

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

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## Draft Minutes

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

Date and Time of Meeting: December 17, 2021  
10 am

This meeting is open to the public and will be held at the following location:

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
Aging and Disability Services Division  
3416 Goni Road Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706

And via video-conference at:

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

**To Join the Zoom Meeting**

<https://unr.zoom.us/j/85704616148?pwd=SHpmRHNzSXFLV2JmUjM1T3pCRHBKUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 0461 6148  
Passcode: 011740

And via telephone:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

The number provided may incur long-distance telephone carrier charges, and is offered as a regional call-in number, only.

Meeting ID: 929 904 1434  
Passcode: 011740

Find your local number: <https://unr.zoom.us/u/kA7PCOUMf>

Meeting Materials Available at: <https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/ATCouncil/2021/Home/>

1. Welcome and Introductions, Roll Call and Verification of Posting  
Lance Ledet, Chairperson

**Members Present:** Steven Cohen, Debra Collins, Vickie Essner, Lance Ledet, Minerva Rivera, John

Rosenlund

**Member Excused Absent:** Julie Bowers

**Member Unexcused Absent:** Connor Fogal

**Guests:** Dawn Lyons, Wendy Thornley, Mark Tadder, Scott Youngs, Ashley Price, Santa Perez, Adrienne Navarro, Jacob Johnson

**Staff:** Deanna Gay

**CART Provider:** Becky Van Aucken

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)

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2021 **(For Possible Action)**  
Lance Ledet, Chairperson

John motioned to approve with the one small correction of spelling of a last name. Debra Collins seconded. The motion carried.

4. Welcome new council members and Review Council Membership, Pending Applicants and Recruitment of Council Membership.  
Lance Ledet, Chairperson  
-Welcomed new AT Council Members: Connor Fogal, Minerva Rivera and Steven Cohen.
5. -Presentation of the Nevada AT Collaborative Programs: Reuse and Open-Ended Device Loans by CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada; Assistive Technology for Independent Living Program by CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada; and Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Centers by the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities.  
CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada: Jacob Johnson, Development and Marketing Director  
Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Centers: Scott Youngs, Senior Project Manager

Jacob Johnson:

- Care Chest is a non-profit organization that provides free medical equipment and supplies to individuals across the state of Nevada. Their programs include: medical equipment and supplies durable medical equipment program (includes Assistive Technology, reuse and open-ended loans; prescription assistance program; up to \$300 year per individual and assists with co-pays, etc.; diabetic supply program (diabetic testing supplies); supplemental medical nutrition program; independent living and care loan programs to maintain or increase individual's independence in their homes, or assist individuals to return home from facilities; home modification program; mobile Care Chest and outreach programs, often in partnership with food banks so individuals can access both services at once.
- Overall guidelines from Care Chest indicate that individuals self-declare with a permanent and

long-term disability, however the Chest does not turn them away and they work with individuals to keep them independent and in their homes.

-Care Chest has adapted their service deliveries during Covid-19 through drive up locations and curbside delivery. They have found curbside is actually more efficient and safer for everyone. With the drive-up services, the consumers receiving services has increased.

-Care Chest has recently received a grant that allows them to expand their services from primarily in the Northern Nevada to go full programming in Southern Nevada as well.

Scott Youngs:

-Appreciates the drive-up service. NATRC is part of the AT Collaborative, under the funding of the AT Act. Most people on his team, are AT users. Consumers are appropriately matched with team members. The AT consumer is responsible for their engagement process that puts them in the decision-making role. It's a very interactive program. This time last year, there was discussion about what NATRC will be doing regarding bringing people up to speed to get online and applications like Zoom, Teams and Google Meet. People without internet connectivity are getting left out of many processes. Website accessibility and form documents have been a huge issue. The Southern Nevada office has hired staff, worked on getting equipment up and running and community outreach. NATRC is working statewide with people to develop relationships and offering training, technical assistance, and all resources.

All information will be included in their federal report.

-Statewide leadership has worked on website and document accessibility, during Covid. Website overlays do not immediately make websites fully accessible and the blind community at the national level has contacted some companies who are developing website overlays.

The UNR campus offices have limited space and so they are expanding to office/storage space in the communities. Having accessible building sites that have public transit, parking that are centrally located, are priorities. They have over 1,000 pieces of Assistive Technology in their loan library. AT equipment will be fully displayed and there will be training room.

After talking with consumers, NATRC has purchased new technology, activities of daily living, independent living type aids that assist people in cooking, preparing meals, and including AT that assist consumers with feeding themselves. One feeding device is the Obi Robotic Feeder. Also, updates with smartphone technology and tablet technologies that were getting old.

With Covid becoming more manageable, NATRC will work on goals and objectives doing one-on-one and group type settings with training and technical assistance and outreach activities.

-Youngs Invited the AT Council and other attendees who are thinking about receiving training or technical assistance or setting up a training or even putting together different user groups of people like the home automation, they can borrow whatever equipment they need to understand home automation and how that works. This is one example of some of the things that the NATRC is endeavoring to focus on getting back to over this next year.

Presentation of the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Programs and Services as Supported in Nevada Under the Assistive Technology Act.

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

John referenced and overviewed the materials for the State Plan for Assistive Technology, the AT Act Flow of services and the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Programs overview:

-The AT Act was renewed in 2004. The focus is more on direct services; these Direct services referred to are not purchasing and giving the Assistive Technology equipment to consumers, but to provide informed decision making. The Flow of services document describes the access to and acquisition of Assistive Technology as well as some of the opportunities that are out there. Consumers can contact the Assistive Technology Resource center at UNR and learn how to start the process to obtain and research their Assistive Technology options.

-The Information and Assistance piece of the Assistive Technology (AT) Act is fulfilled by both the AT Resource center and Care Chest. These are conversations to engage with the individual about what they are trying to accomplish and identify the barriers, then systematically try to plug in the services that can be provided.

-Device demonstrations include looking at multiple devices and comparing features:

We want the individual to be able to make that decision and not to be swayed by the nice sales stuff. Be prepared to look at the features that get glossed over. The questions to be answered are: How does it turn on, how does it plug in, does it need to be set up, is there a simpler technology? Those are the questions that are addressed when an individual is exploring in that demonstration piece.

-Device loans and lending of devices:

In the past 10 years the NATC has made significant improvements purchasing and updating the inventory of devices. Prior to that the model was to coordinate with manufacturers and vendors, or borrowing devices for that purpose. Having updated Assistive Technology is important. The primary purpose of Device loans are really intended for decision making. Equipment can also be loaned for short- term use such as a short-term accommodation. Device Loans are typically for 2 weeks but can be flexible.

-Assistive Technology reutilization is one of the services CARE Chest described.

Care Chest takes in donated devices, primarily durable medical equipment, but could also be other devices as well. Care Chest defines their own criteria for people accessing, although it is extremely easy to have a conversation to see if there's something that can be done to access the equipment that an individual needs. Another benefit to lending equipment to NATC partners are for the purpose of demonstration and short-term loans for decision making by the consumer. A rough approximate is that about 1400 pieces of equipment were provided last year in northern Nevada.

-Expansion to southern Nevada is going to be a great boost for Nevada.

We've never had a longstanding assistive technology reuse program. We've had individuals and organizations that ran good programs but were able only our partner for a short period of time. The last one was supported through Easter Seals ended with the organization dropping out as an NATRC partner. To have a longstanding project, it takes a community partner that takes steps to have ownership of that program. Care chest has been doing this for 32 years.

- A state financing option is the CARE Loan Fund Program that provides financial loans.

The Lending program was created through a combination of federal and state funding. The purpose is to provide alternative ways for people to buy assistive technology. To create flexibility, direct lending is possible rather than going through a banking system.

- The last state financing piece is the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program, also mentioned by Jacob and through Care Chest statewide. The focus is on daily independent living for people with disabilities. The essential things to be able to live in the community such as accessing your home or preparing a meal. From a higher level, it's described as a last resort program. If there's other resources available those resources must be accessed first. It is still one of the only programs in the State of Nevada that provides those types of services. There may be small projects that are limited by age, the aging side of ADSD has home safety programs and they do a phenomenal job, but our program is still charged with anybody with a permanent disability. Based on an Independent Living model, it is supported in part by the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council, state funds, and assistive technology.

-Some things that we went through over the last two years during COVID and some of the challenges:

Prior to COVID, that we had a long-term partner with Easter Seals since before 2005 ended. Easter Seals was the AT Resource Center in southern Nevada. Easter Seals supported the reutilization and the Assistive Technology for Independent Living programs. COVID hit right when UNR stepped in and said we'll take it statewide. The challenges included trying to hire somebody when the state had hiring freezes and finding a location in the middle of COVID. Information and assistance numbers for this year are high and they should be. Over the last year since they were able to fill the position in southern Nevada where Lance Ledet works. It was also challenging to get the word out to let people know that this wasn't just an Easter Seals program, this was part of the Assistive Technology Collaborative. We would love to see huge demonstration in lending numbers. It's not as simple as individuals filling out paperwork and handing over the individual a device. Efforts just to loan a device might take multiple hours of training.

-The Nevada AT Collaborative endeavors for consumers to be able to learn and try out equipment, to be engaged in the process to find out what truly works for them and to have the appropriate supports and training, and to ensure that AT meets their needs.

-He requested feedback for the AT Council to be more accessible and get information out.

-The AT Peer user group came from a training about 10 years ago. A professional came to present at an initial training. This led to the Peer user group and drove some of the major changes for blind and visually impaired individuals.

Scott Youngs shared two links to the group:

<https://adsd.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/adsdnvgov/content/Boards/ATCouncil/2021/NATC%20Overview%202021%20.pdf>

And

<https://adsd.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/adsdnvgov/content/Boards/ATCouncil/2021/AT%20Act-Flow%20of%20Services.pdf>

## 6. Discussion About the Next State Plan for the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative and How the AT Council Will Participate.

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

John Rosenlund:

-The state plan describes what we're doing in Nevada. It comes down to what services we are going to provide under the Act and who is going to be providing them. If we are going to support a service, we must have a reason why that service is not being provided. The state plan is what enables funding to be provided to Nevada.

-Nevada currently supports all the things under the Act. I say we support all the things under the Act as a whole, because all of those things exist in Nevada. The Care Loan program is a self-sustaining program and there are no resources that come through ADSD to support that activity. Assistive technology for the independent living program is primarily state funded, and the primary use of those funds are for the purchase of assistive technology. Therefore, in our state plan we confirm we have a last resort program, and the Nevada AT collaborative puts specific funds to support that. Each activity in our state plan has a description of the partner such as a university or private non-profit. There is also a very small narrative describing how that activity is done. That follows through with all the pieces under Act. We are stating if we are supporting it, who is that partner, and then describing briefly how the activity is going to be done. That is an overly simplified description of a state plan.

-Other parts of the state plan are confirming that our Council exists, that we have an assistive technology Council, are we compliant with what the federal regulation describes.

-We must report what our expenditures were. John addresses (those things) internally as the director of the AT collaborative and work with our partners to keep track. The funding that is received to support reuse is only for that activity, so it is a simple calculation. It's more of a complication for an AT Resource Center providing multiple services. We're mandated under the Act to do certain things.

For the majority of the funds, at least 60%, must be used for direct service such as reutilization, last resort AT purchasing, demonstrations and lending devices.

-We have an approved state plan through 2020. We have been told in 2022, we will be able to submit a new state plan. All states and territories with AT Act programs have assurances from the Administration on Community Living that our existing state plan is what we're being funded under.

-The purpose of this discussion is to find out how we include the assistive technology Council in the state planning. We've been supporting all of these services as best we can. We want to be able to have conversation with the AT Council. It's a role that really hasn't happened in the past. There's been other issues that seize the day with us as a Council, different issues. I just want to make sure the Council is aware of what the state plan looks like, what its intent is. Understanding what services are supported in Nevada, how they are being supported, and we should have those conversations,

-The Plan is a huge document with pieces built into it to try to make it to where they can take it to congress and be able to say this is what we are doing. The Plan is also used to relate to the reporting and the goals that have been established. Those are built-in goals that ACL has implemented and so understanding those pieces are very important for the Council.

-An exact date has not yet been decided, but sometime in 2022 we will have a portal to be able to upload the next state Plan. The 2022 awards have begun, and the funding will start trickling into the state as the congressional approvals take place.

-Steven Cohen:

John answered one of my questions, but I think the easiest way to go about this is probably going to be assuming governance exists, is to do a state plan subcommittee. (The state Plan) is 49 pages long, coming from the feds. So I think that's going to be our overarching best approach to tackle this.

Because the reality is we've got six months if we're operating, we've got nine months to get this done.

So that's kind of where I would sit initially. And presumably they were extended because of COVID?

-John Rosenlund: I don't think it has to do with COVID. It has to do with having an accessible system that state plans can be uploaded in. When programs moved on the federal level, the existing systems that were created were no longer available. That's my understanding, when they moved to these other agencies an accessible place for you not only to report in, but to also establish your plans.

-Steven Cohen: John remind me, how does this state plan interplay with other ones, because aging is going to be doing a whole bunch of planning here in the next little bit. Is this a standalone or are there pieces of it that will flow through because AT is such kind of a broad subject matter.

- John Rosenlund: I certainly hope they include us in their state planning, because as you said, assistive technology is used by all people with disabilities. Our state plan is confirming we're doing the things we're required to do under the act. There are not places for narrative to say we're checking off a box that we're involved in other state plans. I think from an individual standpoint, we should certainly be there, especially if we have interests in independent living and the independent living Council state plan.

But our charge is different. We certainly need to be aware and go one step further and say we really, as a Council perhaps, need to be at the table to make sure that they are considering the assistive technology impact. We have the charge to provide specific services and supports, demonstration, lending and so on, they maybe have a responsibility as well. Maybe there's some of the supports that we need to vocalize where there are gaps. Certainly, we may not be able to fill the entire void but voicing where those gaps are is really one of the pieces that the assistive technology Council is effective.

-Steven Cohen: That's advising the state about assistive technology and where those gaps may exist are certainly, but does it fit in the state plan?

-John Rosenlund: Maybe, maybe not. Maybe it exists and what we must be conscious of is how do we implement it. Trying to figure out how do we direct the services that we can provide supports the issue at hand, and then making sure we're planning with our partners to do that. You must get that into the subawards. To be realistic we must be flexible, our partners need to be flexible ask we need to be flexible in what we're trying to accomplish. That's what I was hoping would come out of the agenda item getting some knowledge and looking at the state plan and how those things relate back to the services and how do we make that all work

(This item was postponed for future discussion at next AT Council meeting) \*

7. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Creation of a Brochure for the Nevada Assistive Technology Council and the Content Within the Brochure. **(For Possible Action)**



Lance Ledet, Chairperson

-Organizations and people with disabilities have requested information on the AT Council, and the item for consideration is to give these consumers more information than is available on the website through some sort of brochure or document, as well as improving and updating the content on the ADSD website.

-Much of the language that is being considered is from AT 3's website. Among the language that can be considered for the NV AT Council's brochure would be how to become a member of the AT Council and what the responsibilities include; a description of those services that are under the Act; what the AT Council oversees as an advisory Council, beyond giving advice to the state and other agencies, organizations, and supporting them; emphasize that the AT Council is consumer-driven and the majority comprises of AT users, beyond those who also work for the state of Nevada.

-Debra Collins: Agreed that it is important for the AT Council to have some literature to have as the Nevada AT collaborative to speak with consumers.

(This item was postponed for future discussion at next AT Council meeting) \*

8. Discussion About Requests to the Council for Letters of Support and Being Able to Respond in a Reasonable Time to the Requesting Party.

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

-The AT Council needs an effective method of responding for requests for support letters in a timely fashion, such as requests coming from those drafting grant proposals.

(This item was postponed for future discussion at next AT Council meeting) \*

-John Rosenlund motioned that Agenda items 6, 7 and 8 be postponed for further discussion at the next AT Council meeting. Steven Cohen seconded, as well as Victoria Essner and Debra Collins. Motion was carried.

9. 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

-An email will be sent out to the members from John and Lance for suggestions of topics to include for the next AT Council meeting.

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

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

-ADSD Staff Deanna Gay will send out a Doodle to determine next AT Council Meeting.

11. 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)



Dora Martinez:

-Suggests that the AT Council create a YouTube (video/channel), or demonstration on how to use (accessible) apps for (consumers) to learn to use them appropriately, and to educate others what constitutes ADA compliance.

-Encourages anyone with disabilities that uses public transit to fill out the (Commission's) survey, so that their voices are reflected on the survey and not just those who do not benefit from public transit accessibility.

-Recognizes the collaboration between NATRC's initiative and help, with the peer-to-peer groups, disability peer action coalition was able to facilitate and pass the AB21 so people with disabilities can stay home and vote. People with vision loss tend to use iPhones over Android for accessibility and access.

Mark Tadder:

Expressed his concern that potential or applicants for Nevada state employment have access to accessible technology for the blind and asked if the AT Council could use its influence to ensure that this equipment is purchased for state employees, especially since the rate of blind employment is very low and it makes it difficult for the blind to become employed by the state.

Scott Youngs:

Mentioned that the telecommunication equipment distribution program sub award that UNR received from ADSD is increasing momentum . and will be sharing space with the NATRC program. They are having difficulty hiring staff in this environment because of other programs competitive opportunities in the workforce. There is a lot of equipment that was left over from another community partner that the telecommunications program is trying to (get into the community and hands of the consumers). If anyone deaf and hard of hearing or speech impaired has issues with telecommunication and related assistive technology, please reach out to him and we can get them the services provided under that program.

John Rosenlund:

Concurred with Mark Tadder, It is important topic to engage with the AT resource center (such as the issue of AT equipment being purchased and being made available to blind consumers seeking state employment,) as well as trainings and technical assistance bringing and employers is being made aware that this equipment can be made available for employees.

## 12. Adjournment

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

-Meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.

**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.

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:deannagay@adsd.nv.gov)