

Sobczyk, Lisa M - DHS

From: Aumanstal, Mason E - DHS
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2018 9:14 AM
To: 'Mike Hipple'
Cc: Jen Vanden Eng; Kelsey Falligant; JULIE GAMRADT; Kelly Fonner; Kelsey Falligant; Eleanor Giriyyappa; Jennifer Schubring; Hoehnke, Valerie J; Sobczyk, Lisa M - DHS
Subject: RE: AT plan

Good Morning Mike,

Thank you for your input on Wisconsin's State Plan for Assistive Technology (2018-2020). Your feedback will be shared with the Assistive Technology Advisory Council who will review the comments received and address them in the plan as appropriate. To view all public comments received and the final copy of the State Plan, please visit: <https://atc.wisconsin.gov/state-assistive-technology-plan.htm>.

I did want to provide some background about the WisTech program and how the state plan reflects the work that WisTech is striving to achieve. WisTech provides training opportunities and technical assistance to the WisTech program subcontractors to carry out the required activities of the AT Act of 1998, as amended in 2004. In Wisconsin, the primary subcontractors to the AT program are the eight Independent Living Centers (ILCs) of Wisconsin. Activities that the ILCs will carry out as part of the AT Act include device loans, device exchanges, device reutilization, device demonstrations, and state financing. This allows individuals with disabilities, their families, and other representatives to learn about AT from specialists that work with AT on a daily basis.

You are correct that the state plan does not specifically mention augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), the goals outlined in the plan allow for the AAC knowledge base (and the AT knowledge base as a whole) to grow and develop through all of the goals identified in the plan. As an example, the training that you will be providing on July 26th will be funded with WisTech dollars; this training falls directly in line with Goal 1: Awareness (Increase awareness of assistive technology and the WisTech program) and Goal 3: Knowledge (Provide professional training opportunities through the WisTech program). The budget is not reflective of partnerships the WisTech Program has with other organizations, providers, or stakeholders.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your feedback. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Best Regards,

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From: Mike Hipple [<mailto:mikehipple4@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 5:04 PM
To: Aumanstal, Mason E - DHS

Cc: Jen Vanden Eng; Kelsey Falligant; JULIE GAMRADT; Kelly Fonner; Kelsey Falligant; Eleanor Giriappa; Jennifer Schubring; Hoehnke, Valerie J

Subject: AT plan

First, we would like to say thank you to the Wisconsin state council on assistive technology AT for developing this plan. We like some parts of the plan- like making people aware that we have a state program for assistive technology. We're very concerned and worried about many things in the plan, too. The first thing and the most scary thing is the lack of Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) that you have in the plan. AAC is a big part of assistive technology and it needs to be in the Wisconsin assistive technology plan for support, training programs, and funding. We hope you will include AAC in your state plan. We are also questioning who the programs are for because it wasn't clear to us. Is it for family members or is it for professionals in the assistive technology community? Both groups need training opportunities and support for AT and AAC. We're looking forward to working with Wis Tech to help the state with their Augmentative Alternative Communication needs.

Wisconsin AAC Network Leadership Team