource sharing and inter-agency collaboration needs to be worked on; each agency needs to know what the others are doing. This process needs to be streamlined. He said there is no Minimum Data Set, each agency compiles different information. There needs to be a way to combine all the information. To Establish Minimum Standards, there needs to be a way to assess services and determine if goals are being met.

Both Mr. Rosenlund and Mr. Youngs questioned funding and if it needs to be included in the position paper. Funding would include a determination of a “fee for service” scale.

Mr. Youngs said there needs to be policies on assessable websites, access to print materials and other accessibility issues. Mr. Rosenlund said that would fall

under Best Practices. Mr. Youngs suggested something along the lines of, “to the best extent possible, provide electronic information in the most useable way, universally designed, that’s accessible to a broad range of people with various disabilities.” Mr. Rosenlund agreed, but pointed out that stakeholders have to agree to put it into practice. This is a project the Council and stakeholders should work together on.

Mr. Rosenlund said they need to piece together the information provided today and the top five issues received from Council members, and review it at the next Subcommittee meeting.

- V. 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)

There were no comments from the public.

- VI. Set Date of Next Subcommittee Meeting (For Possible Action)  
John Rosenlund, Chairperson

The members would like to have another subcommittee meeting before the next meeting of the full AT Council.

Ms. Scully will poll the members to determine the next meeting date, November 5 or 6, 2014.

- VII. Adjournment (For Possible Action)  
John Rosenlund, Chairperson

Mr. Rosenlund adjourned the meeting at 2:20 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.

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**Current Assistive Technology Subcommittee Members**

John Rosenlund (Chairperson), Jesse Leaman, Brian Patchett, Scott Youngs,

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 2950 S. Rainbow Blvd., #220, N. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
6. Disability Resources, 50 E. 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 21<sup>st</sup> St., Reno, NV 89431
  10. Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, 1875 Plumas St., #1, Reno, NV 89509
  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://www.adsd.nv.gov/> and <https://notice.nv.gov>

(submitted by 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”.

Continuity of Services – Transitions:

The Assistive Technology Council supports the creation of a web-based system for education and exposure to Assistive Technology training opportunities.

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.

Resource Sharing – Interagency Collaboration

Establish Minimum Data Set – Quality Assurance

Establish Minimum Standards – Quality Assurance

Funding – Sustainability

Nevada Assistive Technology Council (NATC) position paper regarding assistive technology:

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.

**AT Council Priorities** (submitted by Scott Youngs)

**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.**

**The AT Council has identified the following goals and objectives as priorities for FY 2015-16.**

- 1. Gather and analyze data from public and private agencies on existing needs. Use data to drive decision making.**
- 2. Increase collaborations with AT providers to improve and share resources. Create a formalized network of providers with necessary areas of expertise and a referral process that is usable by both people with disabilities and providers.**
- 3. Insure person centered service delivery which includes a team based approach of quality assessment, training, and follow up.**
- 4. Improve transition processes throughout the lifespan regarding the acquisition, use, and on going utilization of appropriate, innovative, and mainstream technologies.**
- 5. Develop AT and accessibility policies that can be adopted by State and Local Governments including education and other public entities.**