

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: September 16, 2020
1:00 p.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.

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

1. Welcome and Introductions
John Rosenlund, Interim Chair

Members Present: Debra Collins, Julie Bowers, Lance Ledet

Guests: Jack Mayes, Minerva Rivera, Adrienne Navarro, Dora Martinez, Scott Youngs, Vickie Essner, Cheyenne Pasquale, Dawn Lyons

Staff: John Rosenlund, Deanna Gay, Wendy Thornley
CART Provider: Becky Van Auken

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)

Jack Mayes: Requested that Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center (NDALC) to be added to documents that the Council sends out, to reference NDALC's advocacy for AT.

Dora Martinez: Expressed her strong approval for the fact that the agenda materials were posted into the body of the email for this meeting, thus making it more accessible. She suggested the AT Council continue to post agendas and meeting materials in this way.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August January 30, 2019 **(For Possible Action)**
John Rosenlund, Interim Chair

Julie Bowers motioned to approve the January 30, 2019 draft minutes. Debra Collins seconded. Motion carried.

4. Elect a New Chair and Vice Chair for the Council for a Two-Year Term **(For Possible Action)**
John Rosenlund, Interim Chair

-Lance Ledet agreed to be the Interim Chair and Debra Collins agreed to be the Interim Vice Chair until the next meeting when there would be more members present and an election can take place.

5. Discussion of Council Membership Including Pending Applicants and Recruitment of Council Membership (For Possible Action)
John Rosenlund, Interim Chair

-Issues were discussed around applying and waiting for Council Membership application status and approvals.

- Minerva Rivera had submitted an online application long ago and did not receive a reply, so she thought she was a member already.
- Both John Rosenlund and Vickie Essner applied online and received an error message. John is working with Nikki Haag and the Director's Office to fix the broken link and the faulty submission message that one receives when submitting the application (which at this point, goes to Governor instead of the Director's Office).
- All members will be voting members.
- Debra Collins will be applying for a second term.
- Julie Bowers announced that she will be handing over her Council position to a co-worker soon, and this co-worker could serve the remainder of Julie's second term. ADSD is looking into this matter to see if this is an acceptable transfer, or would the replacement need to apply for membership to replace Julie.
- Lance Ledet's membership does not need to be addressed at this time.
- The council can include up to 21 members and shall have a minimum of 7 members.
- The council shall have individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology or the family member or guardian of such individuals. These individuals should make up the majority

(51%) on the AT Council, and that are not working for the State, or work for nor represent an agency or organization.

- The other members shall consist of:
 - A representative of the State of Nevada, that works on the behalf of individuals with Disabilities who use AT. In this case, this position requirement can be met by Vickie Essner, who works for the Department of Education and Training (DETR), and has served on the Council as an AT user herself.
 - A representative of the state Centers For Independent Living, in this case Minerva Rivera who works for and was nominated to represent by The Centers For Independent Living in Southern Nevada.
 - A representative from the state Department of Education, in this case Julie Bowers who will eventually nominate someone else to replace her position on the Council;
 - A Representative of the state Workforce Investment board, in this case Debra Collins.
 - Finally, representatives from state agencies, public agencies, or private organizations. We currently do not have any representatives for the latter.

- In the past, the AT Council had or proposed a Membership subcommittee to invite people and get people interested in being on the Assistive Technology Council that are individuals and get within compliance of the council. John will investigate AT files to gather this information to present this going forward.
- The Council would like to offer better support and clarification of their members' role, while ensuring that they are representative of the state, cross disability and so forth.
- There was also a subcommittee that was writing a letter to the Governor regarding the inaccessibility of websites. On that subcommittee, there were four or five members that represented blindness. There is nothing in the bylaws that says we cannot have multiple representation of the same disability, but the Council will strive to have representation across the board of different types of disabilities.
- John Rosenlund suggested that the Bylaws be reviewed and updated as necessary by the Council.

6. Overview of the Nevada AT Collaborative Programs, Community Partners, and Program Services.

John Rosenlund, NV Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

- Jack Mayes reiterated his request that NDALC be included on the document, as they receive advocacy funds from the Tech act to advocate for individuals seeking technology. John Rosenlund will send the revised document to him for review.
- Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) grant overview. It's not a large grant but it does cover some for advocating for individuals. The PAAT has been used for advocating for children and trainings, but it's still an underused resource that could be used more for people needing advocacy for AT.
- Sometimes consumers do not want to go through the advocacy process, for demonstration and the lending portion from the resource centers. The Council may want to consider routinely or annually gathering from the resource centers how many comments and concerns they have received so that the Council is made aware of them.
- When the AT Act first started, Nevada was able to secure not only federal funding but also some tobacco money. They were able to put those monies together and create a financial lending program for the purchase of assistive technology. It has changed names over the years. It is now called the Care Loan Fund. That is available statewide to anyone that wants to apply for a financial loan for the purchase of assistive technology. That could be including doing remodeling in the home for access.

Access could mean, widening of a door is assistive technology. A home modification is therefore assistive technology.

It helps the individuals with the disability access. That is the only one we don't fund. Everything else receives some part of Assistive Technology funding which is a limited pot of funds.

Under five hundred thousand dollars for the 2020 award is something like \$435,000; somewhere in that neighborhood.

The money is spread thin and they do try to cover all those services.

Everything from device demonstration, being able to compare devices so individuals can make a better informed choice, people that are knowledgeable in Assistive Technology to be able research and compare at least one or more devices so that they can get an understanding of how it works and its general features.

The next step may be device lending where, if they have the device available, they can loan it to a consumer, and show them features, they can take it home and test drive it and see if it's what's going work for them or not.

As that works through that process, ultimately showing the individual the options that they have available, and the resources that may be available, if there are programs where they may be able to get assistance purchasing or do they need to go through the loan program where they borrow resources from the financial lending.

The AT/IL Program is a state finance programs that is a last resort program and can provide the technology. This Program is primarily state general funded.

The majority of the funding are state funds and the majority of that funding is used for the actual assistive technology.

So that program is kind of best described as it provides services for essential daily living to support community living. Accessing your home is one of those essential things.

Being able to care for yourself and being able to prepare a meal for yourself, essential things.

Including mobility, transportation.

It is a hybrid between activities of daily living and things that you would need to live as a person with a disability.

That is a last resort program. It has been around for 20-plus years.

If anybody has an independent living barrier that is a physical barrier, they can access that program, they can either take the pathway of just developing the independent living goals even if they have their own financial resources to pay for the service, but they didn't know how to go through those steps of identifying what the barriers are or identifying what may be the best assistive technology may be for them to use.

That program is there to assist and if there are no other resources, those state general funds can be used to purchase and -- from the vendor or have homes modified.

The challenge with that is it is the only last resort program in the state, and it provides things that aren't covered by any other minimum resources.

Pretty much anybody that needs a ramp to get into their home because they have a permanent disability, if they have no other resources, they're likely to end up on that program.

A year ago, they had their waitlist at the lowest point it has ever been in John's entire career and he would guesstimate in the 20 plus years the program had operated they are right now back to where they were at in the year prior to that.

They have about 240 people waiting. Those are people that have independent living goals in place.

They have an Independent Living Specialist working through that process of identifying what the best solution is for each consumer.

Putting all the pieces together and waiting for state dollars to become available so they can purchase those services.

You can have a ramp built or whatever it may be that's going to enable that person to live

in the community and live independently. That kind of covers our two state financing systems.

Next is the device reutilization.

Device reutilization is primarily and only done at this time through resources by Sierra Nevada. Sierra Nevada has 20 plus years of providing durable medical equipment.

They have a robust reuse program. They also purchase equipment directly.

But the majority of it is gently used equipment that is donated to them, they sanitize it and make it available for others in the community.

They have expanded their services quite significantly the last couple years, working with the Northern Nevada food bank, shipping things on trucks that are going to haul food to rural communities, so quite a robust program.

Many of you may be familiar with it.

We have been working with Care Chest over the years and we bought a piece of equipment called Hub Scrub.

Prior to that it was taking volunteers and paid staff 30 to 45 minutes to sanitize a wheelchair to make it available for somebody, the use of the Hub Scrub allows them to sanitize maybe ten or 15 of those wheelchairs while that person is off doing something else.

So over the years, that's where we've been able to support the Nevada AT collaborative is when we have availability of additional funding or we're able to earmark some and hold it aside to support those types of organizations so that they can be more efficient, more effective, and get more equipment processed to the people in need.

John will keep the group updated on working with an entity in Las Vegas to provide AT equipment to that community.

The demonstration loans, information and assistance, providing training, technical assistance, providing training and technical assistance specific to transition and public awareness, all of those services are wrapped into the core functions of what UNR does and what Easter Seals used to do.

UNR is going to do that statewide and establish an office in Las Vegas and have staff in Las Vegas that will do the same thing that much of what was being done at Easter Seals.

That AT Act flow of services starts off by engaging with the consumer.

Making a phone call, sending a text message, or sending an email or engaging in some form and saying "I'm not able to do this or I want to do it better, faster, easier, or I just plain want to be able to do this."

And starting that conversation.

Once we have that conversation, then people can put on their thinking caps, AT specialists can start doing some research, we can reach out on a national level, we can reach out on a local level.

Most likely we've engaged with somebody with a similar disability or know somebody and can get their input on how they do that.

It's really a relatively small state and there's a great opportunity there to help people do that.

We just need to make sure we start getting them through our door.

The change of community partner in Las Vegas is going to be a big challenge.

We're going to try to hopefully be as positive and move it forward as soon as possible and we'll keep you all abreast of the improvements as that takes shape as UNR is able to get staff hired and actually secure a location and we can get our assistive technology out of storage.

7. Discussion of Council Priorities **(For Possible Action)**

John Rosenlund, Interim Chair

- John Rosenlund will find the previous priorities and will update them before sending to the members, such as revisiting the letter that went out to the Governor about website accessibility.

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

John Rosenlund, Interim Chair

- Membership/Application process
- Priorities and Actions
- Covid-19 changes to the service model (Zoom vs. going to physical meetings etc.)
- Include input from University of Reno's Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) and CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada.

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

John Rosenlund, Interim Chair

- The three voting members decided that the Council will meet every other month for six months, at which time the Council will decide the frequency of meetings moving forward. For the next meeting, a Doodle will be sent to the members and the pending members to choose a date and time.

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)

Dawn: Information on the December Training will be sent, once available, to Chairs, Vice-Chairs and others, AT Council members and pending members to attend. The training should include responsibilities as a Chair, Open Meeting law, Roberts Rules of Order, things that are typical for public meetings that are important to know about for all boards and commissions. She also invited members to attend the upcoming SILC Legislative Subcommittee meeting, happening on September 25, 2020. Anyone wishing to attend are to contact John Rosenlund.

The AT Council can suggest the SILC's Legislative Subcommittee to AT members.

Debra Collins: She thanked John and the team for continuing with the AT meetings and keeping the members updated.

Vickie Essner: She also thanked John and the team for their work and keeping her updated.

John Rosenlund: Clarified the name of the Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center and when he references UNR, he is referring to the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED). They are teaming with NCED on a reporting mechanism that's available, free, and nationwide through one of the national AT supports. They will be adding to the reporting regarding all assistive inventory they have, including the assets that UNR already had or has purchased on their own.

11. Adjournment

John Rosenlund, Interim Chair

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

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) 687-0551 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) 687-0551 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.