



Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Conference Call

Action Items and Motion Items:

A. Action Items:

- 1. Action Item:** Staff to the Council (DHS) will provide a description of each Assistive Technology (AT) Council committee to members so they can sign-up for the committees they want to serve on. These committees and description can also assist with recruiting potential council members to serve on these committees.
- 2. Action Item:** Staff to the Council will find potential dates for the remaining quarterly meetings for the year. Staff will gather responses using an interactive poll with potential meeting dates.
- 3. Action Item:** Staff will research and share Council members' current term lengths, expiring terms, and potential upcoming vacancies to the AT Council.

B. Motion Items:

- 1. Motion Item:** Lee Schulz made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. David Koch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2. Motion Item:** Lee made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the November meeting. The motion was seconded by Michelle Lampson. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Motion Item:** Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions by Lisa Sobczyk, staff to the Council

AT Council Members Present: Megan Igou, Lee Schulz, Monica Murphy, Douglas Martens, Mary McManus, Becky Albright, Tony Shay, Shari Brunes, Michelle Lampson, Kathy Massa, and Mason Aumanstal.

AT Council Staff Support Present: Lisa Sobczyk and Amy Thomson.

Guests: Tom Diedrick, Options for Independent Living.

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II. Meeting called to order 10:05 am by DHS staff member Lisa Sobczyk.

The meeting was made available to Council members, guests, and community members via phone by calling (877) 820-7831 and using the participant code of 567219.

III. Review and Approval of Agenda

- Lee Schulz suggested that the agenda be amended to include budget initiatives. After a discussion, it was decided that a discussion regarding budget initiatives be added to the Old Business portion of the meeting agenda. Lee Schulz made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. David Koch seconded the motion. The motion carried. See Motion Item 1 listed above.

IV. AT Council Member updates

- Lee Schulz announced an \$85,000 funding budget initiative for the Independence*First* Mobility Store. The Mobility Store collaborates with the Department of Corrections' (DOC) Badger State Industries (BSI), a part of the Bureau of Correctional Enterprises. Through BSI, inmates of Redgranite Correctional Institution recycle and refurbish durable medical equipment (DME) that has been donated. This allows inmates to develop skills and receive certification that will aid them upon release. The high-quality equipment is rehabilitated and sold at a low cost. The program is currently facing financial challenges. In the Department of Natural Resources 2015-2017 budget, there was a proposed elimination of \$256,200 to the DOC Computer Recycling Program. Although there was an added \$25,000 in the 2015-2017 biennial budget, BSI will need \$85,000 a year to maintain the program. Independence*First* is encouraging filling the financial gap to keep the program active.
- David Koch from the Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin (CILWW) stated that CILWW implemented a QR Code tracking system for demonstration and loan devices. The system allows individuals to check equipment in and out more efficiently and makes the consumer accountable for the devices they borrow.
- Megan Igou with Independent Living Resources reported that she will be taking the Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) exam in June. Megan also expressed satisfaction working with Taliah Powell from the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP). Taliah is very responsive to communication.
- Council Chair Douglas Martens noted that the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired (OBVI) is currently working without a director, but hope to have someone filling the role soon.

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- Mason Aumanstal discussed the upcoming Chapter DHS 78 Administrative Rule update and noted that the next step will be a public meeting. Mason indicated he will forward the meeting notice to the AT Council.
- Lee Schulz stated that IndependenceFirst received a national grant to provide \$3,000 per Independent Living Center in Wisconsin to provide adaptive technology to consumers that are living with Spinal Cord Injuries. Lee is also seeking additional money for AT that will hopefully not be restricted to specific disabilities.
- Kathy Massa of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation indicated that division leadership is reviewing a draft document for AT Assessment. Kathy also stated the division is working with the La Crosse school system and Project SEARCH to ensure that AT is being utilized by students that need it.
- Lisa Sobczyk inquired if the board would prefer to be addressed as a council rather than a board. The clear consensus was that they preferred the name of Council to Board.

V. WisTech Updates

- Amy Thomson indicated that after over 10 years, she has accepted a new position and will no longer be a DHS resource for the Assistive Technology Council as of March 3rd.
- With Amy's resignation, Mason Aumanstal indicated that he will be providing staff assistance to the Council on behalf of the DHS and as a result will need to resign from the AT Council.
- Lisa Sobczyk stated that DHS will taking over the administrative role for the WisTech program, as a result it was necessary to get the position staffed sooner than later.
- Lisa Sobczyk discussed the upcoming Assistive Technology Act Program (ATAP) Leadership Symposium taking place in Washington D.C. and informed the Council that both she and Mason will be attending the symposium. As part of this opportunity, ATAP has requested AT success stories to share with other state representatives. Lee expressed interest in focusing success stories on WisLoan as ATAP has been resistant to alternative financing.

VI. AT Council Discussion

- There was a discussion of the use of committees within the AT Council. Lee Schulz expressed interest in serving on the Collaboration and Outreach Committee. Megan Igou advised that these committees should include non-council members and other Council members agreed.
- It was asked that the staff to the Council provide a description of each committee so members can be informed when selecting a committee to work on. See Action item 1 above.

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- Discussion about recruiting new members and expiring term limits of current AT Council members was had. As a result, Council members requested the Council staff provide a list of which term each member is serving and how many new Council members are needed. See Action Item 3 above.
- It was noted that the Council needs a vice chair. The AT Council's by-laws note that the Nominating Committee (Lee, Douglas, and David) recommend candidates for vacant officer positions on the Council. The Nominating Committee will discuss nominations at the May Council meeting.
- The Council's by-laws need to be updated. The idea of creating a committee to review the by-laws was discussed, but it was determined that the entire Council should be a part of the process of updating the by-laws with new members joining soon. The by-laws will be updated at the May Council meeting.
- There was discussion of meeting in-person versus over the phone. It was decided by the Council that more in-person meetings would be a priority – particularly since the three-year State Plan needs to be drafted this year.
- In order to find meeting dates that will work for the majority of Council members, Council staff will send out a poll for potential May, August, and November meeting dates. See action item 2 above.

VII. Captioning and Audio Description Final Rule from the ADA

- Mason Aumanstal discussed the previously adopted the ADA Captioning and Audio Description Final Rule from January 17, 2017. Mason gave a top-level view of the new rule that requires all digital movies that are commercially available to have the captions provided on an external device or the audio description provided through a specialized headset that the theater must purchase and maintain. Mason discussed this rule to see how the Council can be of assistance in providing support for movie-goers as well as theater operators.

VIII. Public Comment

- Staff Council Lisa Sobczyk asked if there were public comments. Tom Diedrick with Options for Independent Living was recognized.

A. Tom Diedrick, Options for Independent Living

- Tom stated that AT services are a big part of the services that Independent Living Centers provide. Tom also stated that smart home modifications provide affordable value to consumers and allow consumers to live independently.

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IX. Adjourn:

Motion was made by Douglas Martens to adjourn the meeting. Lee Schulz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am by Chairperson Douglas Martens. See Motion Item 3 as noted above.

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