

Joe Lombardo
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

NEVADA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (AT COUNCIL)

MEETING NOTICE

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 10:00am

Location of Meeting: Zoom ([Zoom.us](https://zoom.us))

<https://tinyurl.com/wmjs7u5y>

MEETING ID: 891 8571 8854

Passcode: 944997

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (SAN JOSE)

Draft Minutes

1. **Roll Call:**

Wendy Thornley, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) Supportive Staff

Members Present: Lance Ledet, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, David Winik, Minerva Rivera,
Members Excused Absent: Chris Jarvis, Ashley Price

Guests: Jacob Johnson, John Rosenlund, Carlo DeCicco,
CART: Becky Van Auken

Staff: Lorraine Belt, Wendy Thornley, Sam D'Ambrosio-Garcia

- #### 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. To provide public comment telephonically, dial +1 699 900 6833. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter 891 8571 8854 and passcode 944997. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comments 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.)

John Rosenlund: Asked that the bylaws be updated on the website and for the next meeting.

Carlo DeCicco: Introduced himself, he is with the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center, and he has applied to become a member.

3. For Possible Action: Approval of Minutes of the March 28, 2024, meeting.
Lance Ledet, Chair

Minerva Rivera motioned to approve. David Winick seconded.

4. For Information and Discussion: Review of Council Membership, Pending Applicants and Recruitment of Council Membership.

Wendy Thornley, ADSD Staff

Carlo DeCicco And Eunice Hylin's membership applications are being reviewed by ADSD.

5. For Information Only: Presentation on Samantha D'Ambrosio-Garcia's Role and Delineation of Responsibilities as the Recently Appointed Community Engagement Manager for the Office of Community Living Within the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD).

Sam D'Ambrosio-Garcia, Community Engagement Manager, Office of Community Living

Sam D'Ambrosio Garcia introduced herself and explained her role with ADSD: "With a background deeply rooted in advocacy and service, I have dedicated over a decade to supporting vulnerable populations.

My journey has taken me through various leadership roles including overseeing nonprofit homes, facilities, managing programs for elderly individuals with dementia and directing initiatives for adults and children with developmental disabilities.

Currently as the lead ADA coordinator for ADSD, I collaborated with stakeholders to inform policy changes and ensure comprehensive support services are delivered across Nevada my career has been dotted by a commitment to community engagement, bridging service gaps and advocating for meaningful policy reforms. In my current role I am focused on advocating for policy changes, ensuring our policies are inclusive and support the needs of individuals with disabilities and those of the aging population.

Building partnerships by collaborating with various stakeholders to improve service delivery and address gaps.

And one of the larger components of my role is supporting the advisory bodies.

I oversee and I'm responsible for all boards and commissions under ADSD.

Working closely with boards, councils, commissions, and subcommittees to provide insights and guidance on relevant programs and services including assistive technology.

I am also responsible for ensuring all bodies remain compliant with open meeting law and the coordination of such duties with the DAG.

Another task that's within my purview is creating onboarding training materials to

new members and giving annual refreshers to current members which are almost completed so I should have those to you soon.

The mission of the AT Council aligns with my own goals by promoting Assistive Technology, I am committed to advancing the use of Assistive Technology to maximize the leadership, empowerment and independence of individuals with disabilities.

Expanding programs by supporting the development and expansion of Assistive Technology programs statewide is a priority in my role.

Providing guidance, aim to offer guidance to state agencies and local entities involved in Assistive Technology services.

And improving relationships by enhancing collaboration among councils, disability groups, advocacy groups and various programs are all essential for effective service delivery.

My commitment to service excellence and continuous improvement drives my work, I strive to ensure our funding recommendations and policies reflect the diverse needs of our communities, promoting inclusivity and empowerment for all individuals in vulnerable communities.

I'm excited about the opportunity to collaborate with you.

Together we can identify strategies, adopt impactful policies, and create positive change in the lives of those we serve.

I look forward to working with this council to advance our shared mission and build a more equitable and supportive future for all Nevadans."

- 6. For Possible Action:** Bylaw revisions, modifications for membership term limits. Discuss any further changes and approve Bylaws to be reviewed by the DAG.
Lance Ledet, Chair

John Rosenlund: Put the following into the chat:

The following is from bylaw. ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Council by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current Members, provided that the amendment has been submitted in accessible formats to each member of the Council at the meeting immediately prior to the meeting at which such amendment shall be voted on and provided that the amendment is not in conflict with any applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

David Winick suggested the following changes to the terms for the Chair and Vice Chair and the general membership term for members.

The term of office of the Chair and Vice Chair would be: Two (3) year terms.

The term for membership would be: Two (5) year terms.

David Winick motioned to approve the two, term changes that were proposed by David Winick. Minerva Rivera seconded.

The members voted and the motion carried.

These changes will be put into the correct set of bylaws and the members can vote on the correct bylaws with these changes.

- 7. For Information and Discussion:** Discussion of the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative (NATC), that includes things Required or Supported under the Act, including the 2022 Reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act, the Current Status of NATC Services, Updates on NATC Community Partners, NATC funding, and Address Questions on the NATC State Plan.

John Rosenlund, NATC Director

John Rosenlund: He gave an update on current status of the state plan from the Administration for Community Living for Assistive Technology. John will provide the updated plan before the next meeting.

As a collaborative, those services are done by members in the community.

Currently, a nonprofit, CARE Chest, and the University of Nevada, Reno Nevada Center for Excellence in Disability (NCED), runs the Assistive Technology Resource Centers.

Those are the things directly funded.

There's also the Assistive Technology for Independent Living (ATIL), program.

All those things are described in a very simplistic nature as to what type of service they are, where they fit into the act and who provides it.

Currently, the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program which is considered a state finance program under the terms of the Act, and an alternative funding source where state funding dollars are used to purchase assistive technology they use the AT Act to support the staffing and the operations of the program.

That program has three different funding sources, federal Independent Living, State Independent Living, which is designated state funding, and then Assistive Technology funds.

The program has 263 consumers.

That's 263 active cases, people with signed Independent Living plans in place, they have a consumer service record.

99 of those consumers are new consumers within the year, from October 1st.

All this reporting information is from October 1st forward, which is the federal year, and it is reported on.

Of those, 129 closed cases.

In that program they don't really count the number of assistive technology services that are provided.

It's gauged by how many Independent Living goals are set.

What they were looking at for the caseload this year, of the closed caseload, so this is just of the 129 closed cases, there were 384 independent living goals set.

Of those, 74%, 286 independent living goals, were met.

79 independent living goals were withdrawn, 20 percent.

Unable to contact, so if they were unable to reach the person they have 12 goals closed because they were unable to contact the individual.

Four goals where a solution wasn't available.

That could be any combination of things, that could be that they don't have a funding source for it, they don't have a funding source for it, something could not be found for them to obtain what they were looking for.

And then three goals were closed due to the consumer passing away.

Reutilization.

He does not have up to date information.

There's a lot going on this time of year.

This is when the state fiscal year closes, and CARE Chest had given him updates on the reutilization and open-ended lending piece, and it only was through April.

He will get some updates of that information.

But they're on track.

This is one area that there's no concern there.

From October through April, there was 932 consumers that received Assistive Technology and open-ended loans.

That could be something that was donated, and they've cleaned and refurbished and given out, CARE Chest also purchases a wide range of Assistive Technology.

So it's not just based on what's been donated.

They raise their own funding to do that.

We can't use our AT act funding to purchase that AT, we fund the operations, and they secure the Assistive Technology.

That totaled for those 932 individuals a total of 1,547 devices provided.

And then when asking if the number of consumers that had been surveyed and performance measures, that's something they are required to do in their reporting and there are targets they must meet there.

They have 752 of the consumers surveyed and performance measures gathered.

So that's something to look at to make sure we're on track.

You don't want to get to the end of the year, and you don't have your survey and performance measure data because it could mean that your report is not sufficient, and it doesn't meet those percentages set by the Administration on Community Living (ACL).

The open-ended loan and reuse program is on track and doing well, and they will get updates for current data on the next meeting.

AT Resource Centers, are where the core of the AT Act and the informed decision making, and systems change is supposed to occur.

This is where they track information and assistance, people calling for information about AT or AT funding.

There is a lot of effort to engage with them, to help them make informed decisions about device demonstrations and perhaps borrowing equipment, if they can make some informed decisions, it's also where training and technical assistance is offered and provided.

They identify programs or things that could use their help and try to promote this appropriate way of providing Assistive Technology where the consumer is doing it from an informed decision position, that's what they do.

They had 212 information and assistance calls.

Reporting is based on two things.

Feds want to know two things.

What was it regarding and AT device or service, somebody called and said I'm trying to find out about the newest iPad or whatever that device may be, are they calling about a device or service or calling about funding or the reality is they call for several things and it's this combination of both AT devices and funding and it's a larger conversation.

So far, 94 of those calls are just specific to a device or service.

Which is a good indication.

They have people that are calling for a specific type of device or service.

23 were just for AT funding.

So, somebody calling looking for funding for something they've already identified.

95 of those calls are a combination of both things.

Sometimes the consumer is talking about a device, service, funding, and probably a much larger conversation that takes some dissecting to them directed into other services.

The next thing is really a demonstration.

They're obviously calling for some type of barrier or something that exists.

And we want to probably try to engage with them a little bit more in a demonstration type of model.

So far this year we have 70 demonstrations completed.

Those 70 demonstrations include 100 participants.

It's not always the decision maker that's involved in a demonstration, they could have family, friends, could be parents, could be the consumer is not the decision maker in some instances.

There could be multiple people involved.

So 100 participants, 70 demonstrations, a total of 171 devices were demonstrated.

171 are actual devices we have in inventory.

They don't often include devices that they don't have on hand, but it is possible to do demonstrations based on what they find online.

70 demonstrations, 171 devices, what that data is showing is that they are looking at multiple devices, which is what the law and the Act is saying they need to do.

They are looking at multiple devices when meeting with consumers.

Device loans.

They have 47 device loans and that includes 90 devices.

One loaning event doesn't mean that's just one device.

It's not this equal ratio.

47 loans, 47 devices.

We got 47 loan events and 90 AT devices; somebody may borrow two devices to try them.

You can potentially take two different devices, and our purpose is for you to find out which one works best for you.

90 devices.

The 47 number does not include does include active loans.

So by active loans, what we're meaning is they haven't been closed yet.

So the person hasn't given that performance measure information.

They haven't been surveyed; they're still deciding.

40 of the loans that were made are for decision making.

So when they are looking at loaning the device, that's for a purpose.

It's either for decision making, the consumer is deciding, trying it, comparing it, or is it being used as a loaner device, something's being repaired or they're waiting for funding, or the third one might be that some professional is borrowing is it.

Somebody is borrowing it to increase their knowledge or to do a training, or to do self-education or something of that nature.

Those are kind of the three buckets that they are going to fall in.

And what they want to see is that the majority of those are for decision making.

They want people to be getting AT in their hands to make those decisions and that's what their data is showing.

40 of those loans for decision making, three to serve as a loaner, and four being loaned out for self-conducted training, education, or professional development.

Care loan.

October through July, the Care Loan, which is the financial lending program, October 1st through July 31st, loans approved, there was 15 loans approved.

Two loans were declined.

The total loans came to \$178,516, and during this time, there has been two defaults, somebody's not paying their loan, that amounted to \$786.

Ashley will work with John to have his program highlighted on the Nevada TRIP website.

8. Presentation and Discussion: Care Chest to go over public outreach reported from 2022 into the 2023 Federal fiscal year.

Jacob Johnson, Development and Marketing Director; CARE Chest

Jacob Johnson: Previously, he presented on Care Chest's media and outreach campaigns for Federal Fiscal year 22 into 23 up to January to recap of that presentation at the time in late January of 2023, he had reported that they had had a very successful campaign with various outlets reaching 1.8 million impressions across the state on social media.

And on paid television and print campaign.

Since that time, the remainder of the campaign ran, and in January of 2023, the last couple weeks, he had the final information.

They had 8,000 preroll spots air on two news across Northern Nevada and Las Vegas now.com, their tier 2 video preroll ran from May of 2023 to June of 2023.

They had just shy of 20,000 impressions.

The video prerolls are short clips that run before every new segment on both those outlets.

They range from 16 to 27 seconds and highlight the program and the collaboration in various ways.

Those videos are available on CARE Chest's YouTube channel for viewing.

There were six produced featuring various celebrities. they also produced still ads that ran in the Challenger. Those presentations, they had 38 community presentations utilizing those materials, and that equates to 40 hours of time spent making those presentations, promoting AT reuse and the services available in the collaboration.

Additionally, some of these other materials that you see CARE Chest has 40 different monthly outreach locations where we bring our services and our referrals to local communities across the State of Nevada.

At those outreaches they hand out informational flyers, during this time period that equates to 24,000 flyers were distributed during the federal fiscal year that they are discussing.

Additionally, on social media, CARE Chest continued the campaign May through June. There were 84 ad sets on Facebook and Instagram reaching 161,000 accounts promoting AT reuse as well as an event that promotes CARE Chest services during that time.

That equates to approximately 308,000 impressions seen across the state.

9. Presentation and Discussion: Overview of the Nevada Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program. Scott Youngs, Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center, Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities.

This item was tabled.

10. For Discussion: Tentative agenda items for next meeting.

Lance Ledet, Chair

Item number 9, Overview of the Nevada Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program.

Draft bylaws update and vote

Number 7 is a standing item

The date of the next meeting will be on September 26, 2024, at 10:00 am.

11. 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. To provide public comment telephonically, dial +1 699 900 6833. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter 891 8571 8854 and passcode 944997. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comments 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.)

David Winick's nephew, Michael: Was concerned about the heat when his uncle must go outside and asked if there there any products available to assist with heat down in Las Vegas.

John : Suggested the local AT Resource Center.

Lance Ledet: Suggested that David reach out to Nevada Energy for information on programs

Marjory Olaes: Recommended reaching out to Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center to see what they can assist David with. Wendy sent Marjory David's contact information.

12. Adjournment (For Possible Action):

Lance Ledet, Chair

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 am

Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:

NOTE:

- The following complete link for the meeting is included below:
<https://unr.zoom.us/j/89185718854?pwd=YkhlamZ4Ukc1OVRIcmtZRIZGRkdnQT09>
- 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 on viewpoint.
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- If at any time during the meeting an individual who has been named on the agenda or has an item specifically regarding them included on the agenda is unable to participate because of technical or other difficulties, please email Wendy Thornley at wthornley@adsd.nv.gov and note at what time the difficulty started so that matters

pertaining specifically to their participation may be continued to a future agenda if needed or otherwise addressed.

- Please be cautious and do not click on links in the chat area of the meeting unless you have verified, they are safe. If you ever have questions about a link in a document purporting to be from ADSD, please do not hesitate to contact wthornley@adsd.nv.gov for verification.
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AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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 www.adsd.nv.gov and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>