

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: May 12, 2022
10:00 a.m.

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/89934175587?pwd=TEhZcmxsc3ltV0J1UIRyRW44WHZJdz09>

Meeting ID: 899 3417 5587

Passcode: 475188

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: 899 3417 5587

Passcode: 475188

Find your local number: <https://unr.zoom.us/u/kcmNBqj3JS>

Meeting Materials Available at: <https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/ATCouncil/2022/Home/>

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

Members Present: John Rosenlund, Lance Ledet, Debra Collins, Victoria Essner, Steven Cohen
Members excused absent: Connor Fogal, Minerva Rivera
Guests: Dora Martinez, Nevada Action Coalition
Staff: Jeff Duncan, Lisa Torres, Deanna Gay
CART Provider: Bo

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 Assistive Technology Council, but no action may be taken. The matter may be placed on a future agenda for action)

- Alexandra Profant (member of the public): Said she tried calling in on the landline in Reno, and was not able to access the meeting, and wanted to let the Council know that others may be attempting to join the meeting. Lance thanked her.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 31, 2022 (**For Possible Action**)

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

Lance Ledet motioned to approve the Minutes; Steven Cohen seconded. Motion passed.

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

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

John: The AT Council currently has all, but two positions filled. These positions are laid out in the bylaws and are federally required. The Department of Education position resigned, and a recommendation was made to fill that position. The second position needs to be an AT user, and one that does not fill dual roles. There is an applicant who could fill that requirement. The applications have been received and the Assistive Technology questions have been sent out if there are some that have not responded will follow up. The AT Council needs 51% of the council to be assistive technology users with disabilities, to meet the federal requirement. Does not expect the applications to meet with any difficulties to go forward to be approved by the Director's Office.

5. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Implementing Resources and Training for Employers to Provide Assistive Technology in the Workplace (**For Possible Action**)

Statewide Independent Living Council Integrated Workforce Development Subcommittee
Members

John: This was the item that the State Independent Living Council requested to be postponed.

Steven: Confirmed as well that the QEM postpone for the next meeting.

Lance: Confirmed postponement of this item for the next meeting.

However, Vickie Essner of VR was asked and prepared to give the Vocation Rehabilitation baseline:

- 1) Total dollars spent in 2021: \$71, 690.15. In Life Skills and Older blind, spent \$107,490.96. In Supportive Employment, 4,565,912.39. Other client services: \$4,795,093.50
- 2) Total number of consumers VR served in 2021 (July 21st, 2020, to June 30th, 2021): 3341 clients. No waiting list for intakes. Intakes are scheduled about two weeks out at this point, average wait time: two weeks.
- 3) Total consumers diverted: none.
- 4) Different types of assistive technology being delivered: vehicle modifications, home modifications; workplace ergonomics, such as hydraulic desks, keyboards, larger monitors, handsets, headsets,

mounts; for the blind and visually impaired, as well as Deaf and Hard of Hearing; also do tourniquet computers customized for the individuals, to meet individual needs. Other examples of AT provided: Screen reading programs, magnification programs, and speech to text as needed; alert systems for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; modified smartphones based on individual needs. This does not list all adaptive devices provided, and it is not limited. Assessments are completed and the adaptive aids are customized for the individual.

- 5) Vickie will send the supporting documentation John Rosenlund, to be sent out to the AT Council members and Interested parties.
- 6)

6. Update and Discussion with Aging and Disability Services Division on the Funding from the Administration for Community Living to Expand the Public Workforce Within Networks and Award to the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative.

Cheyenne Pasquale, Planning Chief ADSD

- Jeff Duncan, Social Services Chief II:
(Presented on behalf of Cheyenne Pasquale, Planning Chief ADSD):

-Spoke about the Public Health Workforce funding PAC received, and its purpose. Funding was received from ACL (federal funding source) as a response to the Covid pandemic, to increase the public health workforce disability expertise and strengthen collaboration with public health systems to support health and safety, for people with disabilities and older adults. ADSD received multiple (approximately 5) different funding streams, one of which was under Assistive Technology. Based on the federal guidance, multiple conversations with community partner networks and advisory groups during the pandemic, ADSD is going forward with the concept to hire regional coordinators. The regional coordinators would serve primarily as liaisons between the community, healthcare providers, families and peer advocates, advisory and advocacy groups among others, to effectively coordinate resources and education across the state. Among the topic of discussion is that the regional coordinators will need a deep understanding of AT Council goals and AT services across the state. The funding received, will not go interim finance committee from (now) until August 2022. The funding for these temporary State positions can be used can be utilized through September 2024. These positions cannot be sustained after September 2024.

Debra Collins: asked if there would be a plan to continue for additional funding for these positions
Jeff Duncan replied that they do have a desire and it is a high priority in the budget request, not only to retain the positions but expand them possibly, because with the current temporary funds they are only able to hire for 2 positions at this time. Five position eventually is ideal.

Steven Cohen: Asked where these positions would fall within the state, and what the classifications would be. Jeff Duncan replied they do have goals how the positions would be supervised, however. They would be within Planning, Advocacy and Community Based services. No supervisor has been identified at this time. The positions would be unclassified new classification titles, not typical state positions.

7. Discussion and Possible Action about the Options Nevadan's have for Assistive Technology and Assistive Technology Services. Discussion if the Council needs training and presentations from entities that work with People with Disabilities and Assistive Technology Users. The intent is to empower the Council to be knowledgeable and fulfill their advisory role and determine if anything is needed. Possible Approval of pursuing such training for the Council (**For Possible Action**)

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

-Lance asked the Council members if they had anything they would like to discuss for this agenda item.

-Debra Collins: Thinks it's a great idea. Recalled that when she first began on the Council, it took a

while to understand the ins and outs of AT, and so highly recommends some type of board training for new members. She would like to partake in such a training if it occurred. She suggested such a training should occur once or twice a year, especially as AT is ever changing and there is a lot of AT out there.

-Lance: Wants to make sure that the new members of the council know their roles going forward.

-Debra: Suggested the Open Meeting Law training that had been held, and some of the members attended, so that the Council could understand how meetings were run, etc.

-Steve: Directed a related question to Jeff Duncan as to what the status was for all boards (and) commissions training that was in development at ADSD.

-Lance reiterated that this item was specific to training and presentations for programs like NATRC, ADSD and how the AT council members know what their responsibilities were. There have been times where people joined the council and were unsure of their roles and responsibilities.

-Steven responded that he was asking his question, related to Debra's suggestion for Open Meeting Law trainings.

Lisa Torres: Recently started working with the councils and commissions. Is hoping and working towards standardizing policies and procedures and confirmed that they are working on a board training, such as the one that occurred on December 20th (2021). They will be sending out something soon for anyone interested in getting involved in this training.

-Lance: Moved to go ahead and have the Open Meeting Law training. Asking the council what kind of trainings from entities regarding AT users.

-Steven: Responded that it should be Vocation Rehabilitation, they also sit on the council anyway. Debra agreed with Steven.

-Lance suggested that the Council make a motion to ask VR to work with the AT Council to set up a training at a future date, once the current applications for new members are approved or denied.

-Steven: So moved.

-Debra: Seconded.

8. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Council's Participation of Updating, Review and Approval of the State Plan for the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative with Submission Due by July 1, 2022 (**For Possible Action**)

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

Discussion, and possible approval of the council's participating in updating read and approve of the state plan and Nevada assistive technology collaborative submission due July 1, 2022. John Rosenlund.

JOHN: John Rosenlund for the record, since the last meeting, we did get an update from ACL -- federal agency that overwrites the funding for the AT collaborative. And regarding state plans, through a contract they have for lack of a better term, like a database we use, our AT Resource Center uses as a day-to-day operational thing.

It's the same location, we have recorded and updated our State plans in the past. However, the last State plan update that was done, we ended up doing it on paper.

That's when the contract wasn't in place. The AT Council has a state plan that is due, and it would be for the next 3 years. It is less than 50 pages. A lot of the language in the State plan is written in federal language.

It will be discussed what programs and services is the Nevada AT collaborative going to support, and if they're not willing to support something, what's the reason why we wouldn't support such an activity.

There wouldn't be any reason to change.

Wants to have input on what we can do best to support members to understand what the State plan is. It's very different than independent living council State. With a lot of narrative. And a lot of sections. And a lot of moving pieces within it

I think the last time we kind of reviewed the plan, the last plan submitted was really an update, this is what we're doing, and not changing our model. And did a description of the changes in our AT resource system. AT Resource Center in Nevada. Because of the partnership that ended with Easter Seals. We didn't change the model of AT Resource Center. We just changed who the partner was and had a short narrative.

And no less than 3 sentences that say, we're still supporting statewide, but just no longer working with the Easter Seals. The State plan needs to be in by July 1. And that's what triggers and enables our funding. You know, if we go through it as a council, we must do it in a public forum, I don't know if it would take more than three hours.

Especially if we get materials out and people familiarize themselves with what the existing statement is. And what language.

The challenge, I would say in an accessible format. Is me highlighting a section that is our narrative, versus the parts that are federal doesn't work for someone with a visual impairment.

And I'm sure we can get some input from consumers, from people that participate in the meeting, what's the best format to get those things out there. In a nutshell a lot of the narratives in there are short.

What are you doing in a service, and how are you doing it statewide fashion? And for example, may be states that support specific project one portion of their state. And provide resources but not statewide. Want to highlight that in Nevada we are at a point now where everything is going statewide. The statewide financing programs, and financial loan is statewide.

And independent living has always been statewide.

The other option, what we have done in the past, that's updating the State plan, according to -- the reality is we're still operating a certain way and come October 1st unless there is drastic change in how or why we wouldn't be doing a service. There is really nothing to change perhaps. in the past it would be updating that, and then, we would be having a meeting, and go through that, and in provider experiences.

Very few questions would be posed about what we updated or what we're doing and looking for ways to try and engage a little bit.

John: This is John Rosenlund for the record.

I think that's a lot to take on. -- in a meeting.

Debra: This is Debra for the record.

What I have done in the past is working with the Workforce Board because usually the information is placed out on the website with updates, and then individuals then can have a certain date that they can review it and make comments. So that way everyone touches it, the public, council, and board members and so forth. If we want to have a meeting, that should really be the only item.

I think it's maybe best we set up a special meeting for that, so that you can assist us through that process.

So that all parties involved have a great understanding in that we just -- can we hold a special meeting specifically for that. That way you get the information in a timely manner because I understand what you are going through on the State Plan.

Steven: This is Steven for the record, I ditto the previous remarks.

John: John Rosenlund for the record. If we want to make it official, I think this is an action item we should motion and second, and make sure we follow-up and get a date set that will work for everybody. Thank you.

Debra: This is Debra Collins for the record.:

I make a motion that we schedule the meeting to review the State plan for the AT Council.

Victoria: This is Vickie for the record. I second the motion. Thank you.

Lance: The motion has passed.

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

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

-Debra Collins: Had previously had a discussion with Lance.

-Lance: John and Lance worked together to put information on one sheet because they did not have anything physical to hand to people that were interested in applying to be on the Council. This gave the consumers a little more information what their roles on the Council might be and understand the point of the Council.

John: There is so much information, and the challenge is to provide enough important information on the AT Council, but not overwhelm with information so that the information won't get read.

Lance: suggested going possibly the next size up from 8 x 11 in., to have enough room or keep it simple

and use a regular trifold for the brochure.

-Vickie Essner: suggested that a barcode be placed on the brochure, so that someone who is sight-challenged could snap a picture and it would automatically open and can be read with (this) accommodation in the corner of the brochure, and this accommodation placed on the business cards as well.

-Lance: asked if this would be a QR code...

-Vickie: confirmed with Yes, a QR code.

-John: prefers simple language on the brochure. Also, enough language so a consumer has the information for the consumer to make an informed decision to become a member, without conveying the idea that the AT Council is an actual service provider.

Vickie: suggested that this brochure could be left at different state and county buildings, and one stops, such as Job Connect, where individuals frequent often.

-Lance: agreed with John, to keep the brochure simple and then having the QR code on the back if a consumer wanted more information.

-Debra: Likes more information, as someone like her is a reader, so likes the idea of simple with the option to read more.

-Steven: posed the question that an accessibility check would be run on the brochure(s) to ensure that they are accessible for a person with any type of disability? Lance confirmed that yes they would take that into consideration.

-Debra: suggested that the information about the meeting themselves was not necessary, as they occur within the meetings.

-Lance: will reformat the brochures, make the edits to remove meeting information. Debra and John offered to help, and this item postponed to the next meeting so that the Council can vote on the revised brochure(s).

10. Discussion and Possible Approval of a Process for Responding to Requests to the Council for Letters of Support and Being Able to Respond in a Reasonable Time to the Requesting Party **(For Possible Action)**

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

John: Does not believe it is effective to put together a meeting to do support letters. Suggested assigning one person to do that role of providing the support letter(s).

Lance: Suggested a generic support letter, and make the letter cover broad enough to cover most topics.

John: More research by the council members and John Rosenlund will be conducted to see how other states, boards and commissions are conducting the support letters, also by looking at federal grants how they do their standardized letters. The AT Council bylaws may need to have this process of conducting the approval of these support letters

-Lisa Torres: This is something that she is working with the councils and commissions to create policy standardization and working with the DAG as well to come up with a standard for the letters. She said if the letter of request or similar received is in line with the Council priorities, the Council can write a letter of support and would not need ADSD's approval. She will provide further information once she receives clarification to John or Lance once she receives it.

Steven: mentioned that based on DAG's recommendations, the Council will need to appoint someone to represent the council before the legislature, in which session is coming up soon.

11. Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Programs and Services Supported in Nevada Under the Assistive Technology Act, Funding to Community Partners, and Planned Activities for 2022.

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

As a standing item went over the plans for 2022. Update: the remaining funding we had to obligate has been put out to the partners, the funding that was outlined that would support statewide Assistive Technology Resource Center, support ex-expansion in the southern negative, receive additional funding and reestablishing a reuse program, and support within the definition. They have additional funding. AT Resource Centers also had additional funding there to catch up what there was before. Would have Scott Young oversee from the UNR AT Resource Center, that oversees all the AT resource services. The

NATRC has a staff person waiting to come on board.

And beyond that they could have positive news from ACL. We can write up and request an additional year of authority on that funding, which gives us greater flexibility at a time where our state is opening up. And more ability to go and have open access and meet with people.

Not try to just utilize the funding between now and September 30th. If we set up a plan and provide that to ACL the use of the funds that we obligated would be throughout the next year, it gives us greater flexibility. And that means you can have a position that's not just working from now until September 30th. But that position can be blended in over a period of time, instead of trying to do something high impact between now and September, we can plan that out through the next year. So as soon as we got the word from ACL that was available. I reached out to Care Chest and to have conversation to make the best plans and make the best use of the funds through this year, and through the next year.

Never want to be caught in the position where we're trying to utilize all the funds. We're in the position we're trying to be the most effective as we can -- with the small amount of funding, and that's a great thing for us to get. Some of the stuff that comes up is long term plans in discussion and establishing a relationship with the library system.

Lance and AT Resource Centers have initiated that and got feedback already, and that's very positive in the Clark County area to establish places where we can have assistive technology stored there and set up user groups and have peer to peer engagements there.

It just opens everything up and allows us to have more of a footprint than just one office location, and peer user groups we established in northern Nevada. Setting up in the library system was a no brainer. They're all on accessible routes. And the ability to utilize the library system to maybe transport assistive technology. State Minnesota, is a State that mentioned that. And what a great idea to send assistive technology through the library system.

Another plan with Resource Centers is the focus training for the transition. It will be completed and will be implemented to work. And the centers for Independent Living in house, mandatory to the transition. We're talking about the transition of people from facilities to community living. We're really required to plan and fulfill training every single year specific to transition. Transition as we all know can be a wide variety of things, transition can be from school to community living, or school to secondary education, to jobs and employment.

Transition can be ageing with a disability. As we age, our needs for assistive technology change. And there is a need for providing those trainings and supports to people to have the conversation about what those are. That as our needs change, who do we engage with to find out what we're doing, and all the things that it takes to -- affect your daily living. Transitions do exist there.

The transition I'm referring to the user group was blind and visually impaired users and the use of IOS applications, the iPhone and iPad. That was a transition, believe it or not. That was a transition back at that time from a technology that was sketchy at best. Screen reading capabilities and so on and so forth, with a platform with built in accessibility, that was a transition training highlighted at that time. To reference back to the State plan, this is a good opportunity to what we talk about and what is in the state plan and how it relates to fulfilling those different activities.

It's important to have things available for people that need, and don't have other resources. A lot of the times that doesn't come with a long-term plan and systems change. It's trying to connect the things they have and operating. The training and technical assistance is geared two help aid agencies and organizations.

And that's why we try to plan those ahead. We really want agencies and organizations to reach out to us and say, we could really use support, but sometimes we must build it and offer it because we're not getting that request. I'll stop for just a second and see if anybody has any questions.

Lance: Suggested talking about the services we're going to be doing in 2022, maybe some of the newer ideas.

John: Trainings and technical assistance, sometimes one leads to the other. Our planning of one that may be delayed because of COVID does lead to what your larger plan is. The larger systems change. Not only supporting the programs and staff that are doing the services now. And letting them know what may be available.

The training has other pieces in there with public awareness.

Often find people that aren't aware of what an AT center can do or what the purpose is, that model is quite different in many other avenues, it's prescriptive, and evaluation and prescriptive in nature. You can take both. You can take the positive out of both. I can also do evaluation with somebody that is so prescriptive I neglected to engage with the person and get their choice and give them control. That's where the training and technical assistance, if we provide that, is showing the positive sides of the individual being part of that decision-making and truly in control of making the decision of assistive technology, because it's a large piece of assistive technology.

If I get you what you are not wanting to use, it gets discarded, and ends up in the closet or garage or dumpster.

So having that person being part of that decision-making is so important.

It can be implemented in that evaluation type of model.

It isn't always the training piece how to implement and how to make sure the consumer is able to do that. Do you know there is an AT Resource Center where you can borrow equipment come, or have the consumer engage with them? To try multiple devices. There could be complications with that. A person doesn't know what they don't know. So, their goal might be... this low-lying fruit, and then they're exposed to assistive technology, and it's realizing that goal is not what I... -- I didn't know I could reach that one. You don't know what can come from that. And having that conversation is important, because a lot of times in the social services model programs we're just trying to make that one thing.

This is what we talked about the last couple of months, and this is what you wanted to do. I didn't know I could drive. Wow, that completely changes everything. To find out I can jump from figuring out this one small task to something so much more. So very fun and exciting things we get to work in. Thank you.

12. 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: Next meeting will be to go over the State Plan Only. (The meeting after that, will be going over the AT council brochures and do research on the QR codes, adding additional information and make modifications to the brochures, talk with VR and Open Meeting Law trainings; explore Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

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

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

Lance: Suggested a Doodle poll be scheduled for next meeting.

Steven: Suggested that meeting be scheduled something like once a quarter or every 60 days so meetings can be anticipated, like other boards and commissions. Such as every second Thursday.

Vickie: Would like to see meetings go back to meeting on Wednesdays.

John: Liked Steven and Vickie's suggestions, would like to explore and see if something like second Wednesdays would work for everyone on the Council's schedule.

For next meeting to go over the State plan only: First and second week of June. A Doodle poll will be sent out.

2nd Meeting: A meeting in August will be scheduled. A Doodle poll will be sent out.

3rd Meeting: A meeting will be scheduled for November will be scheduled. A Doodle poll will be sent out.

14. 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)

15. Adjournment

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 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) 687-0586 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

Notice of this meeting and Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services Division
3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181
Carson City, NV 89706

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