

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 MEETING MINUTES

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

Date and Time of Meeting: November 3, 2022
10:00 a.m.

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

Virtual: Zoom

Meeting Material: <https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/ATCouncil/2022/Home/>

NOTE:

Minutes of this meeting will be produced in summary format. Please provide the Commission administrative support with electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations if you wish to have complete versions included as exhibits with the minutes.

1. Roll Call & Opening Statement:

Lance Ledet, Chair

- Members: John Rosenlund, Lance Ledet, Minerva Rivera, David Winik, Steven Cohen, Victoria Essner
- Guests: Scott Youngs, Jack Mayes, Allen Gilbert, Marjory Olaes, Becky Van Auken-Captioner
- Staff: Lisa Torres, Dawn Lyons, Deanna Smith, Lorraine Belt

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. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

- When sending out meeting agendas
 - Include the meeting agenda in the body of the email and not just attached
 - Include call in number on the agenda
- Letter from Gina Chiafalo
 - Applying to join the AT Council
 - Personal experience with UMC
 - Had laryngectomy surgery
- Discharged with AT equipment and no instructions on how to use or follow up directions
- Reminder to everyone to go out and vote for the current election

3. Approval of Minutes of the August 10, 2022, meeting: (For Possible Action)

Lance Ledet, Chair

- Council would like to have input on the format of the minutes
 - More detail rather than bullet proof layout
- Item# 4, 3rd bullet, should state AT Council applicant review questions and not application
- Item# 5 add Planned 'Training for' in front of bullet points

- Item# 11, add 1 years' time was approved
- Jack is listed twice on the roll call
- Address should be 5150 West Flamingo Suite A4
- Update the Vice-Chair vote to reflect Minerva Rivera, in abstention of Lance voting for himself
- Minutes approved based on named corrections

4. Review of Council Membership, Pending Applicants and Recruitment of Council Membership.

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

- One pending application being followed up on

5. Discussion of the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Programs and Services Supported in Nevada Under the Assistive Technology Act Such as the State Plan, Funding to Community Partners, Planned Activities for 2022 and 2023 and Reports

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

- Reviewed State plan confirming support of all activities under the act
- Resources assigned through current and existing plan
 - Plans are the services supported historically and currently
 - State level activities, device demonstrations, to allow people to try and compare devices and make informed decisions
 - Device loans for the purpose of making decisions or short term accommodations
 - Under Federal Act, Program is unable to purchase AT directly for people; allowing people to make informed decisions and use AT that has been discarded or being kept in storage
 - Allowed to turn short term accommodations for a limited time period
- Reutilization or open-ended lending
 - Primarily done through CARE chest
 - Raise resources to purchase new equipment
 - Significant statewide effort to receive donated gently used equipment
 - Sanitize it,
 - Repair it
 - Make available to the public
- Care Loan Fund is financial lending program can borrow funding to somebody that qualifies to purchase AT
 - Primarily used for home modifications and vehicle modifications
 - Possible on other AT if person qualifies and has sufficient credit
 - Typically lending that cannot be done through a bank or a credit union, alternative finance program
- All programs specific to essential daily living with a focus of keeping people living in their communities
 - Being able to get in and out of their homes
 - Receive care to be living in the community versus an institutional setting
- State Leadership Activities fall under training
 - Primarily system changes
 - Assistive Technology resource centers within UNR help facilitate some type of system change, group trainings within-
 - Organizations
 - Agencies
 - Groups of people
 - Technical Assistance to help fix policies that may be restrictive in the provision of the assistive technology
 - Information, Assistance, and public awareness
- Funding of \$1.5 million was approved by IFC
 - Funding to be directing focus towards the 12 months – 18 months waiting list

6. Presentation from the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services on Blind/Visually Impaired services available for Assistive Technology users

Victoria Essner, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation

- Focus on putting the tools in the consumer's hands through the agency
- Help the consumer be successful and meet their goals
- Seek and maintain employment as a cohesive part by having the right technology
- Assist in matching community partners with the consumer's specific needs
- Direct office line is 702-486-0285
- Rehabilitation instructor for possible training at:
 - 3016 West Charleston BLVD, Suite 200 Carson City, NV 89102
- Hours 8am – 5pm

7. Nevada Medicaid Presentation to Address Questions Established Following the August Item Regarding a Mobility Device User and the Issues that Happened when the Mobility Device Broke. The Following Points were Suggested and Provided to Medicaid:

Jessica Vannucci, Social Service Specialist III, Medical Programs, Hospitals, DMEPOS, Therapy, Audiology; Division of Health Care Financing and Policy

- Jessica Vannucci from Nevada Medicaid, unable to attend presentation but answered the following questions.
 - Identify this is a problem
 1. There is a nationwide supply shortage with obtaining all kinds of medical equipment, including wheelchairs – especially power chairs requiring computer chips to function
 2. Documentation required to have sections completed by the treating physician, therapist, and medical equipment provider
 3. Most denials are due to lack of completion of all required documents, such as receipts with the amount to be reimbursed
 4. Some providers have manipulated invoices for higher reimbursement and those are referred to the fraud unit
 5. Currently in the process of updating Medicaid policies to allow larger timeframes for documents to be submitted as well as simplifying what invoices are needed
 - How can we speed this up? Is there an express program that we can put in line for repairs? So that instead of having a 21-daytime line to process that, can we do it down to 7 days for a repair?
 1. Currently only express type area is when someone is being discharged from a hospital and needs life sustaining equipment for their home
 2. The state required timeframe for working documentation is found days from any prior authorization received with all needed documentation
 3. If all documentation isn't received then a request for additional information is sent and the provider given 5 days to provide the necessary documentation, with an additional 4 day processing time once received
 4. If request is denied there are 30 days to request a reconsideration or peer to peer where the treating physician can talk to Medicaid's physician reviewer for clarification
 - Clarify who within Medicaid makes AT decisions.
 1. Policies within Medicaid are written by Jessica Vannucci but Medicaid has a fiscal agreement gain with technologies that must actually review all documents and complete the medical review
 - How can a consumer advocate on their behalf in that process?
 1. Having a transparent relationship with their physician and medical equipment provider helps

2. Choosing a medical equipment provider that understands the necessity of operating according to policy and utilizing the telephone numbers on the document to receive any clarity that might be needed
 3. Medicaid has a district office throughout the State that assists and advocates for recipients
 4. Recipients can request a hearing after a decision or even contact the Medicaid office prior to a decision
8. Discussion, presentation, and Recommendations for 82nd Legislative session (for possible action):
Stephen Cohen, Nevada Assistive Technology Council Vice-Chair
- Discuss BDR #94: 700-hour program.
 - Only current change is opening the program to more physicians to be able to participate in the program
 - Discuss BDR #150: Audio description technology in Nevada State museums.
 - To have audio description technology in all of Nevada State museums
 - Discussion and possible action to appoint an AT Council member as a legislative liaison and/or create a legislative subcommittee.
 - How to navigate when most of the council is connected to federal funding and cannot lobby for state or federal? What are we lobbying for?
 1. Members of the council can lobby on their own, separate from representing the council
 2. Often requests through HR are denied because of a lack of understanding of the need for the AT
 3. Lobbying to make the AT/IL program mandatory, as it is currently optional for ADSD to have, to help avoid possibility of being cut during another budget issue
 - How Does the 700-Hour Program benefit from the AT Council?
 1. Consumers usually need assistive technology to adequately work a state job
 - Discussion to request a BDR from ADSD concerning Assistive Technology/Independent Living (AT/IL) program.
 - Would like to see the program assisting with intellectual and development disabilities, then potentially deaf and hard of hearing as well
 1. Clarifying that the vocational rehab is part of ADSD rather than stating DSE
 - An opportunity to discuss with people in the community who are disabled?
 1. BDR's are due in less than 2 weeks, otherwise are withdrawn
 2. DSE doesn't apply to AT but applies to IL instead, IL could be taking steps to address this issue
 3. Program and policies are controllable outside of legislature
 4. Program is designated to fill a gap in services still has never been filled, causing an 18 month waiting list
 5. Program has expanded and created further program extensions such as the autism program within the state of Nevada after legislation provided funding for the ATAP program
9. Review and Discussion of proposed AT Bylaw changes (For Possible Action)
Stephen Cohen, Nevada Assistive Technology Council Vice-Chair
- No action to be taken, not 2/3's of Council present
 - Proposed change in article 1 - change corporation to organization
 - Proposed change in article 2, section A – Change The Office of Disability Services to The Office of Disability Services (name of office that currently implements the AT Act)
 - Section B is redundant with the existing subsection D. Proposing to remove it or combine section b and Subsection D
 - Article 3 is missing entirely
 - Article 4, only change would be to update the Office of Disability Services to whichever office is currently implementing the Act

- Existing article 5, would become article 4. Looking for feedback from the DAG regarding membership wording being included
- Article 6, strike language that says after soliciting recommendations from representatives of the organization's representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities and organization with individuals with disabilities. Requesting to put in language that says the council shall establish a process to provide the director with guidance for applicants
 - The council will review using federal guidelines
 - Each member of the council will review the responses and provide responses by the applicant and reply with either support or not support
 - Council's collective responses will be provided along with the response from the applicant to be submitted with the membership application
- Chose to take an official vote at the next meeting on all articles

10. Discussion and Approval of the Content Nevada Assistive Technology Council Brochure (For Possible Action)

Lance Ledet, Chair

- Working on contact information
- Further feedback
- Will follow up in next meeting

11. Confirm Dates for 2023 Meetings (For Possible Action)

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

- January 26th, 2023
- Meeting times tentatively 10am to 1pm
- Doodle Poll for:
 - May and September
 - Last Thursday of the meeting month

12. Tentative Agenda Topics for next meeting:

Lance Ledet, Chair

- Revision of the Nevada Assistive Technology Council By-Laws
- Standing items
- Review of the Council Membership pending applications
- Discussion of the Nevada AT collaborative programs
- Would like to have CARE chest give input and broader information about what public assistance measures, public awareness activities
- Legislative update
- Discuss coming up with a position statement for the Nevada AT collaborative and Council that would want to take that position

13. 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. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

Lance Ledet, Chair

- No comment

14. Adjournment:

Lance Ledet, Chair

Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:

Note:

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Deanna Smith in writing at 3416 Goni Road, Bldg. I, Carson City, Nevada 89706, email Deanna@ADSD.NV.GOV within 5 business day prior to the meeting.

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 3208 Goni Road, Building I Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division website at adsd.nv.gov. and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov> . Supporting public material provided to Commission members for this meeting may be requested from Deanna Smith, Council Administrative Support, ADSD at Deanna@ADSD.NV.GOV and is/will be available at the meeting locations and ADSD website at <http://www.adsd.nv.gov>.

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