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**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Aging and Disability Services Division
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Dena Schmidt
Administrator

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Date and Time of Meeting: March 31, 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.

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Meeting ID: 850 1058 7304
Passcode: 122080

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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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: Lance Ledet, John Rosenlund, Steven Cohen, Debra Collins, Victoria Essner, Connor Fogal, Minerva Rivera

Guests: Scott Youngs, Anne Schiller, Jacob Johnson, Dawn Lyons, Wendy Thornley, Jeanette Robles, Mechelle Merrill, Obioma Officer, Lisa Torres, Ace Patrick, Adrienne Navarro, Raquel O'Neill, Susan Beckett, Laura Fink, Bryan Hilbert, Raquel O'Neil, Alexandra Profant, Ashley Price, David Winik,
Staff: Deanna Gay

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

-David Winik: He stated that he has worked with Lance and the Care Chest who helped him to resume some normalcy to his life. He asked about the requirement to be on the Assistive Technology council, and wanted to know if there were others with disabilities who also a part of the (council). Lance confirmed that most of the members of the Assistive Technology Council are AT users also. David asked for an application to become a member, and Lance said the Council would send one to him.

-Raquel O'Neil: She is the chair of the Nevada Rehabilitation council. She stated that the State of Nevada has wanted to be a leading model in what it means to employ people with disabilities. It is common practice to reroute people that need accommodations to the Department of Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), which is a wonderful program, but this takes time. She is advocated that the State would benefit from setting aside a percentage to be spent on (people with disabilities) to create their own jobs and employment opportunities that are accessible. She hopes that this idea and matter is something that the Assistive Technology Council, Rehabilitation Council and possibly the State Independent Living Council (SILC) could work on together.

Alexandra Profant: Commented: I wanted to comment as to how helpful assistive technology group has been. Lance Ledet in particular who was referred to me by the Legal Services of Nevada helped my husband secure a TTY phone after an attempt at getting a land line hooked up. We finally got online yesterday with Rachel Valdez's help from TTY from the phone company, I can't remember what it's called now. The other thing I wanted to bring up that has been front and center in our lives at least is that we have been in litigation over protecting our home in Nevada and also in California. And the required land line to support these services is so fundamental and becoming less and less available and particularly in the court context, we have found that the courts are starting to now reach out through their IT departments in order to try to accommodate people who have diminished capacities. These are the reasons I'm including myself in the meeting and very excited to participate hopefully in future meetings. Additionally, I direct the Tahoe foundation which is about architectures and tangible heritage on behalf of western rural America. And the people who utilize assistive technology and who have disabilities are a very big inspiration to my path of an architectural conservator, thank you for having me and the public comment.

-Jeannette Robles: Her agency provides individual speech therapy and programming for children birth to 21 who are deaf and hard of hearing who use listening and spoken language skills (they use hearing aids or cochlear implants, they can speak and hear even though they were born deaf). They provide homework help, individual therapy, academic support and sibling support (they support the siblings who may feel left out) and support for the family and parents as well, so they can better advocate for their

children. They will have their Deaf and Hard of Hearing credentialed teacher meet them at a local public library, in an effort to meet the needs of low-income deaf children and families so they don't have spend money on gas or be concerned about reliable transportation. Would like to spread awareness of what they are offering to this underserved segment of the population.

(Lance thanked her and stated he had Jeannette's contact information and would reach out to her at a later point).

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2021 **(For Possible Action)**

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

Lance moved to approve the Meeting Minutes. John Rosenlund seconded with the name spelling correction noted on the second page. Motion passed.

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

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

-John Rosenlund: Julie Bowers from the Department of Education has resigned and has introduced someone (Ashley Price) to replace her. Once we receive the applications of the consumers who are interested in becoming members of the council, the council will determine if they are still interested, and the applications will be forwarded to the Director's office

-David Winik re-stated his desire to apply to be a member of the council. John Rosenlund invited David to speak more on his background as it was appropriate considering that the Assistive Technology Council is required to have a majority of its members be consumer controlled as assistive technology users.

David said he and his wife have been business partners and have been married for over 50 years. They have travelled the world; she is a designer and he is a salesman. About 20 years ago he lost his eyesight due to macular degeneration, and then ten years ago developed tremors due to Parkinson's (disease), along with arthritis. He says his memory and brain are very good and his wife assists him with everything. Since the NATRC helped them so much they really want to be a part of the Assistive Technology Council. They both have college degrees, and they believe that they could offer knowledge to help a person with disabilities adjust to problems they are dealing with.

5. Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Program Community Partner CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada with Program Updates and Expanding Statewide Reuse and Open-Ended Device Loans.

Anne Schiller, Executive Director & Jacob Johnson, Development and Marketing Director;
CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada

-Anne Schiller: Is very happy to share news of their expansion of Care Chest programs throughout the state of Nevada.

- a) Reuse program: They have received some funding through ARPA to expand their reuse program to the southern half of the state. Up until now, they have been serving the northern half of the state in 28 locations in the Reno-Sparks area and rural communities. This additional funding allows them to expand their office in Las Vegas where their independent living program is located. They have been able to find a new office that has both a warehouse space to store all the DME (durable medical equipment) and supplies, as well as more room for more staff that they will be hiring. It is near the airport. (They will be sub-leasing the smaller office they moved from, and they are hoping to talk to any agencies or programs that would like to sublease that office from them). They are hoping to receive additional AT funding that was earmarked for Southern Nevada so they can serve all ages. PA funding is restricted to 60 years and over, but with the additional funding that would allow them to serve all ages and populations with their reuse program.

- b) Anne wanted to remind the AT Council that the Care Chest that they have a Care Loan program

for low interest loans for AT and modifications, vehicles, etc. Providing 24 loans last year. There has been a reduction in referrals for this program in the last six months. Eunice is our care loan coordinator and she's a great person to work with. And we would love to see more referrals for folks that need this assistive technology

- c) The Care Chest has their independent living program which is statewide. They have applied for additional funding through the Older Americans Act for an additional \$850, 000. They hope to receive this funding so they can reduce their wait list by 86 consumers that are over the age of 60 and provide 226 assistive technology solutions and will address 165 goals for daily living. They will update the AT Council when they hear about the funding.

-Jacob Johnson: They are very interested and capable of spearheading a statewide awareness campaign that Care Chest would like to be the umbrella agency for. They have the capability, resources, and solutions for the campaign such as video and static-based advertising (such as billboards, local media outlets, local newspapers, specific industry publications that they want to be a part of. The campaign would focus on individual members of the AT Council and highlight their consumer stories and have messaging that highlights how the AT programs all work together. They are hoping to be able to roll this campaign out in mid-May or early June 2022. They will also be pushing their messages through social media outlets such as Facebook, YouTube and local media outlets across the state of Nevada.

- 6. Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Program Community Partner the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Centers Program Updates and Plan for 2022.

Scott Youngs, Senior Project Manager, Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities,
Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Centers

-As of December 1st 2022, their biggest goal was to move off campus and be in the community for their demonstration and loan program. As people move back out into the community (post Covid) there is a high demand for space needed for their program. The properties go for sale and off the market quickly, so it's a challenge to secure an office space off the UNR campus. They do have a potential office space that is next door to CARE chest in their southern location. They will have a showroom to demonstrate what types of technology are available.

-They are continuing to do outreach.

-They worked with Tanglewood productions to produce a video that introduced their new resource center to explain who they are and what they do. Scott did an intro section and Lance, Marjorie and staff at the resource center talked about their experiences, and how their experiences improved their quality of life as AT users, and how they get to share their experiences with others coming into the program. It's valuable having the peer-to-peer engagement and relationship with individuals that they are trying to provide services to. They will be launching this video soon and putting it on their website and pushing this out to partners and interested parties across the state of Nevada. It's challenging to hire people with disabilities for these positions, as they may be impacted, low income, disabled or not willing to go out into the community. It is also a challenge to reach the rural population, but they will be trying to reach out to those people as well. If anyone knows of people that need their services, please have them contact the UNR resource center and they will talk about ways to bridge that gap.

-They are in the process of adding to and purchasing additional demonstration and loan equipment for the loan and lending library, such as smart tablets and phones that have the latest accessibility features, as well as base home automation devices for controlling environments such as lights, fans, temperature, and the like. They have added daily living aids as well, simplistic, and cheap, easier things as well as going up to the more expensive things like robots that assist with feeding.

-One of their areas of services is to improve policy and procedures from a state leadership state systems change. If agencies would benefit or have questions about accessible websites, hosting accessible meetings or related issues they can reach out to them as well.

-Discussed how their approach to assist consumers is based on the independent living model, not the social services model. Instead of doing everything for consumers (which is sometimes the expectation when they call for services) they provide supports and in person information to inform the consumer what their choices are and emphasize that the consumer is the decision maker. Sometimes this makes consumers reluctant. In their experience it works out more effectively in the end if the consumer is involved in the decision making because there might be additional barriers that also need to be addressed, not just the asked for item or assistance for assistive technology.

-While they have done a good job of leveraging the different funds mentioned to provide for assistive technology needs within the state, there is the question of how to sustain these programs once COVID and ARPA funding goes away, and the hope is that the AT Council will help to address this concern going forward.

-There was a question asked and allowed to be answered by attendee David Winik. He wanted to know if it was possible for the AT Council to do fundraising outside of the government. Scott Youngs replied that they can incorporate fundraising in the general public as far as their program at UNR goes, but they have to be careful at times that they don't use federal funds to raise program income. Community partners that are non-profits can do fundraising. Care Chest, especially in the North has a good history of raising funds for Durable Medical Equipment and similar things. Ann Schiller concurred that Care Chest can and does raise funds separately for different programs, including the Independent Living program and the AT reuse program. They do the Bourbon and Brews event and also the Community Challenge.

-David Winik asked if he could get permission to fund raise, and Scott Youngs replied that they partner with different clubs and organizations for small and larger fund-raising events throughout the year, and it depends on how David wants to work with these organizations and who would benefit.

-David also asked how long he has to hold on to the items he has on loan from their program. Scott answered it depends on the item(s) and how many items the agency has on hand. If they have enough of the items on hand, they can extend the loan. They will call if they have a need for one of the items. If there is a specific item that David would like to find resources to help pay for it or he would like to purchase on his own, they can help with that process how to proceed.

-Scott: the state of Nevada needs to address people waiting for these types of services and/or devices, and it is important for people with disabilities that are waiting to voice their concerns to legislators and those who are in charge of budgets. He hopes that the AT Council can help identify gaps in services and devices for assistive technology.

-John Rosenlund: Clarified that it is CARE Chest that raises the funds to provide equipment and the NATC that raises funds to teach consumers how to use the technology that they are given. Scott Youngs further clarified stating that the federal Assistive Technology Act money that they receive (under a half a million dollars) they are required to provide specific services and give good cause if they don't. The device and loan lending which supports consumer choice, does not allow for the direct purchase of these items for the consumer. CARE Chest raises funds for DME. The funds from AT Act also go to supporting the staff and individuals that work directly with the consumers to get them the technology that they need. The independent living program cannot buy recreational assistive technology for consumers, but if it the AT supports their essential daily living, they the items can provide those items. That program does have an extensive waiting list. The amount of funding available, has never matched up to the amount of people waiting for those services.

-John Rosenlund: Highlighted one portion of internal planning that the Collaborative is working to meet the federal requirements under the Assistive Technology Act, which is training and technical assistance pertaining to transition. The main topic planned this year is that of transition of people from care facilities and supporting state agencies, Money Follows the Person, as well as the Centers for Independent Living to plan, develop and put together a training to train these agencies, organizations that will work with these individuals to transition. Scott and John will work together to fulfill this obligation and will confirm that they are using the resources to the intended service (to support individuals to transition by providing these trainings). Scott Youngs: Mentioned the instance there was a referral from the Nevada Legal services where there was an older man trying to transition from the University of Utah back to Reno, who did not want to be in the hospital and wanted to live in the community. This referral raises questions about how that transition would happen, what supports, and services were needed to get that person out of the hospital, what was the appropriate setting, what assistive technology was needed, so the individual could be where they wanted to be. Eventually with working with teams, social workers and different types of home and community-based services they were able to get him out of the hospital into a group home setting. This whole process led to discussion to the role that AT plays in this planning, and what is needed to educate and train people on the importance of AT.

7. 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

-While there have been multiple collaborative partners over the years, it comes down to the current longstanding partnership with the University of Reno NATRC (assistive technology resource center) and the CARE Chest, which provides a host of resources and services that under assistive technology.

-John has worked on documentation which has been a long work in progress to provide information on what Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative is and how it ties in with the Assistive Technology Act which is the funding they receive (under half a million dollars).

-The simplest way to describe an assistive technology resource center is that this a place where people should be exploring assistive technology.

-It often happens with an individual exploring assistive technology where there might be one focus to be able to do a task with AT, but the goals may change and level of importance for the consumer may change, there may be a task of a higher priority to the individual. The goals can change when the individual is exposed to and is exploring more solutions.

-Under the new AT Act it is more about systems change, than providing AT one on one to individuals. It's more than training an individual to use technology but to improve and provide training and technical assistance to another agency or organization to improve their AT service.

-CARE Chest was doing reutilization before the AT Act supported reutilization. CARE Chest is a natural, long-term partner with the AT Collaborative.

-Financing activities under the Act. The state of Nevada supports two of these programs, and they both exist at CARE Chest as a) Care Loan funds where people can borrow money to buy assistive technology and b) assistive technology for the Independent Living program.

-The need is to reduce the wait time for services. Not having services takes a lot of energy out of people not to be able to do things or rely on others.

In short, the assistive technology collaborative is everyone who is a partner or supports the collaborative supports every service for assistive technology.

-Went over the NATC funding document. The funding is currently \$217,000 and there was an additional

supplemental funding of \$119,00 from that was unused due to the impact of COVID. There had been another longstanding partner that provided AT services and that was transitioned to UNR just prior to COVID. Then COVID lockdown began, and they were unable to secure a position and a half, nor a location. There was also a reduction in staff time used and that also added to the additional unused funds. The funds need to be used up; the federal government may give another year, but this has not been confirmed. On the assumption that they may not receive that additional year and they must use these funds by September 2022, they have put those funds towards the independent living programs for direct services, to reduce the waiting lists. Also, if they don't receive that one-year extension to spend these additional funds they would use the funds towards outreach and public awareness campaign.

-CARE Chest reutilization program (durable medical equipment). Three years ago they had developed this from the State plan, but as there were no inquiries into this program, these funds were distributed towards such programs as assistive technology for independent living, and CARE Chest with their history of being providing such programs and funding especially to 60 years ago, these funds of \$40,000 went towards these efforts.

8. Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Programs Reporting Data 2021.

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

-State financing fund for the Nevada Assistive Technology funding for state fiscal year 2022 is \$78,000 with an additional supplemental amount of \$8,000. The partners worked together to allocate the unused funds due to COVID towards ATIL.

-There has been a challenge with the booming housing market and the construction work they do for home modification. The wait list now is 18 months for this type of construction.

-The Collaborative have been working to create a unified public awareness campaign, not to highlight just one particular program but as a whole, and best methods of reaching the public.

-Likes the idea of a video campaign, to promote the consumers experiences and how assistive technology has been important for them.

-The Nevada Assistive Technology report is required for all those states and territories who receive federal assistive technology funding. The NV AT collaborative strives to meet the goals as established by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) that oversees the Assistive Technology Act and provides funding and direction for the Collaborative. There are two performance measures a) access to and b) acquisition of assistive technology. The Collaborative can provide reporting based on surveys given to the consumer receiving the assistive technology (they can answer why they were needing the technology, and are they needing a demo or loan?) and then for the acquisition piece, are they using or wanting to purchase through the AT Independent living loan? The consumer is asked if they came to the program because:

- a) They could only afford the assistive technology through the program
- b) The assistive technology was only available through the assistive technology program or
- c) The assistive technology was available through other programs, but the process was too complex or the wait too long.

-There is the program of last resort through CARE chest that is state funded, but all other resources must be utilized before this.

-Relayed a consumer success story. There was a woman who relied on her spouse to be a caregiver, and feared that she would become a burden due to her declining health and mobility issues, was concerned that she would have to go into a nursing home. Through the Collaborative, she was able to get to the point she was able to enter and exit her home and attend to all her self-care needs, including driving of her vehicle.

-This Collaborative/program historically is identified that has its roots as a program that has ties to the Olmstead decision and the Olmstead plan to help people stay in their communities.

-John invited Scott to talk about some of the recent challenges to give consumers access and acquisition to assistive technology. Scott said that a lot of consumers didn't want to have face-to-face conversations (due to COVID concerns) and so a lot of services were moved to video platforms. They had to train people how to use video platforms and help parents with disabilities with their children receiving their education with online formats.

-The Report doesn't necessarily reflect all the services that is necessary to provide assistive technology to the consumers. It's a federal report and is used to measure how services are delivered but does not necessarily tell the whole story from A to Z when they are working with individuals and the flow of services.

9. Administration for Community Living to Expand the Public Workforce Within Networks and Award to the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative.

John Rosenlund, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Director

(This item was moved/carried to next AT Council meeting due to time restrictions for this meeting).

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

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

(This item was moved/carried to next AT Council meeting due to time restrictions for this meeting).

11. 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 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

(This item was moved/carried to next AT Council meeting due to time restrictions for this meeting).

12. 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

(This item was moved/carried to next AT Council meeting due to time restrictions for this meeting).

13. 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

(This item was moved/carried to next AT Council meeting due to time restrictions for this meeting).

14. 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

(This item was moved/carried to next AT Council meeting due to time restrictions for this meeting).

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

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

It was moved to schedule a date sometime towards the end of May 2022. Staff Deanna Gay will send out a Doodle to determine best meeting date for the next AT Council meeting.

16. 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)

-Victoria Essner: Wanted to introduce herself. She works for the Department of Training and Rehabilitation, for the blind and vision impaired. They have services for them to seek and maintain employment, as well as for Older blind who don't want employment, she can connect people to resources. Call 702-486-5230 and ask for Vicky Essner.

Thanked Lance Ledet for going out into the rural community schools because pre-pandemic she was also going out to schools and doctors office to inform the community the services available to them.

-Dawn Lyons: She referred to Raquel's public comment earlier in this meeting and also tabled agenda item No. 13 which will be discussed at the next SILC meeting, they will meet on April 20 and April 21 at 3pm and will let (John Rosenlund for the AT Council) know where they will be on the agenda.

-Dora Martinez: She is representing the Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition.

a) She thanked John Rosenlund all that he does for the state (of Nevada). She has does research on states that provide loan device programs and Nevada is one of the few that does this program. She also thanked Lance Ledet and George McKinlay.

b) Requested the AT Council members that have a disability identify themselves, as she herself is totally blind and she would like to get to know the members that also have a disability.

c) Thanked staff Deanna Gay for sending an accessible agenda; however, she asked if the ZOOM link and phone numbers could be differentiated so that an iPhone can easily read the access code more easily. Thanked Lance for letting her speak.

d) Alexandra Profant: Asked if he could be added to the a mailing list.

17. Adjournment

Lance Ledet, Chairperson

Meeting adjourned at 1:02pm.

NOTE: Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/ or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson's discretion. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based upon viewpoint.

NOTE: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Deanna Gay at (775) 687-0586 as soon as possible in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at deannagay@adsd.nv.gov. In accordance with NRS 241.020, supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Rd, D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Deanna Gay at (775) 687-0586 or by email at deannagay@adsd.nv.gov

Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:

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