



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

Administrative Office
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RICHARD WHITLEY
Director

JANE GRUNER
Administrator

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

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

Date and Time of Meeting: April 14, 2015
1:00 p.m.

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
775-333-7878

Las Vegas: Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center
2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 11
Las Vegas, NV 89102
702-257-8150

To join this meeting by phone, dial 1-888-251-2909 then enter Access Code 8985078 when prompted.

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

Minutes

Members present: Scott Youngs, Thomas Kearns, Frida Aizenman, Hentjie Apag, Havander Davis, Jesse Leaman, Mechelle Merrill, John Rosenlund, John Heiner

Guests: Jack Mayes, Cheri Day, Janet Belcove-Shalin

Staff: Laura Valentine, Julie Balderson, Desiree Bennett, Juan Molina

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

- II. Approval of the Minutes from the February 10, 2015 Meeting (For Possible Action)
Scott Youngs, Chairperson
Mrs. Merrill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Apag seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- 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.)

Jack Mayes commented that NDALC (Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center) has been working on expanding outreach efforts and there will be an Assistive Technology training next week on how to access assistive technology from the school district and Medicaid. It will be held in conjunction with Easter Seals in southern Nevada.

- IV. Review, Discussion and Possible Recommendations on the Annual Report for the AT Collaborative (For Possible Action)
John Rosenlund, Subcommittee Chairperson

Item will be tabled to the next meeting once everyone has a copy of the report.

- V. Update and Possible Discussion and Recommendations on Legislative Issues Related to Assistive Technology (For Possible Action)
Brian Patchett, Easter Seals of Southern Nevada
Jack Mayes, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center

Mr. Mayes has created a comprehensive list of bills that NDALC has been following (Attachment A).

AB115 is a comprehensive catch-all for all the issues related to speech pathology, audiology and hearing aids.

Mr. Rosenlund asked if there are currently issues that are trying to be addressed by creating and regulating and a committee regarding hearing aids.

Mr. Mayes stated that there is currently a board that only sees hearing aide specialists and audiologists. This bill is to rename the board and expands it to include speech pathologists. It also clears up licensing requirements, in particular, tele practice and apprenticeship programs.

AB136 is specific to the Department of Wildlife and requires that they do not discriminate and that they provide reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities for hunting exams and accommodating on a case-by-case basis. The other issue this bill deals with is the option of using laser sighting for individuals with low vision as technology assist for hunting. After some amendments, the bill is moving forward in the Legislature.

SB334 deals with Assistive Technology and durable medical equipment for taxation purposes. It is the legal opinion of the Legislature to make these items

tax exempt. The voters of Nevada would have to make that decision. It appears that they are moving the bill forward to be placed on the ballot in the future. Mr. Kearns asked if the bill includes screen readers and other devices. Mr. Mayes stated that he will have to research a little more, but it comes down to whether there is a prescription written for it or not.

SB419 addresses independent living and AT needs for persons who are blind, membership of the CSPD and the ABLE Act. This bill would allow the state to create a program to address services available to someone who loses their vision between the ages of 21 and 55. Mr. Mayes stated that the easiest way to read about senate and assembly bills is online at www.leg.state.nv.us. This bill does not have any money attached to it right now. Currently how the CSPD terms are written; everyone is about ready to term off of the Commission in September 2015. The terms needed to be written so that they are staggered. The last piece of the bill is achieving a better life experience savings accounts. It comes from a national bill that was passed in congress. It will allow individuals with disabilities to have savings accounts that do not interfere with their benefits. Mr. Youngs clarified that the bill states that Nevada has the option to create the program, but is not mandated to do so. He also asked for clarification on what "serving people who have recently become blind" would mean for the program. Mr. Mayes stated that the bill as amended has already passed out of committee but not the senate yet. There is still a possibility of adding language.

Ms. Valentine commented that there were conversations following the executive summary done by NDALC with regards to the town hall meetings and in that summary was a mention of about \$500,000 that could get something started in the state in regards to meeting the needs.

Mr. Mayes clarified that the dollar amount of 500,000 came out of the last legislative session to start a blind services program. The bill was withdrawn, but the issue was still valid that there is no program for individuals who have recently become blind.

Mr. Youngs asked if funding for a blind services program was included in the agency budget to the Governor.

Ms. Valentine stated that the budget from DHHS to the Governor did not include that funding. Mr. Youngs has concerns about how this legislation will affect current funding. Mr. Mayes stated that the first step is to get authorization to create the program, next will be decisions on how to fund it.

Ms. Merrill stated that there are not any services for individuals who are newly blind and are not vocationally motivated.

Mr. Rosenlund commented that there is a gap in services for an individual looking for orientation mobility training and rehabilitation services.

Mr. Youngs stated that these are issues that can be addressed during regulation.

Mr. Mayes stated that AB157 is mirroring the Federal ADA requirements. The Casino industry wants state statute to clarify what is considered a service animal. Federal law sets minimum standards and the state can expand if necessary. Mr. Youngs stated that Nevada laws are very vague about what is considered a

service animal. Mr. Mayes clarified that companion and comfort animals are completely different from service animals.

AB162 and AB403 are bills regarding body cameras for police officers.

VI. Discussion and Possible Recommendations on Closing the Gaps in Service to Persons with Sensory Impairments **(For Possible Action)**
Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Mr. Mayes commented that the deaf community has been working very hard since the PUC ruled that the only thing deaf services money could be used for was telecommunication devices and relay related services. They eliminated information referral, advocacy, and community education and training. There was a ruling at the Supreme Court that the PUC was in error. In Legislature, they are trying to address the issues that the PUC does not want money to be spent on advocacy related services. The legislature wants to clarify in statute and allow advocacy to occur, that will then make the lawsuit invalid. It is currently up in the air what deaf centers can do with surcharge money.

Ms. Balderson stated that the program does have its own subcommittee on communication services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. They have established a working group on assistive technology. The person who is currently in charge of that working group is Eli Schwartz. Julie commented that there is a lot of opportunities with collaboration with the AT Council and wherever we can close service gaps, it is a good thing.

VII. Discussion and Possible Recommendations on Improving Individualized Education Programs in School Districts **(For Possible Action)**
Scott Sauer, Council Member

Juan Molina, DRC, stated that Desert Regional Center (DRC) has been meeting with Janice John discussing WIOA (workforce innovation and opportunity act) and its relationship to the IEP process. Ms. John has been working with the Clark County school district in order to educate them about the assessment process for individuals who may qualify for competitive employment.

Mr. Youngs asked what the age is of a child to have a completed IEP.

Mr. Molina believes the age is 14, but will follow up with the Council at the next meeting to clarify.

Mr. Youngs would like to add an agenda item for the next meeting that will clearly identify what is going to be included in an IEP regarding assistive technology.

Mr. Kearns stated his concerns about the lack of training that is provided along with assistive technology included in an IEP.

Cheri Day from NV PEP commented that the AT Consortium is trying to standardize assessment for assistive technology, so there is a standardized tool to be utilized in providing better language in IEPs. She also stated that in the state of Nevada, age 14 is when the districts have to seek transition. Mr. Kearns asked how many ATs are in Washoe County.

Ms. Day answered that there are seven in the County.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Recommendations on Improving the Accessibility of State Websites **(For Possible Action)**

Thomas Kearns, National Federation of the Blind

Mr. Youngs stated that at the last meeting, the Council decided to establish a subcommittee to address the concerns on state website accessibility.

Mr. Kearns has reached out to the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) who has volunteered to look at websites across the state. Mr. Kearns is looking for a report to be made by the volunteers on what sites are not accessible and why. The AT Council would like to help the state develop a policy that acknowledges that all of Nevada state websites meet certain standards of accessibility. John Kearns, Frida Aizenman and Scott Youngs are all members of the AT Subcommittee on statewide website accessibility.

IX. Discussion and Possible Determination of Issues and Agenda Items to be Considered or Deliberated at Next Meeting **(For Possible Action)**

Scott Youngs, Chairperson

1. Discussion and Possible Recommendations on the Annual Report for the AT Collaborative

2. Discussion and Possible Recommendations on Closing the Gaps in Service to Persons with Sensory Impairments

3. Recommendations on Improving Individualized Education Programs in School Districts

XI. Confirm next meeting Date, June 9, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. **(For Possible Action)**

Scott Youngs, Chairperson

The next AT Council meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2015.

XII. 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)

No public comments were made.

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

Scott Youngs, Chairperson

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

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.

Scott Youngs (Chairperson), Frida Aizenman, Hentjie Apag, Havander Davis, Victoria Essner, Thomas Kearns, Jesse Leaman, Mechelle Merrill, Brian Patchett, John Rosenlund, Scott Sauer, Rena Smith

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 Desiree Bennett at (775) 687-0586 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at dabennett@adsd.nv.gov. Supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Road, #D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Desiree Bennett at (775) 687-0586 or by email at dabennett@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 21st St., Reno, NV 89431
 10. Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, 1875 Plumas St., #1, Reno, NV 89509
 11. Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, 2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 11, Las Vegas, NV 89102
 12. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
 13. Department of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
 14. Bureau of Vocational Rehab, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502
 15. Rebuilding All Goals Efficiently, 2901 El Camino Ave., Suite 201, Las Vegas, NV 89102
- Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <http://www.adsd.nv.gov/> and <https://notice.nv.gov>