

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Aging and Disability Services Division
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Dena Schmidt
Administrator

Draft Minutes

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

Date and Time of Meeting: November 19, 2020
10:00 a.m.

This meeting will be held via video-conference only:

In accordance with Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1; The requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1) (b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

The public may observe this meeting and provide public comment on Zoom.

To Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9299041434?pwd=NmM5Tk1Od3ltRzg1enhRYTU3WDDUz09>

Meeting ID: 929 904 1434

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Meeting Materials Available at: <http://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/ATCouncil/2019/Home/>

1. Welcome and Introductions
Lance Ledet, Chairperson

Members Present: Debra Collins, Julie Bowers

Guests: Victoria Essner, Minerva Rivera, Lupe Kaawaloa, Dora Martinez, Bayard Webb, Jack Mayes, Scott Youngs, Steven Cohen.

Staff: John Rosenlund, Deanna Gay, Wendy Thornley, Dawn Lyons

2. 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. Public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson. Members of the public may comment on matters not appearing on this agenda or may offer comment on specific agenda items. Comments may be discussed by the Board, but no action may be taken. The matter may be placed on a future agenda for action)

Lance Ledet: stated that in full disclosure that he has taken a position with the Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center (NATRC) with University of Reno. He is not here solely for representation of that position but also maintains he joins the AT Council as an AT user himself. There may time when his opinions on AT may overlap, and he will make the effort to clarify from which perspective he puts forth an opinion.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2020 **(For Possible Action)**
Lance Ledet, Chairperson

Lance Ledet motioned to approve the September 16, 2020 Minutes. Debra Collins Seconded. Motion was carried.

4. Overview of the Nevada AT Collaborative Programs, Community Partners, and Program Services.
John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative director

-The Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative includes all the services under the AT act and our community partner or partners that provide those services through the state. The corresponding document describing this Collaborative is regularly updated. It is really intended as an internal document and something we provide to other agencies, organizations, or people so that they can really see what the structure of the Nevada AT collaborative, the NATC.

-Jack Mayes with Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) requested that we add their program in the NATC document, which is the protection and advocacy of assistive technology. The program overview has recently added the NDALC information after Jack's review. They are directly federally funded to be that protection and advocacy piece.

Scotts Youngs, Project Director for the Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center (part of the NATC collaborative): Presented an overview of the NATRC.

- The Nevada AT Resource Center is part of the Nevada Center For Excellence in Disabilities at University of Reno/UNR. The NATRC is a sister agency of the protection and advocacy services in the state which Jack Mayes does through NDALC, also another sister agency of the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD).

Those three sister agencies are part of the Administration on Community Living through their Administration on Disabilities. These agencies are all grant funded and work together to collaborate.

- A major change was that last year the services were coordinated in one application that would limit the number of providers to one statewide provider in two locations, one for the North and one for the South for the services, instead of multiple service providers. Lance is the project coordinator for the South, and in the meantime will be sharing office space with Care Chest until a storefront office for the South is opened. The location will include an AT "Lab", so to speak, so anyone can experience different AT.

- Anyone with a disability, any service provider or anyone within the state can contact the NATRC and ask questions about resources, get basic information, and from a consumer's perspective they will engage in an exploration of all the AT that is out there that is pertinent to what the consumer needs, to identify goals and barriers, whether it is related to employment, community living, education or other areas of concern.

The NATRC is required by the AT Act to track how the consumer was impacted by the AT provided, and identify the barriers that were overcome.

-Youngs mentioned that there is a lot of device abandonment as it may be the consumer did not get the right information, or AT that is appropriate for them. As such the NATRC recognizes that their model is based on the Independent Living model, and endeavors to provide consumer with informed decision making to meet their needs.

-Discussed the referral process. It is best to get the consumer in contact with the NATRC, so by them contacting or calling the NATRC can discuss with the consumer what the needs are and identify the barriers. They can call the 1-800-216-7988 number and the administrative assistants will refer to someone on the NATRC team, they work together and no one is an expert unto themselves. They will have a disability conversation, and together with the consumer decide on what AT may be appropriate for them to use. If they like the AT they can Try before they Buy, borrow the equipment for a while to see if they like it. It is not assessment. Under the funds from the Federal government, they cannot provide assessment and evaluation, but they can provide information and engage with consumer so that they are informed in their decision making. The engagement between NATRC and the consumer is not just about the AT, but what is it that the consumer wants and needs to do, and how the AT helps them achieve those goals.

5. Review Council Membership of Pending Applicants and Recruitment of Council Membership. Discuss Recommendations from the AT Council Membership Subcommittee for Council Approval. **(For Possible Action)**

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative director

-Discussion on the technical issues with the application links to apply to be on the AT Council. The current challenges are: One, the current application is a general application, not specific to the Council. Second, there are technical issues with the application not always being received after being sent electronically. The DHHS Director's office wants to be able to vet the application, to ensure the applicants are appropriate for a council.

-Lance Ledet (chair) application has been updated and is a current member; Debra Collins has submitted another application for the mandated position from workforce investment; John Rosenlund's and Victoria Essner's applications were found; Julie Bowers' term has ended and she had mentioned there may be someone in her office to take her place; awaiting an application from the Centers for Independent Living to fulfill that mandated position.

-The AT Council may use a form application until the website technical issues with the application link has been resolved.

-There was back in 2018 an AT Council membership subcommittee and among the items discussed

- Creation of a membership Orientation Packet, that would include: the Council's bylaws, the position paper that was established by the council back in 2015, the Nevada AT collaborative state plan, a manual report of data as decided to include by the Council; past council work and initiatives.
- Borrow from the National Assistive Technology technical assistance (AT3) website, which goes over what an AT Council member could expect which may include roles some states may have where the council is actually a board of directors or something of that nature.
- Outreach for membership in such as the areas of Early Intervention, Nevada PEP, Nevada college students, MS society, AARP, and the Nevada Respite coalition to meet the mandatory requirement of AT users on the Council.
- Have NATRC send out newsletters etc. out to Consumers, even past users, to generate interest in contributing to the AT Council.

Lance: He has been spreading by word-of-mouth about the AT Council to try to recruit more members and recommends letting other AT users know about the possibility of being on the AT Council in order to

keep the membership going, especially in light of the Pandemic.

6. Discussion and Possible Approval of a Process for Reviewing Prospective New Members **(For Possible Action)**

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

John: Presented the idea that this may present an opportune time for the AT Council Members to come up with a simple list of criteria to be asked of potential members to support the application process.

- There are mandatory positions that are defined under the Act. Bylaws also has descriptions of how those positions are determined, with AT users being in the majority.

-Nothing in the (general) application indicates the above criteria.

-Suggested the Council come up with a secondary application, regarding this criteria, that applicants would fill out as well the general application.

- Discussed the idea that potential applicants can participate in or attend a meeting and ensure that they went through the orientation packet that was provided to them or similar information to assure that the person desires to become a member and that they are going to fulfill their role appropriately.

-A solicitation letter, that could be given out to AT users, such as those who came to Care Chest, would not only facilitate recruitment but also draw AT Users that may be interested in joining the Council, and simultaneously would help to fulfill and meet the requirement of having AT users on the Council.

Debra: Seconded the ideas that John presented of creating the criterion and suggested that the Council act quickly to implement these ideas so as not to lose momentum.

Julie: Offered to send a letter that goes out for the SEAC advisement committee that gives an idea of what (they) do when we're trying to recruit new members for the committee. Also suggested that reviewing membership applications be a standing agenda item.

Lance: States that the (solicitation letter) is something that the Council can continue to discuss, come up with a plan, possibly work out how the letter is sent out. He thanked John for his comments.

Debra Collins: Agrees with Julie that making roles and expectations clear, not only for the AT users/consumers is essential, but also for the mandated positions like hers and Julie's that are fulfilled on the Council. By doing so it would improve retention and increase the Council's success.

Lance: Thanked Debra for her comments.

John: Discussed how the National expectation of how AT is distributed, versus with the collaborative is actually allowed to do under the AT Act, which is to provide information and support consumer's informed decision making. This creates some conflict with other agencies, whereas their requirement or policy may be assessment and evaluation, which the collaborative does not do. These differences create "silos" among the State. Perhaps there could be encouragement for agencies to participate in training or technical assistance efforts that can be provided to better break down those barriers to assistive technology. Those pieces are important for us to establish member's expectation, and what expectations of that member are, and provide that correlation between services that are offered.

7. Review of the Nevada Assistive Technology Council's Position Statement.

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

Nevada assistive technology council position statement of 2015 (read aloud by Lance):

"Nevada assistive technology council asserts all appearance with disabilities regardless of age or life situation must have access to life empowering assistive technology to participate and succeed in modern society, acquiring appropriate assistive technology devices and services are a necessity for many people

with disabilities who are striving to succeed in life's pursuits, including education, employment, life, living independently and recreation.

Assistive technology makes this essential difference in a child receiving an appropriate education, a person obtaining and maintaining their employment, a veteran reentering civilian life, the individual trying to regain some independence or seniors wanting to remain active and engaged in the community. Assistive technology is any device or service that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional **Kane** of people with disabilities. Examples of assistive technology include magnifying glasses, talking computers, software, robotics, phones and Braille output for persons who are visually impaired, communication devices for people who are unable to speak, adaptive switches, keyboards and controls for persons who have trouble accessing standard keyboards and other input devices, voice input or speaking through a phone or computer, those unable to type or persons who have learning or intellectual disabilities and home modifications, vehicle adaptations, mobility devices such as wheelchairs, scooters, and walkers.

Assistive technology may also include processes and systems that make a home or workplace more accessible such as modifying some parts of job descriptions or changing the way paper files are accessed.

Therefore, the Nevada assistive technology council holds the following unyielding position.

Basic principles.

One, appropriate technology is critical to the success and quality of life of people with disabilities. Two, the state of Nevada has gaps in services, collaborations and practices.

Three, the Nevada assistive technology council will operate as lead stakeholder.

Four, assistive technology services require an interdisciplinary team based approach.

Priorities, practices and goals:

One, increases access to and usability of assistive technology services statewide. Two, foster interagency collaborations to improve service delivery. Three, require access to independent person centered and team-based assessment training and following on services. Four, support the creation of and accessible Web based systems to increase exposure to assistive technology education and training opportunities. Five, provide assistive technology reutilization, device demonstrations, device loans, training, technical assistance, and public awareness throughout the state.

Advocate for the accessibility of websites and state agencies and service provider organizations.

It is our conviction that by providing timely and appropriate AT in Nevada, we'll see greater contributions by persons with disabilities as well as savings as a result of employment and independence gained.

To accomplish this we need legislative support and changes to policies and procedures that will ensure appropriate access to and acquisition of assistive technology for persons with disabilities.”

-Debra Collins seconded that the Position paper is very clear.

-John stated that the contents of the Position paper all still applies.

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

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

John Rosenlund:

-Discussion of sending emails and putting together a list of questions for applicants.

-Discussion and approval of a process reviewing prospective members.

-Review of Membership (as a standing item on Agenda).

-Discussion of creating a training as described under the AT Act, and the results, which would include: How have they have been beneficial in the past? What were the outcomes of the trainings? Link back to the end of the year reporting. In tracking the results of the trainings and outcomes, they would create opportunities for identifying and establishing goals, such as looking at trainings for organizations, agencies or other types of groups.

-Discussion and keep as an ongoing agenda item Care Chest in Reno, their services they offer, the intent of their program and outcomes of services that are provided.

-Debra Collins expressed her appreciation for the informative presentations given this day, and concurred with the idea of ongoing discussion and progress updates with the partnership with Care Chest.

9. Confirm Date for Future Meeting **(For Possible Action)**

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

-Deanna will send out a Doodle Poll to the members and pending members to determine a date and time somewhere in the last week of December 2020, or the first two weeks of January 2021.

10. Public Comment (May Include General Announcements by Commissioners) (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. Public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson. Members of the public may comment on matters not appearing on this agenda or may offer comment on specific agenda items. Comments may be discussed by the Board, but no action may be taken. The matter may be placed on a future agenda for action)

Scott Young:

-He discussed that there are gaps, lack of collaboration and oversight between statewide programs and services regarding obtaining AT, and as such his program as well as consumers that call his program, really want to understand and identify what the barriers are, and how to use consumers technology to access certain programs.

-Youngs also seeks feedback from the employment and workforce agencies, so that he can work with these agencies to come with solutions, such as training, technical assistance or public awareness, as well as the impact that barriers have on the consumers.

- There are efforts in progress to make websites more accessible and identifying how consumers access programs and services using consumer(s) technology.

-Youngs expressed that it is critical to have as many AT users as possible on the council that are willing to share their experience, what works, identifying barriers, criticizing our program and other programs, from a consumer perspective. From these AT Users perspectives, the Council can act as more effective advocates to bring about changes in policies and procedures on the state level.

-NATRC desires to be a part of the onboarding process for new members of the AT Council, whether through them or through a partner like Care Chest or other state agency, that can explain the membership application process to those AT Users interested in becoming members and participating on the Council.

Vickie Essner:

-Would like to request regardless of the State agency or partner service providers that are contacted by a consumer, to discover if they are a client of DETR or not, and if they are not, to share with the consumer about the kinds of services DETR can provide. There are great tools in place at DETR to assist an individual with a disability, such as applying for employment. If they are an existing client of DETR, they must reach to their counselor to get further assistance from DETR.

John Rosenlund:

-If anyone has a question about NATRC, please reach out to him directly as they can coordinate with the NATRC and Care Chest, as they make every effort to be responsive. They want to be able to talk to the consumer and identify what the barriers are and what they need so that they can appropriately provide the right equipment and support.

-The NATRC has been making every effort to get the information out to agencies, service providers as to what it is they do, and what information to provide to consumers so they know what to expect when they contact NATRC. Especially since the Easter Seals program has closed and NATRC now replaces what they were doing in Southern Nevada, so re-establishing a new program has been difficult to replace the Easter Seals program that had been in existence since before 2005. Lance is now the Project Coordinator in the South. Getting out the awareness with outreach of new program takes time.

-Mentioned the existence of [The Challenger Newspaper](#) in which there was a recent article in their September issue about NATRC. If there is an issue of accessibility to review please let them know. There is a lot of other good information there about other programs and services around the state as well.

- Suggested that NATRC or NATC collaborative partners can do a demonstration or some sort of presentation, even as an ongoing agenda item, on some current AT that people are using out there enlighten as to what people are using as a way to demonstrate what's going on in the world of AT.

11. Adjournment

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

Meeting was adjourned at 11:49am.

NOTE: Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/ or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson's discretion. 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.

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 Deanna Gay at (775) 687-0586 as soon as possible in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at deannagay@adsd.nv.gov. In accordance with NRS 241.020, supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Rd, D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Deanna Gay at (775) 687-0586 or by email at deannagay@adsd.nv.gov

Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:

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

In accordance with Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 there will not be a physical location for the Governor's Commission on Behavioral Health Meeting regarding the Annual Governor's Letter.

- As per Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 3: The requirements contained in NRS 241.020 (4) (a) that public notice agendas be posted at physical locations within the State of Nevada are suspended.
- As per Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 4: Public bodies must still comply with requirements in NRS 241.020 (4)(b) and NRS 241.020 (4)(c) that public notice agendas be posted to Nevada's notice website and the public body's website, if it maintains one along with providing a copy to any person who has requested one via U.S. mail or electronic mail.
- As per Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 5: The requirement contained in NRS 241.020 (3)(c) that physical locations be available for the public to receive supporting material for public meetings is suspended.
- As per Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 6: If a public body holds a meeting and does not provide a physical location where supporting material is available to the public, the public body must provide on its public notice agenda the name and contact information for the person designated by the public body from whom a member of the public may request supporting material electronically and must post supporting material to the public body's website, if it maintains one.