

**Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC)**  
**Wednesday**  
**September 30, 2015**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Department of Rehabilitation**  
**721 Capitol Mall Room 169**  
**Sacramento, CA**

Attendees

**Committee Members:**

- Gregory Mathes, Director, Grants & Foundations, Goodwill of Orange County
- Ray Grott, Director RET Project, San Francisco State University
- Karen Andersen, Member at large
- Daniel Boomer, Special Education, California Department of Education
- Kim Cantrell, Program Manager, CFILC
- Karen Crowe, SSMI, DOR
- Debbie Drennan, AT Specialist, Parents Helping Parents
- Jonn Paris-Salb, Education Administrator, California Department of Education
- Jennifer Walsh, Disability Consultant, San Francisco area
- Brian Winic, SSMI, DOR, Blind Field Services

Absent:

- Doug Sale, Workforce Investment Board
- Lenore Presley, deaf-blind community member

**Members of the Public:**

- Rachel Anderson from CFILC

**Department of Rehabilitation:**

- Irene Walela, Acting Deputy Director, Independent Living and Community Access Division (ILCAD)
- Sheila Conlon Mentkowski, Rehabilitation Administrator I, Specialist, Assistive Technology Unit, ILCAD
- Marina Lisovski, CaPROMISE Unit, VR Policy and Resource Division

Meeting convened at 10:15 am.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Gregory Mathes opened the meeting and led introductions. The committee voted to approve the draft of the June 4, 2015 ATAC meeting minutes.

### **Update on Member Terms/Recruitment/Officer Election**

Jon Paris-Salb explained the ATAC member term sheet contents. The intent is to stagger the terms to preserve some institutional memory as we recruit new members. Several seats on the AT advisory committee must be comprised of the following members:

- 4 required representatives; one each from the Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Education, Workforce Development Board, and an Independent Living Center.
- Consumers or people with disabilities and family members who have relatives with disabilities.

At present, two seats are vacant: the ILC seat and one consumer seat.

### **CaPROMISE Update**

Marina Lisovskiy provided an update on the DOR CaPROMISE grant. The CaPROMISE website has general information and a toolkit related to Assistive Technology, and the website is being updated as frequently as possible.

A discussion ensued on the issue of Assistive Technology following the student. Usually, when a student completes their education, they have to return their equipment to the school district. A suggestion was made that the committee make a recommendation to DOR on instituting a formal policy. Another attendee said that Florida has an interagency agreement on AT following the student and suggested a review be made of their policy.

### **WIOA Update**

Irene provided an update on WIOA. When WIOA was enacted, IL and AT moved from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in the U.S. Department of Education to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Since the federal regulations have yet to be published, the DOR will provide more updates as they are available. Currently, there is a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on VR, but none for the other WIOA programs. There is also nothing specific in WIOA yet about Assistive Technology, but there are more specifics related to Independent Living services.

## **DOR Update**

Irene reported there were ADA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations across the state. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The federal theme for NDEAM is “My Disability Is One Part of Who I am,” and DOR is also using this theme. There will be WIOA stakeholder input calls, and transcripts will be available. The DOR’s Director is striving to visit all the DOR’s branch offices, as well as all 28 ILCs.

The State Independent Living Council (SILC) is now responsible for shaping the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Under WIOA requirements, SILC will decide the priorities, and at least 51% of the ILC Executive Directors have to approve the SPIL. However, the DOR is required to approve the final SPIL. In other news, 10 new ILC Executive Directors have come on board in the past two years, and recruitment is underway for two ILC executive director vacancies.

Regarding the AT contract, a one-year, non-competitive extension is in place. The DOR will be working on a stakeholder process for designating the “implementing entity” under the AT Act, similar to the process used to gather stakeholder input for the TBI program.

A Request for Information (RFI) was posted on the Department of General Services’ BidSync website to determine if a financial institution or similar entity has any interest in administering the Loan Guarantee Program (LGP). The RFI deadline is October 31.

The ATAC Bylaws and Charter were sent to Legal for their review. We hope to have the documents for the January 2016 ATAC meeting.

A participant asked about her nomination of Sandra Graham as the IL representative to ATAC. Kim will contact Sandra regarding her interest in being a committee member.

Another participant asked if Ability Tools could speak to the State Rehabilitation Council, noting that the September 28 stakeholder teleconference had technology complications. Irene said that participants can send their comments to her.

A discussion ensued about the merits of an AT contract going through a competition or bid process rather than a renewal to prevent interruption of services. Irene explained the process for designating an entity. DOR staff write an analysis that includes documented evidence of community support for the designation. The analysis goes to the Director, then to Agency, and on to the Governor for his consideration and designation of the entity.

A motion was made and approved to recommend to the Governor to change the current system for awarding the AT contract from competitive bid to designation to be the “implementing entity.”

### **CFILC Contractor Report**

Kim Cantrell gave the CFILC report. CFILC has a new location in downtown Sacramento. CFILC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the state Office of Emergency Services (OES). This MOU helped identify, secure, and provide needed AT to victims of recent and ongoing fire disaster areas. The MOU will also allow OES to reimburse many of the ILCs who provided the AT during the disaster.

Regarding the Freedom Tech loan, the National Cooperative Bank (NCB) kept increasing fees and conditions until the program was unrecognizable. CFILC is disengaging from the NCB, and Kim is working on the loan program to allow CFILC to be the actual lender. CFILC has a committee and are working on an application, as well as a method to determine the interest rate on the prospective loans. They are also reviewing software programs including Downhome Loans software. The goal is to have a brochure ready by the end of October.

There are now only 12 Device Lending Libraries, as the Kern AT center closed in June.

Kim asked for feedback on the Ability Tools AT annual report, as current editions are shaped by prior commentaries. A participant suggested including results of the fire disaster efforts with photos and graphs to illustrate the analysis and show trends.

Kim introduced Rachel, the CFILC’s Communications and Marketing Manager. Rachel stated she is working with schools and transitioning programs, as well as with the YO program.

Participants commented that adults with developmental disabilities and youth in prison facilities are not receiving enough services. Another participant suggested looking at the AT Service map to see where service gaps may exist.

Ability Tools was commended for their work with AT and encouraged to continue the effort.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

### **Motions and Votes**

- Nomination and seconding that ATAC accept the ATAC member chart proposal.
- Nomination and seconding of Ray Grott as Chairperson.

- Nomination and seconding of Jonn Paris-Salb as Vice Chairperson. The vote for officers will be held during the January 2016 ATAC meeting.
- Nomination and seconding of a recommendation to the Director that the competitive bid system for the AT “Tech Act” be changed to a designation of the implementing entity.

### **Action Items**

Sheila:

- Check on the status of the ILC nomination that Kim provided.
- Check on the status/approval of the ATAC bylaws and Charter
- Check on the possibility for Ability Tools to present to the SRC
- Check on proposed January 2016 meeting dates for the ATAC teleconference call (January 12, from 10 am to 12 pm, or January 20, from 10 am to 12 pm)
- Check on whether the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act allows circulation among members of a new draft ATAC document prior to an official meeting.

Debbie:

- Write a letter encouraging the Director to work with other agencies to develop an “AT equipment follows the student” policy, so students are allowed to retain their equipment upon graduation.

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